

LONG HILL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
May 22, 2017

The Long Hill Township Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, May 22, 2017 in the Long Hill Township Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Board President Nicholas Stevens at 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Bundonis, Mrs. Butler, Mr. Carn, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mrs. Moakley, Miss Nyquist, Mr. O’Leary, Ms. Raban, Mr. Stevens.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Acevedo, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Mr. Villar, Central School Principal
Mrs. Dawson, Millington School Principal
Dr. Jones, Gillette School Principal/Curriculum Director
Ms. Backer, Dean of Students
Mr. Blinder, Coordinator of Technology Services
Mrs. Franklin, LHEA President
Forty-five Staff Members
Five Township Residents
One Reporter for the Echoes-Sentinel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Stevens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADEQUATE NOTICE OF MEETING:

Adequate notice of this meeting of the Long Hill Township Board of Education was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows:

Notice was sent to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel and the Daily Record on October 27, 2016. Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the first floor entrance hall of the School District Administration Building, Gillette, New Jersey. Notices were filed with the Township Clerk; and notices were mailed to all persons who have requested individual notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act.

COMMUNICATIONS: Dr. Acevedo thanked Mr. Villar for his service and wished him well in Warren. He noted that he received many letters and emails from parents who praised Mr. Villar.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee– Mr. Carn noted that the Committee met and all items are in order and recommended for approval. Mr. Esposito and Dr. Acevedo will meet this week with Parette Somjen Architects about potential projects.

PTO– Mr. Carn reported on a number of upcoming events, including Environmental Day, Colonial Day, the visiting author events, and the Teacher Appreciation lunches.

FORCE– Mrs. Butler reported that FORCE is looking for volunteers and she can be contacted if anyone is interested.

Buildings and Grounds Committee– Mr. DiGiorgio stated that the process surrounding the RFP for the cleaning and maintenance services is progressing. Mr. Stevens thanked the Committee members, Mr. Esposito and Dr. Acevedo for their hard work on the RFP.

SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

Dr. Acevedo reported on the following:

- He stated that the Screenagers event was held on 5/17 and he thanked the PTO and guest speaker.
- He met with parents regarding Mr. Villar’s position and his replacement. A survey has been created and sent out to gather feedback.
- Additional sections for kindergarten and second grade will be added for the next school year. 92 students are currently registered for kindergarten for next year.
- He congratulated the students who won the poetry contest and thanked Mrs. Fragnito and Mrs. DeBiase for their involvement.
- He reported the results of the lead re-testing.
- He noted that confidential information was shared with the newspaper and published. He read a statement which defended the district, its special education programs, and its budget.

Mr. O’Leary asked if there was a response to each complaint and Dr. Acevedo indicated there is a plan to reach out to each parent.

Miss Nyquist inquired about why there is no Board member included on the Principal Search Committee. Mr. Stevens requested that a Board member be placed on the Committee.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S UPDATE

Mr. Esposito reported on the following:

- He explained some of the changes in special education enrollment and expenses for next year.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

At this point, the Board of Education welcomes comments from any member of the public. Please note that as per Board Policy #1130, a total of fifteen (15) minutes is allocated for public comments at any single Board meeting. In order to provide residents the opportunity to comment, individual speakers are limited to three minutes each at any particular Board meeting. The Board may extend these time limits at its discretion.

Mrs. Falvey, a parent, thanked the Board for adding sections to kindergarten and second grade for next year. She praised the district for its high standards and for listening to the parents and their voices.

Ms. Duryee, a parent, thanked the Board for adding a 2nd grade section which will benefit the students. She talked about her daughter’s preschool experience and is grateful to the child study team members. She wants a full-time special education director who can be fully dedicated solely to Long Hill’s students and their needs.

Mrs. Novak, a staff member, wrote a letter to the Board in support of Brookwood Consulting and the child study team. She refuted the negative comments and quotes and is confident that the special education programming addresses the needs of every child. She gave examples of the positive actions that Ms. Yavelberg has taken to benefit the children.

Mrs. Schmitz, a special education teacher, supported Ms. Yavelberg's work in Long Hill and provided examples of her initiatives. She stated that Ms. Yavelberg implemented a number of programs the district never had.

Ms. Bennett, a parent, stated that her child has made tremendous strides and is grateful for the services he received. She is grateful to Ms. Yavelberg.

Ms. Cunningham, a teacher, stated that Ms. Yavelberg has introduced many innovative ideas and she fully supports her staff.

Mr. Villar, speaking on behalf of the Administrators, praised Ms. Yavelberg's work in the district and noted that she is always available even though she only works part-time in Long Hill.

Ms. Gans, a staff member, spoke in support of Ms. Yavelberg and was impressed with her knowledge of special education law. She noted that Ms. Yavelberg brought in students from other districts who paid tuition to Long Hill.

Mrs. Franklin, LHEA President, is pleased with the special education services her child receives as a student in Long Hill. Of those in attendance, she asked who was there to support Ms. Yavelberg and most of the audience stood up. LHPEC met and she attended the meeting. A speaker talked about ADHD but the leadership talked about obtaining information under OPRA. She raised the issue of a potential conflict as Mr. O'Leary is on the Board and his wife is a member of the Committee criticizing Ms. Yavelberg.

Mrs. Giannattasio, a parent, stated that she had problems with Ms. Yavelberg. Her child missed six weeks of speech and she was upset. She took him out of the extended school year program because she didn't feel it helped him. She hired an advocate and attorney and considered suing the district. She said she had to fight Ms. Yavelberg to get services for her child.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It was moved by Miss Nyquist and seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio that the following minutes of the Long Hill Township Board of Education be accepted as presented and made part of the public record:

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

- a. May 8, 2017 Worksession Meeting-Public Session
- b. May 8, 2017 Worksession Meeting-Private Session
- c. May 8, 2017 Worksession Meeting-Private Session

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions #1a,1b,1c:

YES: Mr. Bundonis Mrs. Moakley
 Mrs. Butler Miss Nyquist
 Mr. Carn Mr. O' Leary
 Mr. DiGiorgio Ms. Raban
 Mr. Stevens

NO: None.

Resolutions #1a,1b,1c carried 9-0.

It was moved by Mr. O'Leary and seconded by Mrs. Butler that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 2,3.

Any Board Member who takes exception to any of the following actions may reserve the right to object now, and a separate motion for each of the excepted actions will be entertained.

2. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the Payrolls for April 4 and 28, 2017 and the list of Bills for May 16 and 22 , 2017:

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Payroll for 4/7/17	Amount
Fund 10	\$24,380.65
Current Expense - Fund 11	\$452,335.16
Capital Outlay - Fund 12	
Special Revenue Fund - Fund 20	
Capital Projects - Fund 30	
Debt Services - Fund 40	
TOTAL	\$476,715.81

Payroll for 4/28/17	Amount
Fund 10	\$24,689.39
Current Expense - Fund 11	\$433,961.58
Capital Outlay - Fund 12	
Special Revenue Fund - Fund 20	
Capital Projects - Fund 30	
Debt Services - Fund 40	
TOTAL	\$458,650.97

Bills for 5/16/17	Amount
Fund 10	
Current Expense - Fund 11	\$217,126.64
Capital Outlay - Fund 12	
Special Revenue Fund - Fund 20	
Capital Projects - Fund 30	
Debt Services - Fund 40	
TOTAL	\$217,126.64

Bills for 5/22/17	Amount
Fund 10	
Current Expense - Fund 11	\$194,317.29
Capital Outlay - Fund 12	\$8,872.00
Special Revenue Fund - Fund 20	\$10,224.00
Capital Projects - Fund 30	
Debt Services - Fund 40	
TOTAL	\$213,413.29

3. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the Travel/Conference registration for the staff indicated for professional improvement or development as per the attached listing.

APPROVAL OF TRAVEL

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions #2,3:

YES: Mr. Bundonis	Mrs. Moakley
Mrs. Butler	Miss Nyquist
Mr. Carn	Mr. O' Leary
Mr. DiGiorgio	Ms. Raban
	Mr. Stevens

NO: None.

Resolutions #2,3 carried 9-0.

It was moved by Mr. Bundonis and seconded by Mrs. Moakley that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendation of the Superintendent numbered 4.

Any Board Member who takes exception to any of the following actions may reserve the right to object now, and a separate motion for each of the excepted actions will be entertained.

4. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Business Administrator, and the Director of Special Services approve the payment of tuition for educational services for student #9516144033 to the Cornerstone Day School, Mountainside, NJ, in the amount of \$83,001.60 for the 2017-2018 school year.

APPROVAL OF SP.ED.
PLACEMENT AND
TUITION

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution #4:

YES: Mr. Bundonis	Mrs. Moakley
Mrs. Butler	Miss Nyquist
Mr. Carn	Mr. O' Leary
Mr. DiGiorgio	Ms. Raban
	Mr. Stevens

NO: None.

Resolution #4 carried 9-0.

It was moved by Mr. Carn and seconded by Mrs. Butler that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 5,7,8,9,10,11.

Any Board Member who takes exception to any of the following actions may reserve the right to object now, and a separate motion for each of the excepted actions will be entertained.

5. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, revise the appointment of Kimberly Barbera as Maternity Leave

REVISION TO
APPOINTMENT OF
K. BARBERA

Replacement Occupational Therapist for the period May 9, 2017 through June 30, 2017 which includes four transition days, at the rate of \$90.00 per hour. The start and end dates have been revised.

Resolution #6 to be voted on as a separate action.

7. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Gina Marie Neumann to the position of Part Time (.65 FTE) STEM Teacher at Central School for the 2017-2018 school year. Ms. Neumann's salary will be \$42,235.70 prorated based on Step 9 MA of the Teacher salary guide.

G. NEUMANN
APPOINTED

8. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, revise the stipend for 2016-2017 Spring Track Coaches as follows:

REVISION OF
STIPEND

James Barnum \$3,273.00*

Karissa Felix \$3,273.00*

*Stipends to be paid from existing activity account balances and/or pay to play/participation fees paid.

9. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following transfers and changes in FTE's for the 2017-2018 school year:

APPROVAL OF STAFF
TRANSFERS AND
CHANGES

Employee	From	To
Suzanne Aiello	Teacher Assistant Gillette School	Teacher Assistant Millington School
Stephanie Alber	Secretary PT (.50 FTE) Central School	Secretary FT Central School
Katie Castro	LEAP Teacher Gillette School	LEAP/SKIP Teacher Gillette School
Colleen Clifford	3 rd Grade Teacher Millington School	2 nd Grade Teacher Millington School
Cynthia Coster	5 th Grade Teacher Millington School	Special Education Teacher Central School
Isabella DeBiasse	6 th Grade Reading Central School	8 th Grade Reading Central School
Kayla Eckert	8 th Grade LAL Central School	6 th Grade Reading Central School
Julie Evans	Basic Skills Teacher PT (.60 FTE) Millington School	Kindergarten Teacher FT Gillette School
Pam Kmetz	Kindergarten Teacher Gillette School	2 nd Grade Teacher Millington School
Noelle Milito	Special Education Teacher Millington School	3 rd Grade Teacher Millington School
Carolyn Omelio	Kindergarten Teacher Gillette School	2 nd Grade Teacher Millington School
Suzanne Parker	Special Education Teacher	Special Education Teacher

	Central School	Millington School
Miriam Pogash	8 th Grade Reading Central School	8 th Grade LAL Central School
Kristine Scavo	Teacher Assistant PT (.50FTE) Gillette School	Teacher Assistant PT (.50 FTE) Millington School
Mary Jean Snow	2 nd Grade Teacher Millington School	Kindergarten Teacher Gillette School
Michele Spinello	2 nd Grade Teacher Millington School	Basic Skills Teacher FT Millington School
Donna Strock	Teacher Assistant Millington School	Teacher Assistant Gillette School
Doreen Unterwald	Teacher Assistant Gillette School	Teacher Assistant Millington School

10. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following appointments for the 2017-2018 school year.

APPROVAL OF
STIPEND POSITIONS

Sport/Activity	Advisor	Stipend
Environmental Club Advisor	Maura Aimette	\$769.00
Yearbook Advisor-Millington	Christina Lattoz	\$844.00
Pens and Dreams Advisor	Maura Aimette	\$769.00
Booster Club	Keri Altebrando	\$1,125.50
	Erin Davidove	\$1,125.50
Stipends to be paid from existing activity account balances and/or pay to play/participation fees for the following:		
Games Club Advisor	Angela Barth	\$769.00
Boys' Soccer Coach	Mike Lisbona	\$3,355.00
Girls' Soccer Coach	Peter Hockmeyer	\$3,355.00
Boys' Basketball Coach	Peter Hockmeyer	\$3,355.00
Girls' Basketball Coach	Emily Palla	\$3,355.00
Girls' Softball Coach	Peter Hockmeyer	\$3,355.00
Cross Country Coach	Jim Barnum	\$1,677.50
	Charles Mott	\$1,677.50
Spring Track	Jim Barnum	\$1,677.50
	Karissa Felix	\$1,677.50
Cheerleading Advisor	Erin Davidove	\$2,506.00
Theater Arts Advisor/Vocal Coach	Angela Barth	\$3,498.00
	Jake Barth	Volunteer
Theater Arts Construction	Angela Barth	\$1,118.00
Stipend to be paid through PTO contribution for the following:		
Newspaper Advisor	Andrew Gillespie	\$2,251.00
Consortium Advisor (per activity)	Andrew Gillespie	\$129.00

11. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the addition of the following people to the Substitute List for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years pending successful

APPOINTMENT OF
SUBSTITUTES

criminal history review:

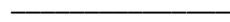
NAME	POSITION
Abigail Kesselmeyer	Substitute Teacher
Scott Rahner	Substitute Teacher
Jacqueline Rugolo	Substitute Teacher

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions #5,7,8,9,10,11:

YES: Mr. Bundonis Mrs. Moakley
 Mrs. Butler Miss Nyquist
 Mr. Carn Mr. O' Leary
 Mr. DiGiorgio Ms. Raban
 Mr. Stevens

NO: None.

Resolutions #5,7,8,9,10,11 carried 9-0.



It was moved by Miss Nyquist and seconded by Mrs. Moakley that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendation of the Superintendent numbered 6.

Any Board Member who takes exception to any of the following actions may reserve the right to object now, and a separate motion for each of the excepted actions will be entertained.

Miss Nyquist expressed her appreciation for Mr. Villar's hard work and positive impact. Mr. Stevens read Mr. Villar's letter which thanked the Board and community.

6. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of George Villar from the position of Middle School Principal, Central School, effective July 7, 2017.

G. VILLAR RESIGNATION

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution #6:

YES: Mr. Bundonis Mrs. Moakley
 Mrs. Butler Miss Nyquist
 Mr. Carn Mr. O' Leary
 Mr. DiGiorgio Ms. Raban
 Mr. Stevens

NO: None.

Resolution #6 carried 9-0.



ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: None.

OLD BUSINESS: Miss Nyquist commented on the unprofessionalism of the paper in its publishing of the news article and using quotes as facts.

Mrs. Moakley asked about differences in parent special education groups and Dr. Acevedo explained the differences. She said only one parent was present at the meetings she attended.

Mrs. Butler urged parents to participate more in school activities and groups. Mr. O’Leary noted that parents would like the Board to advertise meeting and events.

Ms. Raban talked about information that WHRHS sent out with warnings to parents and she indicated that there is the potential for such activity in Long Hill. Dr. Acevedo reported that he has been in touch with surrounding districts and has been communicating with parents.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Mrs. Giannattasio stated that she attended one LHPPEC meeting and felt an adversarial relationship exists with the district.

It was moved by Mr. Stevens and seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio that the Board enter into private session for the purpose of discussing a Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Report, a legal provision in a service provider contract, and a matter involving a student.

PRIVATE SESSION

No action is anticipated following private session.

Motion carried 9-0. Into private session at 8:40 p.m.

The Board returned to public session at 9:10 p.m.

PUBLIC SESSION

It was moved by Mr. Stevens and seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE MEETING DATES

June 12, 2017 - Worksession Meeting - 7:30 p.m. – Township Municipal Building

June 26, 2017 - Regular Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - Township Municipal Building

Respectfully submitted,

John Esposito
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Edwin Acevedo, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools