

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

January 13, 2025

AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRESENT: Kathleen Clohessey, John J. Friend, Erin Henry,
Rachel Kabbash, Stephen Koger, Christopher Patterson, John VanKampen
John R. Giacchi, Superintendent
Carlos Sarmiento, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

ABSENT: Wayne Bartron, Stephanie Perna

The Board President opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M., with the Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by the following statement read by the Board Secretary:

This meeting is being conducted in compliance with the "Open Public Meeting Act – Chapter 231 – Public Laws of 1975." Advance written notice of at least 48 hours was given specifying the time, date and to the extent known, the agenda, and stating whether formal action may or may not be taken and has been properly posted at the school, mailed to the Clerk/Administrator, and mailed to the New Jersey Herald and the Star Ledger.

Approval of Regular Board Minutes

On motion by Ms. Henry, seconded by Mr. Patterson, and carried by the following roll call vote, approved the minutes of the following meetings as presented:

1. December 9, 2024 – Regular Meeting Minutes **ATTACHMENT 1**
2. December 9, 2024 – Executive Session Minutes
3. January 2, 2025 – Organization Meeting Minutes **ATTACHMENT 2**

PRESENTATIONS

- A. School Updates – National Junior Honor Society Students - Two students presented to the Board.
- B. Chronic Absenteeism Report – Dr. John Giacchi, Superintendent – Reported to the Board that the District is improving, but remain above 10%. Ms. Henry asked for clarification on non-excused and excused absences. Dr. Giacchi explained the two types of absences to Ms. Henry.

Mr. Patterson asked how many other schools in our region participate in the Preschool program. Dr. Giacchi replied that there are many.

CORRESPONDENCE: NA

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - AGENDA ITEMS

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

January 13, 2025

On motion by Mrs. Kabbash, seconded by Ms. Henry, and carried unanimously by voice vote, opened the meeting to the public for comment on the agenda items.

The Board Secretary read the following statement:

At this time, members of the public are invited to address the Board. Please note that public comments will be made in accordance with Policy 0167 - Public Presentation at Board meetings. Each statement made by all participants may be limited to three minutes in duration. If you would like to address the Board, please raise your hand to be called upon. Once called, please come to the microphone and state your name, municipality of residence, and/or group affiliation, and the agenda item you will address.

Please let the record reflect that the Board of Education does not endorse comments, nor will the Board of Education be held liable for comments made by a member of the public about a staff member or any other individual that may be considered defamatory and/or libelous, as that individual retains all rights to pursue any legal remedies against you.

This public session is designed for members of the public to speak on issues for Board consideration. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comment. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board at the conclusion of public participation. This portion of the meeting is meant to hear public comment, not to have a dialogue between the Board and the person speaking.

On motion by Mr. Patterson, seconded by Ms. Henry, and carried unanimously by voice vote, closed the meeting to the public for comment on the agenda items.

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

- A. Lead Testing Findings - Mr. Sarmiento reported that Room A3 failed. The faucet has been shut off. There is also a sign placed that says the water is not for drinking, similar to the sign that is placed in the bathrooms. The faucet has been replaced and will be turned on when the test results come back favorable.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. School updates - Cereal Box donations took place in the last 12 months, Franklin Public Schools was recognized two of the months. There is no school for Martin Luther King Day.
- B. To report that the fire and security drills held during the month of December 2024 were as follows:
 - December 13, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. – Shelter-in-Place Drill
 - December 17, 2024 at 1:15 p.m. – Fire Drill

Personnel Committee – Stephanie Perna, Chair

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

January 13, 2025

Discussion: Dr. Giacchi mentioned that Deanna Masucci start date is now January 15, 2025.

On motion by Mrs. Kabbash, seconded by Ms. Henry, and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote, approved the following resolutions:

Approve Items A – F

- A. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the following resignations:

Staff Member	Position	Date
Christina Barben	Part-time Paraprofessional	Last day worked was January 10, 2025 <i>Note that this is pending receipt of notice from the Franklin Education Foundation that release prior to 60 days is not precedent setting.</i>
Elda Gamella	Part-time Paraprofessional	Last day worked is on or about January 17, 2025 <i>Note that this is pending receipt of notice from the Franklin Education Foundation that release prior to 60 days is not precedent setting.</i>
Tori Rowe	Part-time Paraprofessional	Last day worked is January 17, 2025 <i>Note that this is pending receipt of notice from the Franklin Education Foundation that release prior to 60 days is not precedent setting.</i>

- B. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the \$2 per hour compensation differential for paraprofessionals who provide a higher level of care for the 2024-2025 school year, per contract language:

Paraprofessionals Receiving \$2 Differential for Higher Level of Care	Dates
Kiara Rodriguez	November 20, 2024 - June 30, 2025

- C. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following unpaid days:

Employee	Unpaid Day
Christina Barben	1 Day: 1/8/2025
Lisa Frye	2 Days: 1/9/2025, 1/10/2025
Mary Pandy	1 Day: 1/10/2025

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

January 13, 2025

D. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, appoints the following personnel for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of required paperwork where applicable:

Staff Member/Appointment	Start Date	Compensation
Jennifer Carrelo – (.71 FTE) Part-time Paraprofessional	On or about January 21, 2025	\$19.00 per hour, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required documentation
Caitlin Collins – (.71 FTE) Part-time Paraprofessional	On or about January 21, 2025	\$19.00 per hour, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required documentation
Roger DeGroat – Long-term Substitute Teacher	January 27, 2025 through on or about March 7, 2025	\$170 per day, not benefit eligible, compensation upon submission of timesheets
Melissa Devido – (1 FTE) Speech Language Pathologist	On or about February 19, 2025	On guide at MA Step 2 at \$65,535 per year prorated, benefit eligible, pending completion of required documentation
Deanna Masucci – (1 FTE) Full-time Teacher	On or about March 1, 2025	On guide at BA Step 1 at \$60,637 per year prorated, benefit eligible, pending completion of required documentation

E. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following substitute for the 2024-2025 school year pending completion of required paperwork, where applicable. Compensation upon submission of timesheets.
(Note that benefits are not included for the substitute listed below.)

Name	Position	Compensation
Brandi DiCarlo	Substitute Teacher	\$150 per day, not benefit eligible
Amanda Pait	Substitute Teacher	\$150 per day, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required paperwork

F. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following professional development:

Staff Member	Professional Development	Cost	Dates
Lisa Grillo	Online - Helping Your Struggling Readers Become More Successful Readers: Targeted Interventions That Work!	Registration: \$295.00	March 14, 2025
Lisa Grillo	Online - Dyslexia: Best Targeted Interventions for Greater Literacy Success	Registration: \$295.00	March 21, 2025
Lisa Grillo	Online - Dyslexia and Specially Designed Instruction: Help Struggling Readers Thrive	Registration: \$295.00	March 28, 2025

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

January 13, 2025

Education Committee – Stephen Koger, Chair

Discussion: NA

On motion by Mrs. Kabbash, seconded by Ms. Henry and carried by the following roll call vote, approved the following resolutions:

Approve Items A – E

- A. Resolved that the Board of Education accepts the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) report shared in Executive Session at the December 9, 2024 regular Board of Education meeting:

HIB Case Number	Finding	Determination
HIB 24-25-02	Substantiated	Accept/Reject/Modify

- B. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the Chronic Absenteeism Corrective Action Plan. **ATTACHMENT 3**

- C. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the revised contract for the following out-of-district student:

Student	Provider	Amended Cost	Dates
#*****2125	Shephard School 2 Miller Road Kinnelon NJ 07405	\$28,889.36 for extraordinary services	Beginning December 16, 2024

- D. Resolved that the Board of Education terminates out-of-district placement and transportation costs for the following student:

Student	Provider	Dates
#*****8649	Shephard School 2 Miller Road Kinnelon NJ 07405	Beginning December 20, 2024

- E. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the first reading of the following policies and regulations:

Number	Title	Attachment
P 5512	Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying	ATTACHMENT 4
P & R 5516	Use of Electronic Communication Devices	ATTACHMENTS 5 & 6
P & R 5533	Student Smoking	ATTACHMENTS 7 & 8
P 5701	Academic Integrity	ATTACHMENT 9
P 5710	Student Grievance	ATTACHMENT 10
P & R 7441	Electronic Surveillance In School Buildings and On School Grounds	ATTACHMENTS 11 & 12
P & R 9320	Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies	ATTACHMENTS 13 & 14

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

January 13, 2025

Items A-E: Yes - 7
 Abstain - Mr. Patterson (C)
 No - 0

Finance/Buildings & Grounds – Erin Henry, Chair

Discussion: Mr. Friend asked about the cafeteria balances.

On motion by Mr. Koger, seconded by Mr. Patterson and carried unanimously by roll call vote, approved the following resolutions:

Approve Items A – H

- A. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the vendor payments dated December 7, 2024 - January 10, 2025. **ATTACHMENT 15**

Fund 10	Charter School/ER FICA Share	47,413.59
Fund 11	General Expense	966,700.88
Fund 12	Capital Outlay	0.00
Fund 20	Special Revenue	117,242.58
Fund 60	Cafeteria	22,437.10
Fund 95	Student Activities	9,124.50
	Total	1,162,918.65

- B. Resolved that the Board of Education accepts the attached Board Secretary’s Report and Treasurer of School Monies report for November 2024.

Resolved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, the Board Secretary does certify that as of November 2024, no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1;

Therefore be it resolved that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 4 the Board of Education does certify that as of November 2024, the Board Secretary Monthly Financial Report, did not reflect an over expenditure in any Major Account or Fund, and based on the Appropriation Balances reflected on this report and on the advice of District Officials, that sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. **ATTACHMENT 16**

- C. Resolved that the Board of Education approves between line-item transfers as required by State rules and regulations for the month of November 2024. **ATTACHMENT 17**

- D. Resolved that the Board of Education approves a \$93,364 withdrawal from Maintenance Reserve for the purchase of the 2023 Ford F-450 dump truck.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

January 13, 2025

- E. Resolved that the Board of Education approves Eastern DataComm to repair/replace the public address (PA) and bell systems at a cost of \$24,236.53.
- F. Resolved that the Board of Education approves a \$24,236.53 withdrawal from Capital Reserve for the repair/replacement of the PA and bell systems.
- G. To amend the end date for the Men’s Basketball League originally approved at the December 9, 2024 BOE meeting as listed below:

Organization	Time/Date	Space/Cost
Men’s Basketball League for those 30 years old and up	Wednesday evenings from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. from January 8, 2025 to May 28, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Gymnasium • Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Service Fee: \$300 ○ Waived: \$1,500 facility use fee

- H. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the first reading of the following policies and regulations:

Number	Title	Attachment
P 8500	Food Services	ATTACHMENT 18

OLD BUSINESS: NA

NEW BUSINESS: NA

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – VISITORS ADDRESS THE BOARD

On motion by Mr. Friend, seconded by Mr. Patterson, and carried unanimously by voice vote, opened the meeting to the public for visitors to address the board.

The Board Secretary read the following statement:

At this time, members of the public are invited to address the Board. Please note that public comments on non-agenda items will be made in accordance with Policy 0167 - Public Presentation at Board meetings. Each statement made by all participants may be limited to three minutes in duration. If you would like to address the Board, please raise your hand to be called upon. Once called, please come to the microphone and state your name, municipality of residence, and/or group affiliation.

Please let the record reflect that the Board of Education does not endorse comments, nor will the Board of Education be held liable for comments made by a member of the public about a staff member or any other individual that may be considered defamatory and/or libelous, as that individual retains all rights to pursue any legal remedies against you.

This public session is designed for members of the public to speak on issues for Board consideration. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comments. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

January 13, 2025

at the conclusion of public participation. This portion of the meeting is meant to hear public comments, not to have a dialogue between the Board and the person speaking.

Mrs. Westerman addressed the Board with a concern.

On motion by Ms. Henry, seconded by Mr. Patterson, and carried unanimously by voice vote, closed the meeting to the public for visitors to address the board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Entered Executive Session at 7:31 pm.

On motion by Mrs. Kabbash, seconded by Ms. Henry, and carried unanimously by roll call vote, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b), the Board of Education may exclude the public from the portion of a public meeting at which the Board discusses any of the matters described at N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(1)-9;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education shall forthwith enter closed session to discuss the following matter(s) concerning:

- Matters rendered confidential by state or federal law
- Personnel
- Appointment of a public official
- Matters covered by the attorney-client privilege
- Pending or anticipated litigation
- Pending or anticipated contract negotiations
- Protection of the safety or property of the public
- Matters which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy
- Matters in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the United States Government
- Matters concerning collective negotiations and/or the negotiation of terms and conditions of employment of employees of the Board of Education
- Possible imposition of a civil penalty or suspension

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said discussion may be disclosed to the public when the reasons for discussing and acting upon it in closed session no longer exist.

The Board returned to regular session at 7:48 p.m.

On motion by Mr. Friend, seconded by Mrs. Kabbash, and carried unanimously by voice vote, adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Sarmiento
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary