

BLOOMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes – July 30, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Approved September 10, 2019

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Daniela Albright called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:

Daniela Albright read the following statement:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is either discussed or acted upon. The Board has fully complied with the notice requirements by advertising in The Express Times & The Star-Ledger posting publicly and by notifying the Municipal Clerk of the date, time and place of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present

President, Daniela Albright
Vice-President, Kristin Santoro
John Albright
John Tufaro
Kaydeon Whidbee

Absent

Others Present

Dr. Jenniffer Marycz, Chief School Administrator
Tim Mantz, Board Secretary

Flag Salute

II. PRESENTATIONS

None

III. PTO REPORT

None

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

C. Negotiations Committee

Kristin Santoro told the Board that the next meeting with the BEA is scheduled for September 5th.

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D. Bloomsbury Sustainability Committee

Daniela Albright reported that she and Dr. Marycz will be attending the Phillipsburg Board of Education meeting on August 12th to request that the Phillipsburg Board consider passing the motion regarding the commissioning of a feasibility study.

V. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Dr. Marycz told the Board that Lauren Vasko is on the agenda for approval as a special education teacher and that she is currently looking for a maternity leave replacement for Dianna Pulcini.

Dr. Marycz updated the Board with regard to the shared agreements with the Bethlehem Township Board of Education.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. ACTION ITEMS: Chief School Administrator’s Recommendations

CONSENT AGENDA: Matters listed within the consent agenda have been referred to members of the Board of Education and/or its standing committees, for reading and study, are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion.

A. Consent Agenda Motion: BOARD AFFAIRS

Motion made by Daniela Albright, seconded by Kristin Santoro, to approve the following board affairs agenda items **1.1** through **1.4**;

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 1.1** To approve the minutes of the July 17, 2019 regular meeting.
- 1.2** To approve the minutes of the July 17, 2019 executive session.
- 1.3** To approve the professional development plan.
- 1.4** To approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS our community recognizes the fundamental importance of strong public schools providing our students with thorough and efficient public educations; and

WHEREAS our school district’s grades Pre-K through 8 students receive educational services primarily at Bloomsbury School located in our Borough, and our grades 9 through 12 students receive educational services primarily at Phillipsburg High School within the school district of the Phillipsburg Board of Education (“Phillipsburg”) through a send-receive agreement between our school districts; and

WHEREAS severe changes to the school funding formula were made by former Senate Bill 2, now adopted as P.L. 2018 Chapter 67, without consideration to its consequences to our community, which will drastically reduce state aid funding (“AID REDUCTION”) for our school district over the next six fiscal years; and

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WHEREAS the AID REDUCTION will have an irreparable impact to not only our school district but also to the economic viability of the surrounding townships and region because when our schools suffer, our communities lose; and

WHEREAS the recently created Legislative Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup was charged with a “broad mission to identify ways to address soaring . . . costs, hold down property taxes, make state and local government and school districts more efficient . . . and mitigate the negative impact of the federal tax law that targeted high-cost states,” and on August 9, 2018 published its report called “Path to Progress;” and

WHEREAS increasing educational costs create tax burdens for our communities; and

WHEREAS consistent with the mission of the Path to Progress, our local entities are collaboratively looking to conserve resources and find efficiencies through shared services and other options, including the consideration of changes to school district structure through regionalization, consolidation, and send-receive relationships between and among our school districts; and

WHEREAS guidance from the New Jersey School Boards Association released on February 16, 2018 analyzed barriers to regionalization, consolidation, and expanded and/or changed send- receive relationships between and among school districts titled, “Impediments to School District Regionalization” which suggests that the first step in determining whether such actions are viable is to engage in a fact-gathering “feasibility study;” and

WHEREAS our Board is committed to providing excellent educational services for our enrolled students while conserving our limited school district resources, particularly mindful of the perilous impact of the AID REDUCTION. In reviewing ways to conserve resources, among other things, our Board is reviewing our grade alignment and send-receive relationship with Phillipsburg, and considering other options, including whether our grades 9 through 12 students may receive appropriate educational services at a lower cost within the North Hunterdon/Voorhees Regional High School District Board of Education (“North Hunterdon”); and

WHEREAS our community recognizes that this resolution is not a vote to regionalize, consolidate, create new send-receive relationships, or in any other way change our current and established school district; and

WHEREAS in light of the AID REDUCTION our Board supports and agrees to participate in a feasibility study to review, among other things, appropriate and available cost-saving options and seeks reimbursement for that study from the State of New Jersey.

B. Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Motion made by Kristin Santoro, seconded by Daniela Albright, to approve the following business affairs agenda item **2.1**;

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2.1 To approve the July 30, 2019 current expense bill list for check numbers 16803 to 16815 totaling \$45,405.90.

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C. Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Daniela Albright, seconded by Kristin Santoro, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.2**;

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1** To approve Kim Rohrer to be a professional development presenter during the summer to be paid at the contractual hourly rate.
- 3.2** To hire Lauren Vasko as a .75 FTE teacher for the 2019-20 school year at a salary of \$38,054, Step 5 BA.

VIII. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Daniela Albright said that the Board will need support from within Bloomsbury and the surrounding districts regarding moving forward with the feasibility study and ultimately being able to terminate the send/receive relationship with Phillipsburg High School. She also proposed that the Board consider expanding the Bloomsbury Sustainability Committee to include two Town Council members as well as two members of the community. The Board agreed with this.

Kristin Santoro requested that, in light of all of the dialogue that has been going on between the Board members, Dr. Marycz and the Board Attorney regarding the feasibility study and other proposed options for moving forward, that the Board members be cognizant of checking their Bloomsbury email accounts with regularity.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm on a motion by Daniela Albright, seconded by Kristin Santoro.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Board Secretary/B.A.

Respectfully submitted,

Board Member