

**FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING**

April 13, 2020

MINUTES

The **Virtual** Regular Meeting of the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education was called to order in conformance with the "Sunshine Law" by the Board President **via UBER conference** at 5:29 p.m.

The Board experienced technical problems and security issues with zoom and quickly changed conferencing options with the support of District Counsel, Alicia D’Anella of Comegno Law Group.

**Member(s) Present Virtually**

Jessica Abbott	Susan Mitcheltree
Valerie Bart	Edward Morgan
Jeffrey Cain	Christopher Walker
Marianne Kenny	Tim Bart
Laurie Markowski	

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. McGann gave a presentation on Internet Connectivity for Students, as attached. Dr. McGann gave connectivity facts during this national crisis on COVID-19. She stated it is a national issue that students do not have connectivity, 1.4 million students in New Jersey are working remotely. She noted in the Flemington-Raritan School District students are connected through the phone and we are delivering supplies as well. She stated we have 609 economically disadvantaged students in the Flemington-Raritan School District and we have 47 that are not connected. Dr. McGann notes she is working locally and nationally with others to connect all students. She spoke about the support students need. She continues to work with upper leadership in Verizon and State Government officials to support all students nationally. She asked the Board to approve the jet packs to support these students. She will continue to rally leadership to push for support for all students. Dr. McGann and other Flemington-Raritan staff will help families connect.

**CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Mr. Bart read the following statement regarding public comment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(a), the Open Public Meetings Act. Members of the public are invited to address the Board according to the Board’s policy and bylaws. Please be aware that this portion is your opportunity to comment, and is not a forum for the Board to respond to your comments. However, the Board will certainly give all comments appropriate consideration.

The Board Counsel and Board President agreed to only 1 Citizens Address the Board for any item on or off the agenda.

Andy Malone, Tapinto, asked what happened with renegotiation of the Verizon contract. Dr. McGann noted Verizon is not willing to renegotiate the cost or the length of the contract. The conversation continued about connectivity with them. He then asked how many students will receive jet packs. Dr. McGann noted 47 at the present time. The jet packs are expected to be here at the earliest April 15th and this will be on a first come, first serve basis.

**THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL**

**FACILITIES/OPERATIONS/SECURITY**

The next meeting will be April 21, 2020.

**All Facilities/Operations/Security items were approved under one motion made by Ms. Markowski, seconded by Mrs. Bart.**

1. Approval was given to confirm the emergent purchase of jet packs and service in the amount of \$27,793.50 from Verizon Wireless to remedy the emergent issues as defined by N.J.S.A.18A:18A-7 and Board Policy 6424. The County Office provided approval before the purchase was made.

Mr. Bart thanked Dr. McGann for her work with Verizon. Mr. Bart noted he is supporting the item. He restated his concern with the 12 month contract. Ms. Mitcheltree thanked Dr. McGann for her work and all of the information and noted she wants to do what's best for the children. Mr. Morgan asked if we are issuing contracts with the parents that state when the crisis is over we get the devices back. Dr. McGann noted we are crafting a protocol for tracking jet packs and making sure only Flemington-Raritan connectivity occurs, she noted the parents will sign off on this protocol. Mr. Walker asked if the contract will go through the Curriculum Committee. Dr. McGann explained this is similar to what we currently have and will not be run through the Board committee. Dr. McGann explained this is currently an agreement and it is a management issue.

Mr. Walker asked about Andy's question regarding the length of the agreement with Verizon. Dr. McGann noted it is still at 12 months. She continues to discuss this issue with government officials. Mr. Walker thanked Dr. McGann for her work. The Board also expressed their appreciation.

<b>Aye:</b>	<b>Ms. Abbott</b>	<b>Ms. Mitcheltree</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>
	<b>Mrs. Bart</b>	<b>Mr. Morgan</b>		
	<b>Mr. Cain</b>	<b>Mr. Walker</b>		
	<b>Dr. Kenny</b>	<b>Mr. Bart</b>		
	<b>Ms. Markowski</b>			

ADJOURN

**On the motion of Ms. Abbott, seconded by Mrs. Bart, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m. viva voce.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Voorhees  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

2020 Board Meetings

- April 27
- May 4 & 18
- June 8 & 22
- July 27
- August 24
- September 14 & 29
- October 12 & 26
- November 9 & 23
- December 14