

FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
March 5, 2017
MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education was called to order in conformance with the "Sunshine Law" by the Board President at 7:02 p.m. in Room B-132 at the J.P. Case Middle School.

Members Present

Jessica Abbott
Sandra Borucki*
Dennis Copeland
Marianne Kenny

Laurie Markowski**
Susan Mitcheltree
Christopher Walker
Tim Bart

Members Absent

Anna Fallon

*left @ 7:53 p.m.

**arrived @ 7:13 p.m.

CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD

None

BOARD WORKSHOP – GOALS 2 & 3

Ms. Gwen Thornton of New Jersey School Boards presented a workshop to the Board in relation to Board Goal 2 - explore & implement procedures that promote effective & appropriate communication within the Board & with external groups & that exemplify good Boardmanship & Board Goal 3 - will collaborate to define leadership expectations, values & norms; this may include the establishment of a Board Governance Committee, as attached. She reviewed good practices for communication and governance. The key topics discussed were as follows:

- Respect
- No surprises/keep communication open
- Board Meetings purpose/public participation

Ms. Markowski arrived.

- Most important role of the Board of Education is to hire a Superintendent
- Chain of command – very important
- Superintendent responsibilities – the Board of Education does not administer the district
- Individual Board Members have no authority – only power in an open public meeting at the Board table
- Majority of the Board needs to agree in order to make changes – find common ground work as a team
- The Board speaks with one voice, once a decision is made
- Operate by Robert's Rule of Order – consistency is the key
- Governance is about balance
- The Board needs to police itself – that is not the role of Superintendent
- Data is very important in order to make well informed decisions

Dr. Copeland asked how to guide a Board on the district vision and the hiring of a Superintendent even though the Board turns over every year. Ms. Thornton stated long term goals and strategic planning are very important. Mr. Bart asked how Board Members keep other Board Members in "their lane". Ms. Thornton shared, the Board is the "what" and the administration handles the "how". Mr. Walker asked how to ask about hiring decisions. Ms. Thornton stated, you can ask the process questions but cannot drive process or vote no on something that is arbitrary and capricious.

Ms. Borucki left the meeting.

HAZARD, YOUNG & ATTEA & ASSOCIATES – UPDATE ON SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

Dr. Judy Ferguson from Hazard, Young & Attea & Associates, gave the attached presentation to update the Board on the Superintendent Search. This presentation will be posted on the Superintendent search website. The presentation reported out on the results of interviews and the survey. Dr. Copeland asked about the posted ad versus desired characteristics listed. Dr. Ferguson noted that these characteristics will be used when reviewing applications. The desired characteristics were discussed. The Board’s consensus was to remove the preferred knowledge of Special Education. The Board wants to look for the best leader. Ms. Abbott thanked Hazard, Young & Attea & Associates for their in-depth work thus far. The Board also agreed to remove “strong moral compass”. The Board suggested adding collaborative inclusive decision maker. They also suggested “approachable, visible, steady leader. Dr. Ferguson will revise the desired characteristics.

CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD

None

On the motion of Ms. Abbott, seconded by Dr. Kenny, the meeting was adjourned, unanimously viva voce, at 9:01 p.m. to Executive Session in Room B-132.

Ms. Markowski left the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Be It Resolved, by the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education that it does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in executive session to discuss the matters stipulated, in conformance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975.

School Security

The matters discussed will be made public when confidentiality is no longer required and formal action pursuant to said discussion shall take place only at a meeting to which the public has been invited.

The Board returned to public session at 9:39 p.m. in Room B-132.

Dr. Copeland left @ 9:40.

On the motion of Ms. Abbott, seconded by Ms. Mitcheltree, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 p.m. viva voce.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Voorhees
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

2018 Board Meetings

March 19 – Approve 2018-2019 Budget

April 9 & 23

May 7 – Reorganization of the District/Public Hearing for 2018-2019 Budget & 29

June 11 & 25

July 23

August 27

September 10 & 24

October 8 & 22

November 12 & 26

December 17