

HOPE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 14, 2012

7:00 PM

The Hope Township Board of Education held a joint meeting with the Hope Township Committee to discuss the provisions of the new election law S-3148. Mrs. Ostrzyzek called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., and proper notice of postings was given. Township Committee members present at roll call were Mayor Timothy McDonough, Committeeman John Koonz and Committeeman George Beatty. Mrs. Ostrzyzek read the Sunshine Statement and Mrs. Koeppen read the Mission Statement and led the pledge of allegiance. Board members present at the roll call were Mr. Lucas, Mr. Tighe, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Koeppen, Mrs. Ostrzyzek and Mr. McKenna. Mr. Annunziata, Superintendent and Mrs. Huff, Business Administrator /Board Secretary were also in attendance, as well as six members of the public. Mrs. Kahler was unable to attend.

PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION – Election Law S-3148

Members of the Board of Education and Township Committee discussed at length the new election law which establishes procedures for moving the date of a school district's annual school election from April to the General Election in November. Districts that choose to elect their school board members in November no longer have to submit their budgets for voter approval as long as it does not exceed the levy cap. Budgets that are in excess of the cap would still require voter approval. Mr. Uffer noted that he felt that eliminating the prospect of a failed budget may take undue stress off of the teaching staff and they can then concentrate on educational duties. There was no other public comment on this issue. Mr. Annunziata did respond to a few questions from the public. The Township unanimously passed a resolution to establish the election of members of the Hope Township Board of Education as the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November and eliminate the annual voter referendum on the proposed general fund tax levy which is at or below the statutory tax levy cap. The members of the Board of Education followed up by unanimously passing the same resolution as follows:

A motion was made by Mrs. Koeppen and seconded by Mr. Lucas to establish the election of members of the Hope Township Board of Education as the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November with the following resolution. Motion carried unanimously, by roll call vote, all yes.

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 authorizes changing the election date of school board members from the third Tuesday in April to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November (the General Election); and

WHEREAS, Such action requires the adoption of a resolution by a school district or the municipality or municipalities constituting such district, as set forth in P.L. 2011, c 202; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 requires that the change to a November election remain in effect for four years; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 eliminates the annual voter referendum on the proposed general fund tax levy (i.e., the base budget which is at or below the statutory tax levy cap) in school districts where board of education members are elected at the General Election; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 requires that an additional general fund tax levy proposal (i.e., for an expenditure in excess of the tax levy cap) be presented to voters as a separate question at the General Election; and

WHEREAS, The Hope Township Board of Education believes that the financial interest of its constituents is safeguarded by the state's tax levy cap and the thorough review of the proposed school budget by the Executive County Superintendent and the Executive County School Business Administrator; and

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WHEREAS, The Hope Township Board of Education believes that more citizens will participate in the selection of school board members at the General Election than on the third Tuesday in April and that the higher level of participation will foster positive interest in our public schools; and

WHEREAS, The Hope Township Board of Education is committed to the non-partisan status of school board membership and the non-partisan conduct of school elections, and believes this principle will not be compromised by conducting board member elections in November.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202, the Hope Township Board of Education changes the annual election date for school board members from the third Tuesday in April to the November General Election, beginning in 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202, the Hope Township Board of Education changes the annual election date for school board members from the third Tuesday in April to the November General Election, beginning in 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202, members of the Hope Township Board of Education whose terms would have expired by May 2012 will continue to serve in office until the January 2013 organization meeting; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted to the Warren County Clerk; the Warren County Board of Elections; the Hope Township Municipal Clerk; the Department of State, Division of Elections; the Department of Education's Executive County Superintendent; and the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution also be provided to the New Jersey School Boards Association and New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Annunziata noted one additional finance motion for consideration this evening. Mrs. Ostrzyzek noted Ms. Peterson's invitation to attend the Read Across America celebration at the school on March 2nd.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Koeppen and seconded by Mr. McKenna to approve the minutes as submitted from the January 24, 2012 Regular Session Meeting. Motion carried unanimously, all yes.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS / TRANSPORTATION

Mr. McKenna reported on the status of several issues including evaluation of the town generator to ascertain the current condition and determine if it could be a solution to the school's needs; the plan to re-carpet and paint in the Principal, CST and Business Offices; the condition of the lower parking lot and options for repair; Mr. Bair's work to restore the old school bell and an energy audit which will be done in the school building by H.T. Lyons Contractors. Mrs. Huff noted that the Committee has agreed to hold off on any plans to relocate the Principal's office at this time.

COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mr. Tighe noted that there will be an Administration "Meet and Greet for Parents" at 6:00 p.m. on February 28th prior to the Board meeting.

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CURRICULUM / INSTRUCTION / TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Annunziata noted that Ms. Peterson will be downloading curriculum maps so they can be posted on the school website.

FINANCE

Mrs. Wallace overviewed the first draft of a proposed budget for the 2012-2013 school year. Mrs. Huff noted that we are still unsure of state aid funding for next year and we may have one additional out-of-district placement for which to budget expenditures. Mrs. Huff is anticipating additional information on both issues next week. Mr. Annunziata discussed the increase in Belvidere High School tuition for the 2012-2013 school year. Declining enrollment at the high school is the main reason for an additional \$1000.00 increase in tuition per student for the 2012-2013 year. Mrs. Huff noted that the Board will need to approve a proposed budget next meeting to submit to the County Office for review.

Motion - Finance

A motion was made by Mr. Tighe and seconded by Mr. McKenna to approve the following agenda item #1 and the additional motion #2.

1. Approve a Joint Transportation Agreement

To approve a Joint Transportation agreement with Allamuchy Township Board of Education to transport one PSD student to their program in Mt. Villa School from the student's home in Hope for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year.

2. Approve Staff Travel

To approve the following staff travel:

- Cathy Trotter to attend a workshop "Guided Reading: Differentiating Using Small Group Instruction" in Parsippany, NJ on February 28, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. The cost for the workshop is \$225.00 and mileage reimbursement not to exceed \$25.00.

PERSONNEL

Business Administrator/Board Secretary Contract Hearing

Mr. Lucas noted that Chapter 53 requires Boards of Education to permit the public to comment on any changes or amendments to certain administrative contracts as they are annually renewed. Tonight we are permitting comment on the contract of our Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Dawn Huff, for the 2012-2013 school year. This contract and contract addendum have been reviewed and approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on January 4, 2012. A copy of Mrs. Huff's contract and contract addendum were available for review by the public. Mr. Koonz asked for clarification on the provisions of the contract payment to Mrs. Huff.

Block Motion - Personnel

A motion was made by Mrs. Wallace and seconded by Mr. Tighe to approve the following agenda items #1 through #5. Motion carried by roll call vote, all yes.

1. Approve Business Administrator/Board Secretary

To approve the retention of Dawn Huff as Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the 2012-2013 year at a salary rate of \$89,602.00 to be paid in semi-monthly installments.

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Block Motion – Personnel - continued

2. Approve a Contract Addendum for the Business Administrator/Board Secretary

To approve an Addendum to the employment contract of Dawn Huff to be the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary Shared Service in the White Township School District for the 2012-2013 school year at a salary of \$45,445.00 to be paid in semi-monthly installments.

3. Approve a Substitute Custodian

To approve Dave Fanelli as a substitute custodian for the 2011-2012 school year.

4. Approve A Substitute Teacher

To approve Mary Thorne as a substitute teacher for the 2011-2012 school year.

5. Approve a Revised Contract for Amanda Sevigny

To approve Amanda Sevigny as a Personal Aide for an out of district placement, for up to 6.5 hours/day for \$13.00 per hour.

POLICY

The Board discussed New Jersey's waiver of the NCLB provisions. Mr. Annunziata noted that there are still a lot of questions about the specifics of the waiver.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Board discussed several pieces of legislation that are pending including changes in the evaluation process and changes to current tenure law.

BELVIDERE UPDATE

Mr. Lucas noted how well the girls cheering squad, girls basketball team and the wrestling team are doing at Belvidere High School. Mr. Lucas further reported on the Project Graduation which will be held this Friday at the High School.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Annunziata discussed a draft resolution which would support Allamuchy Board of Education's position that adherence to the HIB Law creates a significant drain on the human and financial resources of a district and that the law is an unfunded mandate. The Board will further discuss and review the resolution at the meeting on February 28th.

PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

None

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. McKenna and seconded by Mr. Lucas to convene to Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. Motion carried unanimously, all yes.

Be it resolved by the Hope Township Board of Education that it shall meet in closed session this evening to discuss a personnel issue. The board will publicly disclose information pertaining to the topics discussed as soon thereafter and once the reasons for non-disclosure no longer exist.

The topics to be discussed are within the exemptions that are permitted to be discussed in private session pursuant to P.L. 1975c chapter 321.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wallace and seconded by Mr. McKenna to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:56 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, all yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Lucas and seconded by Mrs. Wallace to acknowledge receipt of HIB report #6 which after investigation did not rise to the level of a HIB incident. Motion carried unanimously, all yes.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. McKenna and seconded by Mr. Tighe to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, all yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Huff
Business Administrator
Board Secretary