

Board of Education of the Township of Clark, Union County, NJ
Regular Meeting Minutes May 2, 2017

The Public Session of this meeting began at 7:04 p.m. in the Clark Council Chambers located at 315 Westfield Avenue in Clark.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

This is a public meeting of the Board of Education of the Clark Public Schools. Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with PL1975, Chapter 231, in that a special notice was made in conformance with Section 13 of the Act.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Present: Lorraine j. Aklonis
Scott Bohm
Carmen Brocato
Steven Donkersloot, Vice President
Thomas Lewis
Robert Smorol
Henry R. Varriano

Absent: Laura Caliguire
Christine Guerriero, Garwood Representative
Jill Curran, President

Also Present: Edward Grande, Superintendent of Schools
R. Paul Vizzuso, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Michael Brennan, Student Board Member

HEARING OF THE ANNUAL SCHOOL BUDGET

Edward Grande provided an overview of the budget process, the factors contributing to the deficit of the excess surplus, and the budget cuts necessary to balance the 2017-18 school year budget.

R. Paul Vizzuso discussed the timeline of the budget process and reviewed a PowerPoint of the 2017-18 budget.

FLOOR OPEN TO PUBLIC FOR QUESTIONS/COMMENTS REGARDING THE ANNUAL SCHOOL BUDGET

The floor was opened to the public for questions/comments regarding the annual school budget at 7:29 pm and closed at 8:16 pm after the following comments were made:

- **Heather Warszawa, 69 Winthrop Rd., Clark** – Inquired about the 2% cap and new special education programs.
- **Edward Grande, Superintendent** – Discussed the excess surplus deficit and future benefits of in-house special education programs.
- **Kim Baglieri, 15 Sunset Drive, Clark, FT Substitute** – Expressed concerns about personnel cuts and the possibility of increasing taxes to avoid them.
- **Edward Grande, Superintendent** – Focus is on maintaining class sizes with no academic program cuts.
- **Jerry Fogle, 9 Pine Street, Clark** - Questioned the ROD Grant reimbursement and the decrease in Garwood students.
- **R. Paul Vizzuso, SBA/BS** – Commented that the ROD Grant reimbursement funds are deposited directly into the Capital Reserve account and cannot be used on operating expenses.

- **Jessica Lopez-Otalvaro, Teacher/Parent** - Inquired about textbook allocation.
- **Edward Grande, Superintendent** – Offered to share textbook allocation information.
- **Kim Albarella, 384 Boynton Avenue, Clark** - Inquired about the timeliness of communication regarding the deficit, how the deficit will be avoided in the long term, the approval process for sending students out of district, and the 1.5 million in non-personnel cuts.
- **Edward Grande, Superintendent** - Explained that information regarding the deficit was not released until the budget process was complete. Outlined actions the district is taking to rebuild the surplus and the steps taken during the approval process for sending a student out of district.
- **Alzira Domingues, 123 Lexington Blvd., Clark** – Inquired about the selection criteria that will be used for the personnel cuts as well as future enrollment.
- **Edward Grande, Superintendent** – Explained that personnel cuts will be based on certification and seniority as this is a reduction in force. Demographic studies show a stable or decreasing enrollment. District has been able to maintain class sizes in elementary schools and already has permission from state to utilize mobile classrooms as a temporary measure if necessary in the future.
- **Nancy Coppola, NJEA Consultant** – Inquired about the employee health benefit contribution with respect to the budget.
- **R. Paul Vizuso, SBAS/BS** – Confirmed that the health benefit appropriation in the budget is net the employee health benefit contribution.
- **Maria Falzone, CEA President** – Expressed support for Reduction in Force (RIF) members and concern that education of students is ultimately at risk.

The Board took a 2 minutes recess from 8:16 pm to 8:18 pm

2017-2018 ANNUAL SCHOOL BUDGET

Motion: Lorraine j. Aklonis
Second: Carmen Brocato

Roll Call: Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Township of Clark that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that

WHEREAS, the Clark Board of Education adopted a tentative budget on March 13, 2017 to be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval, and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on April 5, 2017 and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was advertised in the legal section of the Home News Tribune on April 27, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was presented to the public during a public hearing on May 2, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the total amount of the budget for General Fund Expenses shall be \$33,740,346, of which \$30,792,697 shall be raised by tax levy, and

WHEREAS, the total amount of the budget for Special Revenue Fund Expense shall be \$1,090,332, of which \$0.00 shall be raised by tax levy, and

WHEREAS, the total amount of the budget for Debt Service Expense shall be \$1,374,532, of which \$1,374,532 shall be raised by tax levy.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Clark Board of Education hereby adopts the 2017-2018 School Year budget and,

BE IT RESOLVED that there should be raised for the General Funds \$30,792,697 for the ensuing School Year (2017-2018) and

BE IT RESOLVED that there should be raised for Debt Service Funds \$1,374,532 for the ensuing School Year (2017-2018).

PRESENTATION OF ALJ ALUMNI

Richard Delmonaco provided a synopsis of each nominee and congratulated them on their induction to the ALJ Alumni Association Hall of Fame:

Dr. Natalino Carrea '58	Crusader Pride
William Duffy '67	Community Contributor
Frank Spaziani '65	Accomplished Professional
Dr. Kenneth Petren '81	Accomplished Professional
Wayne Graczyk '66	Accomplished Professional

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Township of Clark that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that

the following minutes are hereby approved:

- Executive and Public Session minutes of the April 4, 2017 Regular Board Meeting

Once the need for confidentiality no longer exists, Executive Session minutes may be available to the public.

Motion: Thomas Lewis
Second: Lorraine j. Aklonis

Roll Call: Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 1 (Scott Bohm)

FLOOR OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

The floor was opened to the public at 8:29 p.m. and immediately closed with no comments from the audience.

PERSONNEL

RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE (1-4)

Motion: Thomas Lewis
Second: Carmen Brocato

Roll Call: Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Township of Clark that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that

1. the retirement of Marie McCarthy, teacher (24 years of service), from the Clark Public Schools and TPAF effective July 1, 2017, is hereby accepted with best wishes.
2. the List of Tenured Certified Staff is hereby reappointed for employment for the 2017-2018 school year. (Attachment A)

- 3. the List of Tenured Certified Administrators/Supervisors is hereby reappointed for employment for the 2017-2018 school year. (Attachment B)
- 4. the following individual is hereby approved as a substitute for the Clark Public Schools for the 2016-2017 school year:

Substitute Aide
Kimberly White

CURRICULUM/EDUCATION

RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE (5-7)

Motion: Lorraine j. Aklonis
Second: Henry R. Varriano

Roll Call: Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Township of Clark that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that

- 5. WHEREAS, the employee listed below is requesting Board of Education authorization to attend the conference/workshop listed below; and

WHEREAS, the attendance at stated function was previously approved by the chief school administrator as work related within the scope of the work responsibilities of the attendee and within the funds budgeted for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the attendance at this function was approved as promoting delivery of instruction or furthering efficient operation of the school district; and fiscally prudent; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes attendance at the stated conference/workshop and reimbursement for the related expenses in accordance with Board policy on conference and workshop attendance:

Mental Health Issues in the Classroom, on Friday, June 9, 2017, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., at Crown Plaza, Edison, N.J., at the cost of \$219.99 – Ellen Zamboni

- 6. approval is hereby given for an SAT preparation course to be offered on a tuition basis (\$150.00 for 17.5 hours of instruction), at Arthur L. Johnson High School on the following dates:

August 21, 22, 23, 24, & 25, 2017

- 7. the following educational field trip request is hereby approved as listed:

Destination: Dorney Park, Allentown, PA
Date: 6/14/2017 **Grade(s):** 12
School: Arthur L. Johnson High School
 Senior Trip
No. of Adults: 18 **No. of Students:** 183
Cost to BOE: None

POLICY

RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE (8-10)

Motion: Scott Bohm
Second: Lorraine j. Aklonis

Roll Call: Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Township of Clark that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that

- 8. the Clark Board of Education adopts the following policy and regulations on second reading. A copy of these documents is on file in the Board Office.

Policy

P 2460 Special Education (M)

Regulations

- R 2460 Special Education (M)
- R 2460.1 Special Education – Location, Identification, and Referral (M)
- R 2460.8 Special Education – Free and Appropriate Public Education (M)
- R 2460.9 Special Education – Transition from Early Intervention Programs to Preschool Programs (M)
- R 2460.15 Special Education – In-Service Training Needs for Professional and Paraprofessional Staff (M)
- R 2460.16 Special Education – Instructional Material to Blind or Print-Disabled Students (M)

- 9. the Clark Board of Education adopts the following bylaws, policies, and regulations on first reading. A copy of these documents is on file in the Board Office.

Bylaws

0000.02Introduction (M)

Policies

- P 2415.06 Unsafe School Choice Option (M)
- P 2464 Gifted and Talented Students (M)
- P 2467 Surrogate Parents and Foster Parents (M)
- P 2622 Student Assessment (M)
- P 5116 Education of Homeless Children
- P 5460 High School Graduation (M)
- P 7446 School Security Program
- P 8350 Records Retention

Regulations

R 5116 Education of Homeless Children

- 10. the Clark Board of Education abolishes the following policies: (Attachment C)

Policy 2320: Independent Study Programs
Policy 5465: Early Graduation (M)

BOARD GOVERNANCE

RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE (11-17)

Motion: Henry R. Varriano
Second: Carmen Brocato

Roll Call: Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Township of Clark that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that

- 11. the establishment of the American Sign Language (ASL) Club (volunteer) at Arthur L. Johnson High School is hereby approved.
- 12. the establishment of the Hunger Awareness Club (volunteer) at Arthur L. Johnson High School is hereby approved.
- 13. the 2017 Summer Reading Lists for grades K-12 are hereby approved as submitted on Attachment D.
- 14. approval is hereby to given for the Clark Public Schools Extended School Year Program for classified students for PSD-ABA, PSD, MD-ABA and LLD1, located at the Clark Preschool, from Monday, July 3, 2017 – Monday, July 31, 2017 (no program July 4, 2017), from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- 15. approval is hereby given for the Clark Public Schools Extended School Year Program for classified students LLD2, LLD3, LLD4 and Transition, located at the Arthur L. Johnson High School, from Monday, July 3, 2017 – Monday, July 31, 2017 (no program July 4, 2017), from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- 16. the confidential Settlement Agreement and General Release between the Clark Board of Education and CW and JW on behalf of NW, resolving the matter docketed before the Office of Administrative Law as EDS-04362-17 is hereby approved. A copy of the Agreement is on file in the Board Secretary’s Office.
- 17. the revised list of Clark Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2017-2018 is hereby approved. (Attachment E)

FINANCE

RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE (18-25)

Motion: Scott Bohm
Second: Lorraine j. Aklonis

Roll Call: Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Township of Clark that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that

18. WHEREAS, the Clark Board of Education is the owner of certain surplus property which is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Board are desirous of selling said surplus property in an “as is” condition without express or implied warranties.

NOW THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED by the Clark Board of Education in the Township of Clark, County of Union, as follows:

- (1) The sale of the surplus property shall be conducted through GovDeals pursuant to State Contract A-83453/T2581 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the State Contract. The terms and conditions of the agreement entered into with GovDeals is available online at govdeals.com and also available from the Clark Board of Education.
- (2) The sale will be conducted online and the address of the auction site is govdeals.com.
- (3) The sale is being conducted pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2008-9.
- (4) A list of the surplus property to be sold is as follows:
 - 2009 Ford 24 Passenger Bus, odometer reading of 86,020, VIN # 1FD3E35L38DB55533
 - 2010 Ford 24 Passenger Bus, odometer reading of 58,240, VIN # 1FDEE35S79DA85780
 - 2010 Chevy 24 Passenger Bus, odometer reading of 70,202, VIN # 1GBJG31K591171551
- (5) The Clark Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any bid submitted.

19. approval is hereby given for the out-of-district placement and tuition for the 2017 - 2018 school year for the following student:

Student #	Placement	Tuition
3141572918	Developmental Learning Center - Warren	\$90,414.00
(High School)	ESY	14,820.00

20. approval is hereby given for the out-of-district placement and tuition for the remaining 2016 -2017 school year, retroactive April 24, 2017, for the following student:

Student #	Placement	Tuition
7125757896	Lamberts Mill Academy	\$52,125.00
(High School)		(Pro-rated)

- 21. approval is hereby given as per the CEA contract to make payment to Judith Lohman, retired March 1, 2017, in the amount of \$2,725.00 for 54.5 unused accumulated sick days at the per diem rate of \$50.00.
- 22. permission is hereby granted for R. Paul Vizzuso, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, to attend the Annual Conference of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials in Atlantic City, New Jersey from Wednesday, June 7, 2017 – Friday, June 9, 2017. The approximate cost to the Board will be \$700.00.
- 23. the Board of Education accepts the financial reports, as submitted, which include the monthly Board Secretary’s report and the Treasurer of School Monies report for the month ended March 31, 2017. The Board notes that the Secretary’s and Treasurer’s reports are in balance for the cash receipts and disbursements for the month ended March 31, 2017 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c), I, R. Paul Vizzuso, Board Secretary, certify that as of March 31, 2017 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the District Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8.1, and that the District financial accounts have been reconciled and are in balance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that through the adoption of this resolution, we, the Clark Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10, certify that as of March 31, 2017, after review of the Board Secretary’s monthly financial report (appropriation section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

- 24. the Board of Education hereby approves the Monthly Transfer Report for the month ended March 31, 2017. (Attachment F)
- 25. the Bill List submitted in the amount of \$833,398.22 for May 3, 2017 is hereby approved and payment authorized as funds of the board are made available following this meeting.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Good evening and thank you Mr. Donkersloot.

- Thanked Paul for budget presentation and preparation
- ALJ Alumni Association Inductees
- McCarthy retirement
- Extended school year program in July
- Summer reading lists
- SAT Class August 21 to 25 to prep for August 26 test at cost of \$150 per student
- ASL and Hunger Awareness Clubs at ALJ
- Autism Awareness Day on April 6 at CPA
- Special Olympics: Began two Saturdays ago and runs through June
- National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony on April 6 at CHK
- Band Bonanza on April 20; Spring concerts began last night with ALJ’s
- Earth Day at FKH on April 21: Walk-to-School; Freeholder Grandos - Buddy bench; Union County Recycling Facility and Kids Dig In! Grant
- FKH International Day on April 26
- VRS Variety Show last Thursday night
- Parent U on May 30: Summer programs and transitions

Thank you and have a great evening.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER UPDATE

Michael Brennan reported to the Board on activities for ALJ, CHK, FKH, VRS and CPA.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

The floor was opened to the public at 8:39 p.m.

Jerry Fogle, 9 Pine Street, Clark - Inquired about the results of the investigation.

Edward Grande, Superintendent – Commented that the investigation is still ongoing.

The floor closed at 8:39 p.m.

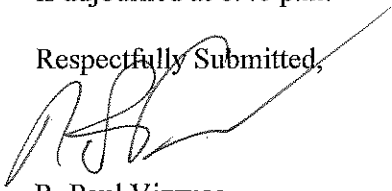
ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Thomas Lewis

Second: Robert Smorol

BE IT RESOLVED, that with no further business to come before the Clark Board of Education, the meeting is adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



R. Paul Vizzuso
Business Administrator/Board Secretary
fm

- Attachment A – List of Tenured Certified Staff 2017-2018
- Attachment B – List of Tenured Certified Administrators/Supervisors 2017-2018
- Attachment C – Policy 2320: Independent Study Programs /Policy 5465: Early Graduation (M)
- Attachment D – 2017 Summer Reading Lists for grades K-12
- Attachment E – 2017-2018 Revised Board Meeting Dates
- Attachment F – March Monthly Transfer Report