

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

A Berkeley Township Board of Education Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 13, at the Berkeley Township Elementary School, 10 Emory Avenue, Bayville, New Jersey. Board President, Jim Fulcomer, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Adequate notice of this meeting was given by notification to the Asbury Park Press on November 4, 2013 and by posting the notice in all district schools, Office of the Board of Education and the Berkeley Township Municipal Offices in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. FLAG SALUTE:

The Meeting was opened with a Salute to the Flag. Please stand for a moment of silence for four marines killed at Camp Pendleton.

III. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Sal Ferlise, Keith Fisher, Noriko Kowalewski,
Jim Fulcomer, Patrick Mooney, Lou Tuminaro

ABSENT: Lauren Ciccone-Zawada, Sophia Gingrich, Steve Pellechia

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. James D. Roselli, Superintendent
Laura Venter, CPA, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Bob Budesca, Acting Board Attorney

IV. JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING OF CONSOLIDATED/SHARED SERVICES AD HOC AND BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/CAFETERIA/TRANSPORTATION

Committee Chairman Jim Fulcomer called the joint committee meeting to order with Sal Ferlise, Transportation Committee Chairman, and Shared Services Committee Members, Keith Fisher and Patrick Mooney, present.

Committee Chairman Jim Fulcomer reviewed the efforts of the Shared Services Committee in 2013 to establish a dialogue between the Central Regional School District (CRSD) and the Consolidated/ Shared Services Ad Hoc Committee. He said that the Committee extended an invitation to the Central Regional School District in January and that in a conversation with the CRSD Board President in January Mr. Fulcomer was told that CRSD representatives would be available in the spring to address the committee. When that did **not** materialize, the Berkeley Township School District Shared Services Committee directed Business Administrator Laura Venter in the summer to invite the CRSD Superintendent, Business Administrator, and Transportation Coordinator to present their Transportation Consolidation Plan to the Committee at their November 13 Committee Meeting. Months passed, said Mr. Fulcomer, and there was no response to that invitation. Then, in October, Board President Jim Fulcomer saw the CRSD Superintendent in a Seaside Park restaurant and asked the Superintendent why there was no response to the invitation. The CRSD Superintendent said that he never saw the letter but assured Mr. Fulcomer that he, the CRSD Superintendent, would be happy to address the Committee. Mr. Fulcomer then requested a response and followed up the conversation by sending a

certified letter to the CRSD Superintendent, along with a copy of the first letter, formally requesting a response to the letter sent by Business Administrator Venter. Mr. Fulcomer read the response of October 28, 2013 from the CRSD Superintendent (a copy is attached hereto as Exhibit A). The Committee then voted to send a letter to CRSD thanking them for their response and to forward the information to the new Berkeley Township School Board President and to the new Consolidated/Shared Services Committee in January 2014.

Dr. Roselli read an email from Mayor Amato regarding the 1st Shared Services Summit scheduled for January 9, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Berkeley Township Town Hall. RSVP's should be directed to Gina Russo. Members Sal Ferlise, Jim Fulcomer and Patrick Mooney of the Shared Services Committee accepted the invitation.

Dr. Roselli made reference to his 6/17/13 Superintendent's Report regarding the Transportation Feasibility Study done by Mr. Randaisi and re-read the pertinent section in his Superintendent's Report (a copy of the pertinent section is attached hereto as Exhibit B).

Mr. Fulcomer commented that Mr. Randaisi was hired by the administration, so he was not performing the study in the interest of consolidating transportation services and that the Shared Services/Consolidation Committee would want another point of view. Mr. Fulcomer commented that if both Berkeley Township School District and Central Regional School District operated under one supervisor, it would be safer.

Ms. Kowalewski questioned if Mr. Randaisi was working for both Berkeley Township and Central Regional School District. Ms. Venter noted that Mr. Randaisi worked for Versatrans which is the software utilized by both CRSD and Berkeley Township and that Central Regional Business Administrator, Kevin O'Shea, was involved in the Study's development and all meetings held with Mr. Randaisi.

Dr. Roselli mentioned that at the summer meeting with Mr. Renner, Mr. Renner was against shared services because since there is only one Command Center, in an emergency, it would be like "sending the Titanic out with not enough life rafts."

V. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

BTEA representative, Jerry Duggan, commented that Berkeley Township has the best school bus drivers around and that we can't just go on plausibility. We have to ensure the safety of our children, and that has to be considered when making decisions.

Charles Crunkleton, a Board Member of the Berkeley Township Taxpayer's Coalition (BTTC), which was founded to reduce the tax burden of Berkeley Township taxpayers, commented that the group was opposed to laying off any transportation personnel or supporting any decision that would be detrimental to the quality of education or services children receive in Berkeley Township. He said if it is feasible to combine positions and save money, then the BTTC is in favor. The BTTC offered to assist.

Dr. Roselli commented that he had previously met with BTTC and outlined the shared service agreements already in place with Central Regional, such as courier services and bus maintenance. Dr. Roselli commented that the administration is not anti-shared services, Dr. Roselli commented that everything must always be done in a way that is best for the

children and the best Business Administrator in Ocean County will not allow us to be sloppy. She keeps us all on point. Our schools are a direct reflection of the hard work of all of us who work here.

Mr. Crunkleton commented that the state continues to put additional demands on upper administrative staff.

Township Council President, James Byrnes, commended the Board and administration on the condition of the buildings and grounds and said that Laura Venter is the best Business Administrator around. He said shared services is like picking apples off the ground. Here, the Big Tree is the Fair School Funding Formula. He said that greater financial leeway could be afforded to the district's transportation issues if Fair School Funding legislation were passed by the State Legislature. Mr. Byrnes commented that Fair School Funding would allow Berkeley Township to receive a greater share of the money distributed to school districts statewide. Currently, Abbott districts, such as Camden and Newark, receive the bulk of funds.

BTTC President Sam Cammarato agreed with Mr. Byrnes. Mr. Cammarato said that the real tax deduction for property owners will come through the Fair School Funding Act, and BTTC has failed to bring this issue to the forefront. He said that BTTC had planned on becoming more involved in school affairs, but then Super Storm Sandy came and threw them off track. He commented that now is the time for Berkeley Township to get their fair share of funding.

Mr. Fulcomer noted that very little movement has been made on the Fair Funding Formula legislation. He said aside from the representatives in Ocean and Morris Counties, the majority of state legislature members are opposed to the passage of Fair School Funding, and that accounts for the lack of traction the legislation has gained in Trenton.

Board Member, Keith Fisher, mentioned that he has met with other NJSBA legislative representatives and that Fair School Funding would never happen because inner city schools would go bankrupt.

Sam Cammarato stated that he received a letter from Senator Connors wherein Senator Connors stated that he would get all of the money from Newark and bring it to Berkeley Township.

Mr. Fulcomer said we received a response that stated that they are behind the Fair Funding Formula.

Mr. Cammarato commented that he realizes it is an uphill battle, but it is our money, and we should have more of a choice. The senior citizen population is adversely affected and should make more of an issue of this.

Dr. Roselli reminded everyone that every year since 2006 the Board has passed resolutions in support of the Fair Funding Formula.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Ferlise.

SECOND by Mr. Fisher.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laura Venter", written in black ink.

Laura Venter, CPA, RSBA, RSBO
Business Administrator/Board Secretary