

MEDFORD LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEDFORD LAKES, NJ 08055
MEETING MINUTES
July 10, 2018

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

This meeting is called to order under the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. The Secretary certifies that all requirements have been met. I, Kim Bezanis, Board President, call this meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NOTICE

Adequate notice of the meeting was advertised by the Burlington County Times on July 9, 2018 and sent by electronic mail to the Clerk of the Municipality.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Kim Bezanis
Mr. Robert Brittain
Mrs. Kristen Caputo
Ms. Mary Sullivan
Mr. Ken Wolson

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Anthony Dent, Superintendent
Mr. Michael Colling, Business Administrator
Mrs. Carole Ramage, Director of Curriculum
Dr. Michael Lee, Director of Special Education

FLAG SALUTE

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

OLD BUSINESS

1. Construction Updates

A. NOKOMIS

Roof project is moving along nicely. (1) At this time they have re-roofed the following: PK, Library, Faculty Lounge Hall, K/Nurse Hall. (2) Boilers are in and plumbed, waiting on gas hook-ups and vent through roof. (3) 6 classrooms at top of ramp and have been tested/cleared for the IAG. Tile are being pulled and Empire has been contacted informing them they can start early. (4) Outside work has started on concrete pads and security vestibule. (5) Motion sensor switches are being installed. (6) Bathrooms have been pulled and demo/prep work has started.

B. NEETA

(1) Concrete work has been completed but there may be a section or two that needs to be re-poured. (2) Boilers are installed and plumbed, just awaiting the gas hook-ups. (3) Bathrooms have been pulled and demo/prep has started. (4) Construction has started on security vestibule and the trophy case wall has been opened. (5) 8 classroom floors have started to be pulled up and tile will go down this week or next. (6) Unit Ventilators in the Middle School Lab and Science room have been disconnected and new ones will be installed in next week or two.

Mr. Wolson inquired how many days a week the architect is on site. Mr. Dent replied that he is on site at least 3 days per week overseeing the progress of the project.

Ms. Bezanis inquired of any new updates regarding additional murals. Mrs. Ramage noted that there is nothing new but she would follow up.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Construction - Security Cameras and a few switches have been delivered. ESU is scheduled to show up on Wednesday to start prepping for their installation district wide. It should be updated and completed during the month of August.
2. Construction - We will be getting a new pad or two at Nokomis outside the scope of work due to the roofers. While delivering materials and a dumpster, at least 2 pads were cracked and by contract, they will have to replace.

3. Scheduling - Preliminary schedule has been completed. We are entering it now to make sure there are no duplicates and all students/staff have places to be. Assuming all things are in order, there are a few highlights to mention – LLI will begin at Neeta for student 3-5; BSI will be ready to go when school begins (logistically most likely 3rd week of September); Middle ELA staff will teach 1 section of 5th grade writing; We have included vertical articulation into the common planning periods in SS and Science for 5th and Middle School.
4. As you have seen on this evening's agenda, we have been able to address priority #1 on our list heading into this school year by hiring a FT LDT-C.
5. 2018-19 District Goals
Academic goals – Suggestions – (1) Successfully implement K-1 Foundations, with an extension to 2nd next year. (2) Increase the number of students seated in our Pre-Algebra and Algebra 1 classes. (3) Increase in overall achievement in grades 3-4-5 as related to PARCC. (4) Increase the learning opportunities for our high achieving students.

Technology goals (can be supported by financial goals) – Suggestions (1) Continue to focus efforts on 1:1 until each classroom has a Chromebook cart. (2) Create a STEM/STEAM lab in each building. (3) Create a social media platform for the District that promotes the many programs and achievements by staff and students, as well as deepen the connection between our community and schools.

Mr. Dent wanted to bring up the conversation tonight and be able to finalize something during the August meeting. Wider social media presence. Could and should there be a financial goal? Ms. Bezanis lead the conversation regarding Technology goal. Mr. Wolson wanted to know of there was going to be someone in the main office sitting and watching a screen with 72 small screens on it? Mr. Dent replied that there will not but that there is usually a 72 hours loop before it will record over itself. This will enable us to go back to the tape to see what occurred. Ms. Bezanis inquired how many chrome books we have now to which Mr. Dent replied that we have 6 carts with 25 each on them for 150. Mr. Dent explained what other districts have and some of the things that he would like to see our district do.

Ms. Bezanis inquired of Mrs. Ramage that if we were able to get the financial piece, what would a one to one do for the district? Mrs. Caputo noted that while the surrounding districts might have one to one in the elementary level, it all drops off at the HS level where it is not used. Mrs. Caputo noted that in the past it was noted that with the new smart boards, the teachers computers are really slow, are we going to be able to correct that so that the device is usable? Mr. Dent noted that all staff computers will be accessible and that teacher training will be provided to all staff regarding this new purchase. Discussion ensued. When we come back in August, this will be finalized.

Mr. Wolson lead the discussion in academics. He said that this is the most important above anything else we do. He agreed that most likely PARCC will be going away but wants a documented game plan on how to be more competitive with surrounding towns. We need this game plan now and not August as this will be too late according to what he envisions. Mr. Dent responded with the things that we are currently doing with LLI, BSI and other programs. Mr. Dent noted that it is dangerous to compare our students to Medford as our students are our students. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Ramage noted that with ELA, we will be going into our 4th year working with a guided reading coach from Rutgers. Mr. Wolson inquired how we benchmark where we were 4 years ago vs where we are now and the benefit of that reading coach. Mrs. Ramage replied that it's difficult because the lower grade levels do not have a standardize test to get these results. Mr. Dent noted that one thing we will be stressing more this year is the data that we have on the students and what they were like at the start of the year vs what we have at the end of the year regarding test scores. We are constantly looking to see what we can do differently. Mrs. Ramage noted that the biggest constraint that we have is finances but Mr. Wolson noted that we don't need to speak about that. Discussion ensued. Mr. Wolson does not think that we are performing at the highest level than we could be. He has a lot of competitive spirit and all. Mr. Dent noted that 3, 4, 5; we could be doing better but that 6, 7, 8 we are holding our own among the other sending districts regarding academics. Ms. Bezanis noted that over the last 5 years of Shawnee graduations, we have had the valedictorian and a few years ago we had the salutatorian and we are more than holding our own percentage wise for what we send there.

Mrs. Caputo noted that there is a tendency to look at testing because it is measurable but doesn't want to get to teaching to the test and should be looking at the growth that the students are making. Mrs. Caputo inquired if all

the students take the Math testing to which Mrs. Ramage and Mr. Dent replied that they do as this is not one of the State mandated assessments that the students take but is used by the district to track the students. We use the IOWA test, which also happens to be the same one that is used in Medford for Math. Mr. Dent explained the process and discussion ensued. Mrs. Ramage also noted that if we were to level our Math program, that would help some of our students and their performance. One of the goals could be to get more students ready for the Algebra class.

Social Media: One goal is to get the community more involved and Ms. Bezanis noted that she is leaning more towards Facebook than Twitter as she believes more people have this. Mr. Wolson questioned this discussion and how it fits in but discussion ensued regarding how the members of the community also pay the taxes in this town and that we can also let them know of the good things that we are doing. Mr. Wolson then inquired about the survey that was supposed to go out to the Board and that he had not received it and then others noted that they had received it but had to do the survey in order to proceed instead of reviewing the information that was actually being asked. Discussion ensued. The survey will be going out to all residents that we have email addresses for and not just parents. Mr. Wolson would like a survey to go out 60 days into the school year to see how things are going and then another 120 days in but wanted to hear what others wanted. Mr. Dent noted that he was waiting until after the summer with all the things that were going on and that every year he has sent it to teachers and ICAs but that this year he had not done this. Mr. Brittain recommended that this survey could go out after Back to School night. Mr. Dent noted that he would like to send the survey out at least 2 times, once in September or October and another in May to gauge how people are feeling. Mrs. Ramage noted that also with the survey sent out 2 times, they would have some information on helping to have them help set their goals. Discussion ensued.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. PERSONNEL

Motion by Ms. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Brittain;

RECOMMEND that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following personnel items:

- 1. Approve New Staff
 - a. Jennifer Summerville, Learning Disabilities Teacher/Consultant

<u>Position Control</u>	<u>Roster Number</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Salary</u>
	505-02	11-000-219-104-0-129	Jennifer Summerville	Step 10 MA+15 \$62,866

- 2. Approve Resignation
 - a. Corey Meeks, Part Time Custodian, effective July 19th, 2018

<u>Position Control</u>	<u>Roster Number</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Employee</u>
	302-03	11-000-262-100-0-1260	Corey Meeks

- 3. Approve Reimbursement for Doctoral Level Courses
 - a. Anthony Dent, Summer 1 Session, (approved May 2nd, 2018)
 - Curriculum Theory and Planning EDL7703
 - Lab of Practice: Superintendent III - EDL8132
 - Dissertation of Practice 1 - EDL9000
- 4. Approve Anthony Dent, Superintendent, Quantitative Merit Goal #2 (2017-18), – Advance math program to Algebra 1 Honors aligned with course description and criteria offered at Shawnee High School for submission to County Superintendent for approval and payment.
- 5. Approve Graduate Courses
 - a. Erin Czarzasty Wharton, Lourdes College
 - Course # 704 Course Title: Instructional Strategies That Work Tuition \$296.25
 - Course # 855, Course Title: What Great Teachers Do Tuition \$296.25
 - Course 993, Course Title: Shaping Respectful, Responsible Learners in Your Classroom Tuition \$296.25

6. Approve change of Summer Curriculum Writing as follows:
 - a. Grade 4 GATE – Heather Summerville
 - b. Grade 6 GATE -- Jennifer Martinez

Ms. Bezanis inquired about #6 to which Mrs. Ramage replied that the teachers are just switching and that this is a new writing of the curriculum.

ROLL CALL VOTE: *Ayes: Ms. Bezanis, Mr. Brittain, Mrs. Caputo, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Wolson*
 Nays: None
 Abstain: None
 Absent: None
 Motion Carried

B. CURRICULUM/COORDINATED ACTIVITIES

Motion by Ms. Caputo and seconded by Ms. Sullivan;

RECOMMEND that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following curriculum/coordinated activities:

1. Approve discard:
 - a. Neeta School Library Weeding Log – see attached
 - b. Nokomis School Library Weeding Log – see attached
 - c. Miscellaneous broken furniture

Ms. Sullivan inquired of where these books go to which Mr. Colling replied that they are recycled.

VOTE: *5 ayes* *0 nays* *0 absent* *0 abstain* *Motion Carried*

BUSINESS ADMINSTRATOR'S REPORT

A. FINANCE/BUDGET

Motion by Mr. Brittain and seconded by Mrs. Caputo;

RECOMMEND that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator, approve the following finance/budget items:

1. Payment of the bills with funds available.
2. REJECTION of Falasca Change Order #1 in the amount of \$12,536.04 for the replacement of domestic water shut off valves.
3. ACCEPT Falasca Change Order #2 V2 in the amount of \$19,132.45 for the replacement of the existing water closet chair carriers in the Neeta 300 wing toilet room.
4. ACCEPT Falasca Change Order #3 in the amount of \$3,333.01 relating to floor drain conflicts at 3 locations.
5. ACCEPT Falasca Change Order #4 in the amount of \$3,698.77 relating to floor mounted rough-in changes at Neeta.
6. ACCEPT Falasca Change Order #5 in the amount of \$3,698.77 relating to floor mounted rough-in changes at Nokomis.
7. AUTHORIZE Michal Colling, Business Administrator, to authorize Change Orders between Board of Education meetings to allow progress to continue on construction projects. All approved Change Orders will be present to the Board of Education for ratification.

Mr. Wolson inquired about the bills list and different items and Mr. Colling replied to various inquiries.

ROLL CALL VOTE:*Ayes: Ms. Bezanis, Mr. Brittain. Mrs. Caputo, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Wolson*
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried

Mr. Dent updated the Board regarding the first ever Personnel committee and recommended that if the Board would like to have additional committees they could and that this would be a 2 member committee so that it would not be an open public meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shandy Black, 43 Algonquin Trail – Stated that her daughter is going into 8th grade and she fully supports the goal of communication and also the survey going out and inquired if this could possibly be done during report card time and be done 3 times a year?

Dr. Lee, introduced Ms. Black as the newly formed Treasurer of the SEPAC committee of the community and thanked her for being here tonight.

Ms. Black also noted that if there are committees that are being set up that maybe she could be involved as the Treasurer of that committee. Mr. Brittain inquired if these could have parents involved. Mr. Dent and Mr. Colling noted that these are Board committees and due to the sensitive nature of the information that is being discussed, these cannot have the public involved but that there could be separate committees that can have the public involved.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Caputo and seconded by Mr. Brittain to adjourn meeting.

VOTE: **5 ayes** **0 nays** **0 absent** **0 abstain** **Motion Carried**

Time: 8:03 PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael F. Colling
Board Secretary