

The Randolph Township Board of Education held a Virtual Work Session Meeting in the district on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 6:00 pm, Randolph New Jersey

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Joseph Faranetta called the meeting to order and read the following statement:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Randolph Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in The Daily Record. It is also posted in all district schools as well as the Randolph Township Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

The following Board members were present: Mr. Ronald Conti, Ms. Susan DeVito, Ms. Tammy MacKay, Ms. Allison Manfred, Ms. Christine Petrat, Ms. Dorene Roche, Dr. Robert A. Soni, Ms. Jeanne Stifelman, and Mr. Joseph Faranetta.

The following administrators were present: Miss Jennifer Fano, Superintendent, Mr. Gerald M. Eckert, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. Stephen Frost, Assistant Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary, Director of Technology, Peter Emmel, Board Counsel Marc H Zitomer, and Board Counsel Christopher Sedefian.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

Board Vice President Tammy MacKay moved a motion seconded by Board member Ronald Conti to go into Executive Closed Session at 6:05 pm. Board members present all in favor

BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 and 10:4-13 that the Board of Education of the Township of Randolph will hold a Closed Session regarding Personnel, Negotiations, Litigation and matters of Attorney-Client privilege. It is not yet possible to determine when the matters discussed in Closed Session will be made public.

The Board reconvened to public session at 7:32 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The following were also present: Director of Communications and Digital Media Matthew Pfouts, Director of Special Services, Walter Curioni, Director of Secondary Education Jonathan Olsen, Director of Elementary Education Danielle Soldivieri, Director of Employee Relations and Organizational Development, Meredith Gatzke, Director of School Counseling, Charles Dimiceli, Marissa Randazzo, Megan Ingman, Jennifer Wagener, Amanda Weiner, Colleen Hugenin, and Cheyenne Finocchiaro.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Board member Ronald Conti moved a motion seconded by Board Vice President Tammy MacKay and carried by a roll call vote to approve the following Board minutes with an exception.

Board member Jeanne Stifelman voted no. Motion passed.

Special Meeting: 4-2-20

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Faranetta reviewed correspondence received by the Board, as follows:

4/28/2020	Anne Standridge	Whole Board	Congratulations	email	Fieldhouse approval
4/29/2020	Pat Robinson	Mr. Faranetta	Lunch Question	email	Questions about distribution of free & reduced lunches
5/4/2020	Layne Broyles	Whole Board	ESY and RAM camp	email	Questions about ESY and RAM Camp
5/4/2020	Eliza Schleifstein	Whole Board	EOY celebrations	email	Questions about planning for EOY ceremonies
5/4/2020	Darcy Schleifstein	Whole Board	RHS seniors	email	Comments about EOY celebrations and impact to seniors
5/5/2020	Gerlando Termini	Dr. Burns + Whole Board	End of year celebrations	email	Offer to help with planning EOY celebrations
5/5/2020	Layne Broyles	Ms. DeVito	Conversation	phone	Summary of concerns
5/5/2020	Layne Broyles	Ms. Manfred	Conversation	phone	Summary of concerns
5/5/2020	Layne Broyles	Dr. Soni	Conversation	phone	Summary of concerns
5/5/2020	BOE Meet-up Team Admins	Whole Board	BOE Abuse of power, Ethical, Moral, and Policy Concerns Raised by Documents Produced in OPRA responses	email	Follow-up from OPRA requests
5/6/2020	Layne Broyles	Ms. DeVito	Call with Layne Broyles 5-6-2020	phone	Questions about documents not provided in OPRA response
5/6/2020	BOE Meet-up Team Admins	Whole Board	Response to Privilege Log and Missing Nine documents and Mr. Faranetta's email from this morning	email	subject is descriptive
5/7/2020	BOE Meet-up Team Admins	Whole Board	See Line 135	email	follow-up to 5/6 email

5/8/2020	Eric Schaberg	Whole Board	Side-bar proposal on Health change in the contract	email	subject is descriptive
5/9/2020	Layne Broyles	Whole Board	READ EMAIL AND ATTACHMENTS CAREFULLY	email	Concerns about district's communication policies and procedures
5/10/2020	Eliza Schleifstein	Whole Board	Re: READ EMAIL AND ATTACHMENTS CAREFULLY	email	Concerns about districts communication policies and procedures
5/11/2020	Adam Zyto	Whole Board	FYI	email	comment regarding potential media statements
5/11/2020	BOE Meet-up Team Admins	Whole Board	Need Some Clarification on the Faranetta/Pfouts quote to the Randolph reporter	email	Concerns about quotes from Joe F. in an article that appeared in RR.

UPDATES, REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Fano led a presentation updating the Board about the current state of the district.

Ms. Stifelman thanked Ms. Fano for providing detailed information about the calendar.

Dr. Soni asked if there was a plan to retrieve items from the building. Ms. Fano provided that the district is waiting on additional guidance before setting plans into motion.

Mr. Conti asked when we would hear if schools would reopen next year. Ms. Fano provided that it remains uncertain when that guidance would be provided.

Ms. DeVito asked whether the ESY program will definitely be virtual. Ms. Fano provided that it is not definitive, but the district has been advised to create multiple plans in the event the ESY cannot run in-person.

Mental Health Awareness Month

Mr. Curioni, Mr. Dimiceli, and Ms. Gatzke led members of the CST and counseling staff in a presentation about mental health month.

Ms. Stifelman thanked everyone for the presentation. She noted that questions posed from a prior presentation were all addressed tonight. She asked what the student connection team is and asked about increasing SAGE coverage at RMS. Mr. Curioni noted that the SAGE position was budgeted to increase from a part-time to full-time

position next year. Mr. Dimiceli noted that the student connection team is a committee to address student attendance.

Dr. Soni asked if there was a better understanding of challenges for at-risk students who previously had significant issues actually attending school. Ms. Weiner noted the various measures being utilized at RMS. It was noted that teachers are tracking all students progress and there are specific protocols when students do not log on to Teams. Mr. Dimiceli noted that RHS teachers are monitoring students who are logging in for classes. Ms. Wagener shared additional information from RHS.

Ms. DeVito thanked everyone for the presentation and the work everyone is doing to support students.

Ms. MacKay appreciated the K-12 view to the issues of school counseling and mental health awareness.

Ms. Stifelman asked if we could prominently display the information on the website.

Mr. Faranetta thought it was great not only to show what is being done for students but also what is being done for staff. The level of expertise was impressive.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications – Dr. Soni reported on the upcoming meeting next week but will change the meeting time so as not to collide with the Board meeting.

Education - Ms. Manfred reported that the meeting next week will address assessments in the virtual world.

Finance, Facilities and Transportation – Ms. Stifelman reported the following:

The committee had a very full agenda for the virtual FFT meeting on May 8th.

1. *Greg Somjen from PSA spoke to the committee about fees*
2. *The committee spoke about the need to extend the timeline due to COVID-19 for the new website development and the cost implications of doing so and have asked the communications committee for more information by next week.*
3. *The committee discussed the need for the Petty cash report and agreed to eliminate it as it is.*
4. *Re-opening plan: The committee reviewed the areas of the districts re-opening plan analysis that Ms. Fano has assigned to the Business Office, specifically to Mr. Eckert and Mr. Frost. There are two areas that they are responsible for that will be reported on to the FFT Committee. They are:*
 - a. *School operations which include:*
 - i. *Guidelines for extracurricular activities*
 - ii. *Food services procedures*
 - iii. *Budgetary impacts*

- iv. *Re-allocating other budgets*
- v. *Transportation*
- vi. *Visitors to schools*
- vii. *Staffing – masks, PPE (who supplies?), faculty rooms, staffing meetings*
- viii. *Students – masks, PPE (who supplies?), desks, chairs, physical education, playgrounds*

b. *Facilities (with Andy Hurd, Harry Ruiz)*

- i. *Inventory of supplies and identify shortages*
- ii. *Cleaning and disinfecting protocols – how often and what is recommended to be used*
- iii. *Guidelines for rest of staff*
- iv. *Procedures for first day of school*
- v. *Temperature checks*

c. *All of the above have to be considered and more and there has to be multiple plans in place. Because of the lack of guidance from our state and state DOE, we are looking to other states, such as Maryland, for guidance*

- 5. *The committee discussed the Annual Motion for Discretionary Transfers over \$40k and the history of that motion. We asked Gerry to provide legal guidance on this.*
- 6. *Mr. Eckert spoke to Steve Mountain at the Town Hall regarding tax levy revenue. They will continue to keep the lines of communication open.*
- 7. *We are unable to commit to running any summer camps on our school campuses or in our schools*
- 8. *Science Room renovations in the high school will begin ahead of schedule on May 18th. We are also looking to secure permits to begin the Field House construction as soon as possible.*
- 9. *We had a discussion to begin planning for the potential state aid cuts as the Governor has stated that “everything will get crushed” when referring to the 2020/21 state aid to school districts. While we do not know the extent of the cut to state aid for the 2020/21 budget and will not know until the Governor’s revised budget address in late August, we have to plan for multiple scenarios because when we do receive our revised aid projection we will be right at the beginning of the 2020/21 school year. These plans will be made over the upcoming weeks and will flow through the FFT committee. There will be multiple plans made so the district can be prepared for multiple scenarios. The first part of this plan is that the administration has recommended and the FFT committee has agreed that the district will postpone ALL summer Capital Improvement projects totaling more than \$3.0M. While these projects are important to the districts overall capital improvement long term plan, they are projects that are not necessary to deliver instruction and can be delayed without impacting the health and well-being of the students or staff in the district. It is important to understand that in a typical year the district is not permitted to transfer capital funds into the general operating fund under law. However, the state has made some indication that they may allow this kind of transfer*

because of the expected last minute cuts to state aid. The district is planning to take advantage of that change of statute if it becomes available to help fill the budget gap created by any last minute reduction in state aid. It is also important to note, and has been said over and over, that under no circumstance, even with a change in state statutes can monies raised from bonds for the referendum be transferred into our general fund account. The referendum money can only be used for referendum projects that were voted on by the tax payers. This referendum money cannot help us to close any budget gap caused by any reduction in state aid.

10. Stephen to give a brief overview of Free and Reduced Lunch distribution including thank you to REF for contributing gift cards to families in need

Personnel - Ms. MacKay reported that the Committee met tonight. Much of what has been discussed is on motions for tonight.

Policy – Mr. Conti reported on the upcoming meeting on Thursday. The Committee will continue with Alert 219 and discussing bylaws.

Negotiations – Ms. DeVito reported that she will be reading in a Teamsters sidebar regarding bereavement time.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Faranetta reported that RAM RAC is reaching out to the eighth grade students to help with interest in high school sports.

Mr. Faranetta opened the Q&A function for public comment.

PUBLIC STATEMENT

During the public statement portion of the meeting, the following questions were asked:

A resident asked “I was wondering if when you were considering giving back May 22 those affected in the realm of AP Exams? As I am taking 2 of the 3 exams (back to back) on May 22, it is not a matter of taking the exam, it is the review we were being given prior to those exams. In giving this day back, you just cancelled live review sessions with our teachers for these exams. Why were those who had to rapidly adapt to the new form imposed on us by College Board and the people who have to sit for these 3 exams not consulted on what would ensure our success? What are you going to do to ensure we get the review with our teachers that we deserve? Sitting for any AP exam is hard enough, why are you making this harder?”

A resident asked “Have you selected the parent members of the task force for virtual learning? If so, who are they? If not, when will you do so?”

A resident asked "When will the virtual online learning survey results be made available? When can we expect to see an action plan? What is the timeframe for the implementation of the action plan?"

A resident asked "What is the official name and objective of the Stakeholder Committee? Please provide the names of the parents and other members of said committee."

A resident asked "As a parent with two children in the District, I believe in full disclosure. To quote a recent article in the Randolph Reporter, "we have chosen not to share certain information to help prevent public alarm". What information is the District choosing not to share?"

A resident asked "How long has "second chance bussing" been offered? Where can the specifics of this program be found?"

A resident commented "First, I'd like to thank Ms. Fano and the team of administrators and counselors for such a comprehensive overview of the ways our district Second, I am encouraged by the amount of thoughtful coordination between the superintendent and the board with the county and neighboring communities, while at the same time I am anxious about what the revised state funding may be. Thank you to the FFT committee and business office for proactively planning for what is to come. Lastly, I am extremely disheartened that our community is still being subjected to needless rancor, even bordering on harassment. Having sat in your seats, I can appreciate the desire to handle things as quietly as allowed, and to keep "distractions" to a minimum. Please, don't. If the public fully understood everything you are being subjected to, I am confident it would not be tolerated. Thank you all for your hard work."

A resident asked "Can Mrs. Mackay please explain why she admonished and accused Dr. Soni of seeking a "seat at the table" with the administrative team in an email when he was advocating for parents to receive more information about what our children were being told about COVID when they were still in the buildings, due to the concerns about the children's social emotional learning related to COVID-19?"

And isn't the Department of Education's direction that "No elected member shall be prohibited from making an inquiry for information on behalf of a constituent?"

A resident commented "Hello, I wanted to give a thank you to the Fernbrook 1st grade staff who have continued to do a wonderful job during this time. I would like to speak as a parent who's working while home and who's also trying to get all of the school work done with a 1st grader. It is hard to get the extra class work from the specials done. While I understand this is still a class such as library, art, music etc it is hard enough to get a 7year old to do the regular allotted worked let alone adding the specials. I would just like to voice that. While I appreciate those special's teachers posting and trying to engage our children in participating it's more of me participating and pushing then my child actually doing anything towards them and learning."

A resident asked "Why can't the student's have the Tues. Wed. after Memorial Day off instead of the Friday? Since AP make-up exams are at 12pm on June 1st, will those students be exempt from attending classes on that day?"

NEW BUSINESS

Motions: Personnel Motions 1–6
Education 1
Finance, Facilities and Transportation Motions 1–4
Negotiations Motion 1
Policy / Regulation Motion 1

Personnel and Administration 1-6v2

May 12, 2020
Revised May 12, 2020

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and on behalf of the Personnel Committee, Board Vice President Tammy MacKay moved a motion seconded by Board member Jeanne Stifelman and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to approve Personnel and Administration motions 1-6. Motions passed.

1. RESIGNATIONS

A. Certificated Staff

1. Accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement for **Robert Finning**, Teacher of Mass Media at Randolph High School, effective July 1, 2020.
2. Accept the resignation of **Laura Haun**, Special Education Teacher at Center Grove School, effective June 30, 2020.

2. APPOINTMENTS

A. Administration

1. Approve the reappointment of **RTAA Staff** identified on Attachment I for the 2020-2021 school year.

B. Certificated Staff

1. Approve the reappointment of **REA Certificated Staff** identified on Attachment II for the 2020-2021 school year.
2. Approve the reappointment of **Jennifer Cutri**, Registered Nurse at Fernbrook School for the 2020-2021 school year at a salary of (Level BA/Step 3) \$58,458.
3. Approve the reappointment of **Victoria Poisseroux**, Registered Nurse at Randolph High School for the 2020-2021 school year at a salary of (Level BA/Step 2) \$57,458.
4. Approve the appointment **Kayla Mills**, Speech Language Specialist at Randolph Middle School for the 2020-2021 school year effective August 31, 2020 through June

30, 2021 at a salary of (Level BA+30/Step 1) \$62,358 pending certification, transcripts, CHRU clearance, completed employment paperwork and P.L. 2018, c.5.

5. Approve the appointment **Melissa Stern**, Special Education Teacher at Randolph High School for the 2020-2021 school year effective August 31, 2020 through June 30, 2021 at a salary of (Level MA+/Step 9-10) \$77,894 pending certification, transcripts, CHRU clearance, completed employment paperwork and P.L. 2018, c.5.

6. Approve the appointment of **Carly Thomas**, Leave Replacement Elementary School Teacher at Shongum School, at a rate of \$277.70 per day for the length of the assignment, effective May 4, 2020 through June 30, 2020 for the 2019-2020 school year.

7. Approve the appointment of **Brianna Piccolo**, School Counselor at Randolph High School for the 2020-2021 school year effective August 31, 2020 through June 30, 2021 at a salary of (Level MA+/Step 1) \$68,258 pending certification, transcripts, CHRU clearance, completed employment paperwork and P.L. 2018, c.5.

8. Approve the reappointment of Employee I.D. #4224 identified on **Schedule A** for the 2020-2021 school year effective August 31, 2020 through June 30, 2021 at a salary to be determined.

9. Approve the reappointment of Employee I.D. #4701 identified on **Schedule B** for the 2020-2021 school year effective August 31, 2020 through June 30, 2021 at a salary to be determined.

Revised 5/12/2020

10. Approve the reappointment of Employee I.D. #5599 identified on Schedule O for the 2020-2021 school year effective August 31, 2020 through June 30, 2021 at a salary to be determined.

3. INCREMENT WITHHOLDINGS

A. Certificated Staff

1. Resolved, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:29-14, that the employment and adjustment increments for Employee I.D. #4224 identified on **Schedule A** are hereby withheld for the 2020-2021 school year;

and be it further resolved, that said employee's increments will not be restored in future years unless and until formal action is taken by the Board;

and be it further resolved, that within ten (10) days, the Superintendent shall notify the employee of this action and the reasons for same.

2. Resolved, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:29-14, that the employment and adjustment increments for Employee I.D. #4701 identified on **Schedule B** are hereby withheld for the 2020-2021 school year;

and be it further resolved, that said employee's increments will not be restored in future years unless and until formal action is taken by the Board;

and be it further resolved, that within ten (10) days, the Superintendent shall notify the employee of this action and the reasons for same.

Revised 5/12/2020

3. Resolved, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:29-14, that the employment and adjustment increments for Employee I.D. #5599 identified on Schedule O are hereby withheld for the 2020-2021 school year;

and be it further resolved, that said employee's increments will not be restored in future years unless and until formal action is taken by the Board;

and be it further resolved, that within ten (10) days, the Superintendent shall notify the employee of this action and the reasons for same.

4. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

A. Certificated Staff

1. Approve the following leaves of absence for the 2019-2020 school year in accordance with the list below:

<u>Employee ID</u>	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Paid leave using sick days</u>
4157	Schedule C	5/11/20-6/30/20

2. Approve the following leaves of absence for the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with the list below:

<u>Employee ID</u>	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Paid using sick days w/ benefits</u>	<u>FMLA w/ benefits</u>	<u>NJFLA w/ benefits</u>	<u>Child Rearing</u>	<u>Return</u>
7901	Schedule D			8/31/20-10/30/20		11/2/2020
6206	Schedule E				8/31/20-6/30/21	2021-2022
6838	Schedule F			8/31/20-11/22/20		11/23/2020
7191	Schedule G			8/31/20-11/22/20		11/23/2020
6501	Schedule H			8/31/20-11/22/20		11/23/2020
7855	Schedule I			8/31/20-11/22/20		11/23/2020
6505	Schedule J	3/30/20-5/6/20	5/8/20-5/17/20	5/18/20-8/7/20	8/8/20-8/30/20	8/31/2020
6605	Schedule K	5/4/20-6/30/20		8/31/20-11/22/20		11/23/2020
4570	Schedule L			8/31/20-11/22/20		11/23/2020
7746	Schedule M	8/31/20-10/9/20		10/10/20-1/7/20		1/8/2020
6335	Schedule N	4/28/20-6/8/20	6/8/20-6/30/20	8/31/20-11/20/20	11/21/20-2/28/21	3/1/2021

5. EXTRA PAY

A. Support Staff

1. Approve the following payout for sick days for the following retired **Non-Affiliated Staff** in accordance with the list below:

<u>Name</u>	<u># of Days</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Payment</u>
Agnes Gerrety	101	\$365.09	\$10,000 per policy #4127

2. Approve the following payout for vacation days for the following retired **Non-Affiliated Staff** in accordance with the list below:

<u>Name</u>	<u># of Days</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Payment</u>
Agnes Gerrety	28	\$365.09	\$10,222.52

6. COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A. Recissions

1. Rescind all **Ram Camp** appointments for the 2019-2020 School Year.
2. Rescind all **Ram Camp** appointments for Summer 2020 of the 2020-2021 School Year.
3. Rescind the appointment of **Sara Rose Smarth** as Camp Director for the 2020-2021 camp season at a rate of \$8,000 for the season.

Revised 5/12/2020

4. Rescind the appointment of the following Summer Camp Division Heads for Summer 2020 in accordance with the list below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Division</u>
Casey Hawrylko	PreK-Kindergarten
Erik Novack	Grades 1-2
Jeffrey Todd	Grades 3-5
Andrea Hodgson	Grades 6-9

B. Appointments

1. Approve the payment of the following **Summer Camp Division Heads and Summer Camp Director** for work completed during the 2019-2020 school year in accordance with the list below:

Sara Smarth	Ram Camp Director	\$2,000
Andrea Hodgson	Ram Camp Division Head	\$1,750
Jeff Todd	Ram Camp Division Head	\$1,750
Erik Novack	Ram Camp Division Head	\$1,750
Casey Hawrylko	Ram Camp Division Head	\$1,750

2. Approve the payment of the following **Summer Camp Specialists** for 3 hours of work during the 2019-2020 school year at a rate of \$18 per hour in accordance with the list below:

Thomas Povinelli
Jason Drury
Stacy Wess
Stephen Petonak
Brandon Jefferson
Carissa DiBenedetto

On behalf of the Education Committee, Board member Allison Manfred moved a motion seconded by Board member Jeanne Stifelmen and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to approve Education Motion 1 v1 with an exception. Motion passed.

1. **Miscellaneous**

- a. **MOTION** to amend the December 11, 2018 1a Education Motion to read: Motion to revise the Randolph Township Schools District Calendar for the 2019-2020 school year to account for two unused snow/emergency days (**EXHIBIT 1**).

Dr. Soni asked about the Friday before Memorial Day weekend and students who had to take AP Exams on this day. Ms. Fano provided that students can either opt to take them that day or to take the exam on a makeup day.

FINANCE/FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION MOTIONS 1-4 v3

On behalf of the Finance, Facilities and Transportation Committee, Board member Jeanne Stifelman moved a motion seconded by Board member Susan DeVito and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to approve Finance/Facilities & Transportation resolutions 1-4 with an exception. Motions passed.

1. **APPROVAL OF TUITION RATES**

RESOLVED, the Randolph Township Board of Education approves the following tuition rates for the 2020 - 2021 school year:

**RANDOLPH BOARD OF EDUCATION
2020 - 2021 SCHOOL YEAR
TUITION RATES ***

Grade Level	Full Year	Monthly	2 Month Deposit	Daily Rate
Kindergarten	\$ 14,128.00	\$ 1,412.80	\$ 2,825.60	\$ 78.49
Grades 1-5	\$ 17,582.00	\$ 1,758.20	\$ 3,516.40	\$ 97.68
Grades 6-8	\$ 17,462.00	\$ 1,746.20	\$ 3,492.40	\$ 97.01
Grades 9-12	\$ 17,992.00	\$ 1,799.20	\$ 3,598.40	\$ 99.96
Preschool Disabled-P/T	\$ 13,999.00	\$ 1,399.90	\$ 2,799.80	\$ 77.77

Preschool Disabled-F/T	\$ 34,582.00	\$ 3,458.20	\$ 6,916.40	\$ 192.12
Learning and/or Language Disabled	\$ 62,843.00	\$ 6,284.30	\$ 12,568.60	\$ 349.13
Autistic Program	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 361.11
Transition Programs	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 361.11

* = Tuition rates do not include extended school year and related services.

NOTE: The above rates are the estimated tuition rates per the Final 2020 - 2021 Budget.

2. MOTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FSMC

WHEREAS, the Randolph Township Board of Education previously approved a contractual agreement with **Maschio's Food Services, Inc.** to provide management services for the District's food services program for the 2018-2019 school year with four (4), one (1) year options to renew, and

WHEREAS, the Randolph Township Board of Education desires to exercise its option to renew the contractual agreement with **Maschio's Food Services, Inc.** to provide management services for the District's food services program for the 2020 - 2021 school year for the period beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the district further incorporates the following contractual management/administrative fee(s)/guarantees into this motion as stated in an agreement between the Randolph Township Board of Education and **Maschio's Food Services, Inc.**, for the period beginning July 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2021.

MANAGEMENT FEE(S) / GUARANTEES

1. MANAGEMENT FEE

The Local Education Agency shall pay Maschio's an annual management fee in the amount of \$61,200.00. The management fee shall be payable in monthly installments of \$6,120.00 per month commencing on September 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2021.

3. GUARANTEE RETURN

Maschio's guarantees a return to the Local Education Agency in the amount of \$64,392.00. In the event the actual bottom line of the operational report (total revenue from all sources less program costs, including the management fee) is below this amount, Maschio's shall be responsible for any shortfall.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Randolph Board of Education enter into an agreement with **Maschio's Food Services, Inc.** to provide management services for the District's food services program for the 2020-2021 school year for the period beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 and further subject to the approval from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

3. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUNDS TRANSFER

RESOLVED, that the Randolph Township Board of Education hereby approve the following \$75,000 discretionary transfer for the purchase of PPE's:

Transfer from: 11-000-291-270-40-8204 \$ 75,000
Transfer to: 11-000-261-610-18-1234 \$ 75,000

4. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS

RESOLVED the Randolph Township Board of Education accept the following donations:

➤ **Randolph Middle School:**

- Donation totaling approximately \$9,000 from Randolph Recreation Boys Basketball Committee/Boosters
 - Replacement of wall padding under the two main baskets in the Main Gym

➤ **Fernbrook School:**

- Donation totaling approximately \$3,000 from Randolph Recreation Boys Basketball Committee/Boosters
 - Adding standard wall padding on the entrance wall in the gym that matches existing padding in the gym, covering all exposed areas including doors

➤ **Randolph High School:**

- ***\$5,000 from the RHS PTSO to support celebrating the Class of 2020***

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dr. Dennis Copeland, Principal of Randolph Middle School, Dr. Michelle Bernal, Principal of Fernbrook School, ***and Deborah Iosso, Principal of Randolph High School*** acknowledge the donations in a letter to the appropriate party.

NEGOTIATIONS MOTION 1

May 12, 2020

Board member Susan DeVito moved a motion seconded by Board Vice President Tammy MacKay and unanimously carried to approve Negotiations Motion 1. Motion passed.

RESOLVED, as a result of the *COVID-19* pandemic and the various Executive Orders issued by Governor Murphy, Teamsters Local 97 of New Jersey members cannot presently utilize their bereavement leave set forth in Article XXII to attend funeral services and/or memorial services for an employee's immediate family member or a member of the employees household who passed during the *COVID-19* pandemic; and

RESOLVED, that the Randolph Township Board of Education approves the *Non-Precedent Setting Sidebar Agreement* with the Teamsters Local 97 of New Jersey in accordance with the terms and conditions therein; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this sidebar agreement shall become inoperative as of June 30, 2021; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board President is hereby authorized to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Board Secretary.

POLICY MOTIONS 1

MAY 12, 2020

On behalf of the Policy Committee, Board member Ronald Conti moved a motion seconded by Board member Robert Soni and unanimously carried to approve Policy Motion 1. Motion passed.

1. **RESOLVED**, that the Randolph Township Board of Education hereby adopt the following policies and regulation for second reading:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
0146	Board Member Authority
0164.2	Electronic Participation by Board Member
0164.3	Standing Rules
P1581	Domestic Violence (M)
R 1581	Domestic Violence (M) (New)
P8210	School Year
P9210	Parent Organizations

Mr. Conti moved an motion seconded by Board Vice President Tammy MacKay and unanimously carried to amend to bylaw 0164.3, #2: he moved to change the words “working session” to “last meeting of the month”, making this part of the policy now read “Committee chairpersons shall make every effort to develop minutes of committee meetings one week prior to the last meeting of the month.” Motion passed.

Mr. Faranetta asked Ms. Fano to answer any questions from the Q&A.

Ms. Fano provided that there were considerations given to the number of students who would be impacted by the calendar change because of AP exams.

Ms. Fano provided that principals recommended individuals from each building. Ms. Soldiveiri and Mr. Olsen would follow up on this request, along with questions about the stakeholder group. She also noted that Ms. Iosso will follow-up on second chance busing.

Ms. Fano noted there were many factors that went in to planning the district calendar.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Petrat-her heart breaks for the class of 2020.

Ms. Stifelman-Today, the Randolph School District is facing a multitude of challenges because of the worldwide pandemic. The consequences of this pandemic are far reaching and Randolph is not immune to the heartache and pain it has caused. We have friends and neighbors who have lost parents, grandparents and friends to this disease and others have lost their livelihoods. So many are struggling with mental health and just a sense of

loss and loneliness. Yet at the same time, members of our community have stepped up to fill the local food pantry, volunteer to deliver groceries for those in need and help each other in so many ways big and small. Our school district has been faced with unprecedented challenges. Sure the response has not been perfect but all involved have worked tirelessly to continue to deliver instruction and support in this new environment. The work has been overwhelming at times but at every level the district has persevered. There are too many examples of heroics I have witnessed from teachers, coaches and administrators in our wonderful school district to mention. I will just say we are so fortunate to have such wonderful people supporting our students and families in our school district.

But, I have also witnessed behavior in this town that makes me incredibly sad and concerned. There are some in our town that have cost the school district thousands of dollars in legal fees and wasted an untold amount of time of the district administrators and board members during a worldwide pandemic. It is public record that we received emails from members of the public and we welcome the communication. But when these emails and letters are pages and pages long and give the administration and board of ed members directives and lodge accusations at the board and admin, it is a different story. They often contain accusations that can only be described as mean. For example, shortly after the school district closed and held our first board meeting the school district administration and the board of ed members received an email that ended with this statement: "You all are heartless." This is during a national pandemic. The name calling and wild accusations and conspiracy theories seem to have no end.

Meanwhile, when asked about cuts to this upcoming school year's state aid to school districts, Governor Murphy said in a press conference, "everything will get crushed." Believe me when I tell you, we cannot afford to waste taxpayer dollars on pettiness.

I hope we as a community can you stand together. None of us are perfect. Sometimes we make mistakes but under the circumstances we all find ourselves in, we are incredibly fortunate to have volunteers on our school board who are dedicated, work with integrity and are willing to represent our community in the manner we were elected to do.

I know I am not heartless. I care deeply about every member of our community even if we do not agree. I also know that the teachers, staff, school administrators, district administrators and board of education members are working hard during this difficult time to deliver curriculum, keep payroll going, make improvements to facilities and to reach out to the many families who are struggling in our school community all the while planning for what is to come in these uncertain times. None of these people are heartless. In fact, they make my heart full of pride and love and respect.

Dr. Soni-wished his wife a happy birthday. He is also feeling for the class of 2020.

Ms. DeVito-thanked the teachers going above and beyond.

Ms. Roche-hopes everyone is doing okay and is safe and healthy.

Mr. Conti-Thanked Ms. Stifelman for her comments. Wished students taking AP exams luck. Thanked the Administrators and teachers for working so hard in these times, including the end of year activities.

Ms. Manfred-hope everyone stays healthy and safe during this time.

Ms. Mackay-To ensure that there is not any confusion, I would like to start by saying that I am speaking right now in my individual capacity as a Member of the Randolph BOE and that I am not speaking on behalf of the Board. In other words, the following statement is mine and mine alone and the views, thoughts, and opinions that I will be sharing tonight belong to me and should not be attributed to the Randolph BOE or any of its other members.

First, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies and sincere condolences to all those in our community who have suffered a loss during the current pandemic.

Next, I would like to recognize and thank our students, parents, teachers, staff, and last, but not least, our administration for all of your hard work in transitioning to and implementing remote learning in the middle of a national health crisis. Your efforts over the past months have been amazing. 2020 will certainly be a School Year that none of us ever forgets – or wants to repeat.

I am speaking tonight concerning a disturbing issue that I believe must be disclosed to the public. Specifically, I am speaking tonight because I believe that a group of eight individuals who identify themselves as the Randolph BOE Meetup Administrators – a group that is not now and never has been sanctioned by or affiliated with the Randolph BOE – has threatened me to attempt to improperly influence my decisions as a Member of the Randolph BOE.

Specifically, this group has threatened to “go to the authorities” with an ethics complaint against me unless I resign as a Member of the Randolph BOE.

After more than a decade on the Randolph BOE, I did not believe that anything could surprise me. I was wrong. I am shocked by what to me is unconscionable behavior. I believe that it is important for me to publicly disclose and respond to this group’s attempt to exert improper influence over me so that it is clear that they do not and will not have an impact on me in my performance as a Member of the Randolph BOE.

The threats from this group came in two very lengthy emails that were sent over the past week. At approximately 8:00 pm on Sunday evening, May 3rd, a group of eight individuals – Abigail Hartman Alexander, Layne Varga Broyles, Susan Casareale, Melissa Colletti, Mariana Amador Nieto, Eliza Schleifstein, Gerlando Termini, and Carrie Weiner – identifying themselves as the Randolph BOE Meetup Administrators, jointly sent an email to Marc H. Zitomer, Esq., the attorney for the Randolph BOE, with the subject line: BOE Abuse of Power, Ethical, Moral and Policy Concerns Raised by Documents Produced in OPRA Responses. For ease of reference, I will refer to this group as the “Meetup Group”. The May 3rd email contains an extensive and wide-ranging list of criticism, allegations, and conspiracy theories that focus on the manner in which the School District and the Randolph BOE handled communications and responded to the OPRA requests submitted by certain members of the Meetup Group during the period leading up to the closure of our schools in mid-March because of the Covid-19 Pandemic pursuant to the Governor’s

Executive Order. The email is based entirely on written communications during this hectic period and does not consider what was being said during meetings and phone calls. In other words, its conclusions are drawn from a partial record. In addition, from my reading and in my opinion, the Meetup Group mischaracterizes and draws inferences and conclusions from the records that were produced from these OPRA requests that just are not there.

Put simply, I am at a loss to understand or explain most of the allegations put forth in this email. For example, one Section is captioned "DISTRICT CENSORSHIP OF INFORMATION PROVIDED TO PARENTS DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS" and alleges that Superintendent Fano advised our principals that they needed to coordinate the release of information regarding the School District's Covid-19 response with Mr. Matthew Pfouts, the School District's Director of Communications & Digital Media. To me, the coordination of information through the School District's Director of Communications to ensure that consistent and up to date information is provided throughout the School District during a rapidly changing public health emergency does not equal censorship.

To be clear, my choice to not address every issue raised in the Meetup Group's May 3rd email or in any other email from that group tonight should not be characterized or construed as my agreement with such correspondence.

The May 3rd email contains a number vague allegations of "ethics claims" against me. Ironically, most of the allegations against me in this email appear to center around my refusal to take actions that I believed would conflict with the Code of Ethics for School Board Members, Randolph BOE Policy, and New Jersey law to accommodate the demands of the Meetup Group. For example, the email criticizes me for deferring to Superintendent Fano and Communications Director Pfouts regarding responding to specific questions from the Meetup Group concerning what was being done to address Covid-19 concerns in the schools in early March. In fact, I believe that I was acting in accordance with the Code of Ethics, Randolph BOE Policy, and New Jersey law by deferring to Ms. Fano and Mr. Pfouts in their day-to-day administration of the schools during this period.

With respect to that email's allegations regarding my personal conduct, I cannot respond specifically to vague and non-specific charges. I am, however, confident that I did nothing morally or ethically wrong.

The May 3rd email ends with thinly veiled threats of the filing of an Ethics Complaint against me or of the "extremely angry and upset" authors of the email engaging in "various forms of self-help" if the Randolph BOE does not adequately respond to the Meetup Group's "ongoing grievances and concerns". I am not entirely certain exactly what "various forms of self-help" taken by the "extremely angry and upset" authors of this email might be although my understanding is that "self-help" typically refers to someone taking matters into their own hands and acting outside of proper legal channels. In my opinion, this type of threat should not be made to any elected official.

A May 9th email sent to me and the other members of the Randolph BOE at 11:30 pm by Layne Broyles on behalf of the Meetup Group removed any doubt in my mind regarding the purpose of their threats. In fact, that email specifically indicates that they have “180 days to file an ethics complaint” regarding “at least five counts of ethics and prohibited act violations.” Again, the email is not specific regarding any of the alleged violations. The email then goes on to state “what it will take for us not to go to the authorities” and lists:

- Resignation of offending BOE members
- Statement from Superintendent that information was concealed from parents and an inequity in providing information took place

In other words, you either do what we want you to do as a Member of the Randolph BOE or we will subject you to Ethics Charges.

Read in context, I am one of the “offending BOE members.” I do not believe that threats such as those contained in these two emails – direct, implied, or otherwise – have a place in any group’s efforts to influence the behavior of a Member of the Randolph BOE or of any other elected official in Randolph. In fact, I believe such threats to be both highly inappropriate and violative of applicable New Jersey law.

I will admit that I am not looking forward to responding to one or more Ethics Complaints against me even though I am confident that I have not done anything wrong. I am certain that the process will be stressful, unpleasant, and time consuming. Nevertheless, I would rather respond to what I know will be baseless Ethics Complaints against me than allow any group to force me to resign through inappropriate threats. That is a price I am willing to pay.

Let me be clear. I was elected to serve the Randolph School District as a Member of the Randolph BOE for a three year term. I will not let threats of harm to me improperly influence my exercise of my official duties as a Randolph BOE Member. I will not be bullied. I am not resigning.

In closing, please remember that my statement tonight was made by me in my individual capacity as a Member of the Randolph BOE and that I was not speaking tonight on behalf of the Board. The views, thoughts, and opinions that I just expressed belong to me and should not be attributed to the Randolph BOE or any of its other members.

Mr. Faranetta-refocused on teachers and discussed how they are adapting. He recognized Dr. Amelia Wright for being recognized by the Conference on English Leadership, for which she will be recognized at a national conference in Denve.

MOTION TO EXTEND MEETING

Board member Ronald Conti moved a motion seconded by Board member Robert Soni to extend the meeting to 10:30 pm. Board members present all in favor.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

Board Vice President Tammy MacKay moved a motion seconded by Board member Ronald Conti to go into a second Executive Closed Session at 9:43 pm. Board members present all in favor

BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 and 10:4-13 that the Board of Education of the Township of Randolph will hold a Closed Session regarding Personnel, Negotiations, Litigation and matters of Attorney-Client privilege. It is not yet possible to determine when the matters discussed in Closed Session will be made public.

The Board reconvened to public session at 10:06 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Board member Ronald Conti moved a motion seconded by Board member Christine Petrat to adjourn the meeting. Board members present all in favor.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 10:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald M. Eckert
Board Secretary