

The Randolph Township Board of Education held a Work Session meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 7:15 pm Randolph High School Library, 511 Millbrook Avenue Randolph, New Jersey.

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Ronald Conti 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: Ms. Susan DeVito, Mr. Joseph Faranetta, Ms. Tammy MacKay, Ms. Allison Manfred, Dr. Robert A. Soni, Ms. Anne Standridge, Ms. Jeanne Stifelman and Mr. Ronald Conti.

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, Board Counsel Marc H. Zitomer were also present.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION – 7:17 pm

Board Vice President Joseph Faranetta moved a motion seconded by Board member Jeanne Stifelman to go into Executive Closed Session. 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 08:15 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director of Communications and Digital Media Mr. Matthew Pfouts and Student Council Representative Miss Katherine Sidebotham were also present.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

CORRESPONDENCE - None

UPDATES, REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Conti read the following statement:

After the last Board of Education meeting, it was brought to my attention that five emails in support of Eliza Schleifstein as a Board candidate were sent only to me and not the full Board prior to the candidate interviews.

Upon searching for the five emails which were brought to my attention after the Board filled the vacancy, I found that:

- two were never received by the rtnj email account for reasons which are still unclear;
- one was blocked by gmail;
- one was inadvertently overlooked in my inbox;
- one was later found in my spam folder.

While not bound by law or policy to forward emails to the full Board, my personal opinion is that I should have forwarded them. My actions in not forwarding the emails I just identified, but did not actually see until AFTER the Board filled the vacancy, were certainly not intentional. Had I seen them, I certainly would have forwarded them to the full Board. Regardless, I take responsibility for not forwarding the emails and I apologize to Ms. Schleifstein and the community members that sent the emails.

Audit Presentation

Mr. Mark Wilson from Nisivoccia LLP presented the FY 2019 audit.

Ms. MacKay commented on the administration's work to correct issues identified in the audit.

RHS Suspensions and Code of Conduct

Ms. Debbie Iosso and the high school administrative team presented on the RHS code of conduct and suspensions.

Ms. Stifelman asked about the vaping presentation. She asked if there was any discussion about information on quitting vaping.

Dr. Soni asked about vape detectors. He mentioned there may be grants available to

defray the costs.

Mr. Faranetta discussed measuring the success of attempts made to combat the vaping problem.

Ms. Standridge appreciates what is being done to keep kids in school.

Ms. Stifelman felt there were solutions for the vaping problem.

Ms. MacKay discussed the story behind each individual child.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

No updates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communication:

Mr. Faranetta provided an update on views of various postings over the past year. Brought up the discussion of taping or streaming meetings. Have only had a few requests ever for the audio recordings. The Communications committee recommends not taking on streaming and videotaping.

Ms. DeVito thanked the committee for their review and had a better understanding of why. She disagreed that streaming would hinder participation. Wants to include unedited videos of meetings. Disagrees with the committee's findings.

Ms. MacKay agreed with the communications committee's finding. The Board needs more face-to-face time with the public. Video would not help that problem.

Dr. Soni echoed Ms. MacKay's statement that dialogue would be helpful. Does not know what the expense is or how complex producing the videos would be. Wants to send it back to the committee on an alternative proposal on how to engage the community. Dr. Soni will report back from area Boards of Education.

Ms. Stifelman expressed that videoing of meetings might hinder public comment and what is said at meetings.

Mr. Faranetta asked Mr. Zitomer to obtain viewership from area districts for those that stream meetings.

Ms. Stifelman commented on setting up committee and community meetings and how it is important not to overdo it. Many meetings are already poorly attended.

Ms. DeVito expressed that the Board has the responsibility to meet their constituency where they're at.

Mr. Faranetta said the communications committee will have an open meeting before next week's Board meeting.

Education:

Ms. Standridge; met tonight prior to the meeting. Heard a number of new course proposals: Algebra 1, Part 1, would replace pre-algebra for grade 8; MS computer science, attempting to attract more girls to programming at the MS; botany would be a semester course at the high school; culinary arts 2 will build on the first year, would lead to a national culinary arts exam; positive psychology, a partnership with CCM, would be a semester and would replace a current course; creative writing 2, growing out of interest in creative writing 1. Approval for a rewrite on curriculum of AP Statistics. Mr. Jonathan Olsen gave an update on the College Board Forum and discussed the focus on wellness, expectations of colleges, and the number of AP classes students have.

Ms. Fano discussed the work with College Board, specifically about how the district is using PSAT data.

Ms. MacKay asked Ms. Fano to put the course proposals into a timeline. In October budgets are discussed, which leads to new course proposals. Courses discussed will be on the course roster for registration. Would also let the Board know around this time if any courses will be removed from the roster. Curriculum writing would occur next summer.

Finance, Facilities and Transportation:

Ms. MacKay; met tonight; there was an audit presentation. Provided the administration direction to build a budget with a 2% tax levy increase. Ironia Pump House motion on tonight to award the job, with hopes to complete the project in February. Will pay for it through excess extraordinary aid. Discussed developing a website, which the communications committee agreed to pursue. Will open bids next Thursday. Committee wants to see the pictures that come in from the various bidders.

Mr. Frost provided details of the proposed summer camp reorganization for the Community School. The reorganization would convert all three camps into a single camp at Randolph Middle School. The Board was asked to approve new positions and rates for summer 2020.

Mr. Frost also provided details about the administration's recommendation to switch board governance solutions to Board Docs.

Personnel:

Ms. MacKay; meeting on Friday.

Policy:

Mr. Conti; meeting on Thursday. Will discuss the policy around appointing Board members. Have a series of other policy considerations.

Negotiations: None

Ms. Stifelman asked if there was a Teamsters update. Ms. DeVito let her know there was a meeting next week.

LIAISON REPORTS

NJ School Boards; Ms. Manfred asked if everyone was getting emails. Attended the workshop in Atlantic City last month. Was great to talk with Board members from other districts. She highlighted the following sessions she attended for the Board:

Board Members and Social Media: The discussion highlighted the use of social media for Board Members and included recent case laws, school ethics advisory opinions, and do's and don'ts with an extensive question and answer session. The relevance of this session was to assist with understanding Board Members' legal and ethical responsibilities regarding the use of all social media platforms, and to emphasize that as a public figure, Board Members must be extremely careful with what they share or post online.

Best Practices for Board Vacancies: A role-playing interview process exercise along with a discussion demonstrated how to fill empty Board seats in an effective way and how to choose a qualified individual to serve on the Board. The relevance of this session was to aid Board Members in feeling more confident when filling a Board vacancy by discussing the entire process and best practices, and how to avoid resignations by communicating efficiently with fellow Board Members.

Eight Characteristics of Effective School Boards: The session focused on making the connection to best practices that already exist. The characteristics included high expectations, accountability, collaboration, and trust. The relevance of this session was to promote a Board culture that is focused on improving student success within the school district by working closely and effectively within the board/superintendent leadership team.

Inspiring a Healthy Edge: Watchung Hills district leaders shared their multi-tiered collaborative approach to SEL, which included special classrooms and educational sessions. The relevance of this session was to provide creative wellness initiatives, share ways to capitalize on existing resources, and explore new or improved programs that can enhance the SEL experience of staff and students.

Enhancing School Safety Through Policies and Procedures: The discussion explored policies and procedures designed to contribute to a safer and more secure school environment. The relevance of this session was to educate attendees on ideal visitor procedures, access control, after-hours policies and practices, and to emphasize, that providing a safe school environment is everyone's responsibility.

Arts Integration for the 21st Century Learner: The session expanded on integrating the arts into lessons and curricula by giving examples of new approaches to STEAM instruction. The relevance of this session was to explore how educators can empower students to become innovators, critical thinkers and problem solvers by using art in numerous ways to expand their educational experience.

Keynote Address- Dr. Lamont O. Repollet, Commissioner of Education: The New Jersey Commissioner of Education spoke on "Equity in Action"; the Board Member of the Year was also celebrated. The relevance of this session was to examine how equity informs initiatives and programs to strengthen teaching, leading and learning for all of New Jersey's 1.4 million students.

MOTION TO EXTEND MEETING

Board Vice President moved a motion seconded by Dr. Robert Soni to extend the meeting to 10:30 pm. Board member present all in favor.

PUBLIC STATEMENT

A resident and RHS alum '94, mother of 1st and 2nd grade student, asked about the Board candidate meet and greet. She questioned whether the candidate information was available remotely. Heard the discussion tonight about technology and streaming. Was interested in video to stay engaged. Does not want to get information from social media. Probably would not go to YouTube to get information; would go to the district website.

A resident student asked why streaming could not occur if it is available in the US Congress.

A resident thanked the HS for the vaping presentation. Encouraged the district to look into the middle school about vaping. Thanked the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Motions:

Personnel Motions 1 - 2

Education Motions1

Finance, Facilities and Transportation Motions 1 – 2

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and on behalf of the Personnel Committee, Board member Tammy MacKay moved a motion seconded by Board member Anne Standridge and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to approve Personnel and Administration Motions 1 – 2. Motions passed.

1. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

A. Certificated Staff

1. Accept the resignation of Luke Mason, Instructional Coach at Randolph Middle School, effective December 31, 2019.

B. Support Staff

1. Accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement for Carol Cattano, Community School Secretary, effective January 1, 2020.

2. APPOINTMENTS

A. Certificated Staff

1. Approve the appointment of Fabianne Joseph, Teacher of Business at Randolph High School, at a salary of \$60,040 (Level BA+30/Step 1) effective November 13, 2019 through June 30, 2020 for the 2019-2020 school year; salary to be prorated based on start date.

EDUCATION MOTION 1

NOVEMBER 12, 2019

On behalf of the Education Committee, Board member Anne Standridge moved a motion seconded by Board member Susan DeVito and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to approve Education Motion 1. Motion passed.

1. Miscellaneous

- a. **MOTION** to approve student teaching placement for the 2019-2020 school year, pending a criminal background clearance as follows:

Name:	Fabianne Joseph
University/College:	Brookdale Community College
Experience:	Student Teaching
School/Grade:	Randolph High School/Grades 9-12

Cooperating Teacher: Martel Roberts
Dates: November 2019

FINANCE/FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION MOTIONS 1 – 2 NOVEMBER 12, 2019

On behalf of the Finance, Facilities and Transportation Committee, Board member Tammy MacKay moved a motion seconded by Board member Jeanne Stifelman and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to approve Finance/Facilities and Transportation Motions 1 – 2. Motions passed.

1. MOTION TO APPROVE AWARDING OF EMERGENCY CONTRACTS PER 18A:18A-7

Motion to approve the following contract for the “*replacement of the sewage pump station pump*” at the Ironia Elementary School: ***Finance Exhibit 1***.

- DeBlock Environmental Services, LLC for furnishing and installation services in the amount of \$79,023.00

2. APPROPRIATION OF 2018 - 2019 EXTRAORDINARY AID FOR THE IRONIA PUMP STATION SEWAGE PUMP REPLACEMENT

WHEREAS, the Randolph Township Board of Education was awarded extraordinary aid for the 2018 - 2019 school year by the New Jersey Department of Education, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the district appropriate \$79,023 from the \$502,335 in excess extraordinary aid for the emergent project to replace the Ironia Pump Station Sewage Pump Replacement to 2019 - 2020 budget lines as follows:

12-000-400-450-18-9102 District Building Project \$79,023.00

Dr. Soni discussed the legislation around self-identification for individuals with autism. Looked into whether there was anything that needed to be done with district policy. Presently four competing bills around this topic. Would like to set up a smaller group discussion with Senator Bucco.

Ms. MacKay asked that the meeting be advertised so that a majority of the Board could attend.

Ms. Standridge read the following statement announcing her resignation from the Board of Education:

In March of 1985, our family moved to Randolph, my husband was teaching

at Randolph HS and we wanted our children to attend Randolph schools and be a part of this wonderful community. By 1986, I started volunteering in the community and haven't stopped since. I have been honored to be recognized by the Randolph Education Foundation as a community volunteer and most recently by the Athletic Hall of Fame as a contributor, and, voted into this Board of Education twice.

With three grown children no longer living in the Randolph area, one grandchild and one on the way our path is changing. Contrary to members of the public who have made it their business to question in public, emails and on social media where I live, I do still live in Randolph.

During my tenure on the Board, we have weathered a number of very public storms but with the dedication of the Board members who have served with me over the past 7 years and the leadership of Ms. Fano and her administrative team I am proud to say this district is thriving. My hope is that this current Board will continue to concentrate on that rather than some of the more recent distractions.

I expect that Tuesday the 19th will be my last Board meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. DeVito; Mr. Frank Perrone took her on a tour of the new music rooms and was impressed.

Mr. Faranetta thanked Ms. Standridge for everything she's done.

Ms. Manfred; congratulated the winners of last week's election. Looking forward to Doreen joining the Board and thanked Ms. Standridge.

Ms. MacKay; thanked Ms. Standridge. Considers her one of the most calm and logical Board members she's worked with.

Dr. Soni; seconds many of the comments about Ms. Standridge. Thanked her for everything she's done for the community.

Ms. Stifelman; has known Ms. Standridge for many years, and she would advocate for the students, she is a "class act."

ADJOURNMENT

Board member Anne Standridge moved a motion seconded by Board Vice President Joseph Faranetta to adjourn the meeting. Board members present all present in favor.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 10:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald M. Eckert
Board Secretary