

The Randolph Township Board of Education held a Work Session meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 7:15 pm Randolph High School Library, 511 Millbrook Avenue, 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. 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, Board Counsel Christopher J. Sedefian and Marc H. Zitomer were also present.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION – 7:20 pm

Board Vice President Tammy MacKay 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 8:04 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director of Communications and Digital Media Matthew Pfouts was also present.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Executive Closed and Board Business, Work Sessions 12-19-19, 1-21-20
Board Organization 1-7-20

No action taken.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Faranetta noted three OPRA requests received. Two were from Samantha Treston, and one from Todd Schleifstein. He also noted an email from Roger Jinks, a former County Superintendent. There were also three emails from Pat Robinson. Mr. Faranetta also detailed hard copy packets delivered to multiple Board members, and distributed via email to all members.

The Board also received notification from the Interim County Superintendent of her appointment of Christine Petrat to the Board of Education. He noted seventeen other emails were received from members of the general public.

UPDATES, REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Faranetta thanked the other candidates who applied for the vacant Board position, and the County for appointing a member consistent with their duty under the law.

Ms. Fano updated the Board about a presentation from multiple staff members at TECHSBO. Ms. MacKay asked if the presentation was filmed. Ms. Fano replied that it was not. Ms. Fano also noted the Board's use of Teams moving forward.

The district hosted the Interim County Superintendent and Assistant Commissioner of Education for a district tour.

Ethics Training – Board Attorney Marc Zitomer

Mr. Zitomer provided an overview of the School Ethics Act.

Mr. Conti asked about directing members of the public back to the administration. Mr. Zitomer stated that there is not a method proscribed within the statute. Ms. Stifelman asked if the appropriate step was to forward the complaint to the appropriate member of the chain of command. Mr. Zitomer provided that there was nothing wrong with referring someone according to the chain of command.

Ms. MacKay asked about the difference between a reprimand and a censure. Mr. Zitomer provided that a board resolution that would need to be read was the main difference, as both were public records.

Ms. Stifelman asked if a board member is asked to attend a public forum, and is introduced as a member of the Board of Education, should a disclaimer be made. Mr.

Zitomer provided that it would be advisable to read a disclaimer before speaking. Ms. Stifelman also asked about posting a permanent disclaimer for personal social media accounts. Mr. Zitomer thought this would be a good idea.

Ms. MacKay asked about a brief statement to read in public, and Mr. Zitomer provided sample language.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Research group is starting up attempting to spread information about the use of single-use plastic and Styrofoam.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications- Soni-met tonight. Began with a discussion on social media and engagement. Had a discussion about using photos from parents in social media campaigns. Website redevelopment is underway. A site map for the new site was shared. The move to a new mass communication system has been moved up because of issues with the current provider. The committee discussed email communications and focusing communications. Committee discussions will move to Teams to help improve communications. The committee also discussed managing external communications and proposals from the administration. Continued discussions were had around outreach to the community.

Mr. Faranetta noted that Mr. Emmel will provide Teams training at a later date.

Education- Manfred-first meeting is next week.

*Finance, Facilities and Transportation-*Stifelman-met tonight, and got through a very lengthy agenda. Greg Somjen presented an update on the science rooms. She noted a comment from Ms. Fano about wanting children at RHS to experience what they will see in the professional world. The science room design process included this goal, and will have a futuristic look. Ms. Stifelman requested that Mr. Somjen present to the Board about the referendum progress. She provided the timeline for the science rooms. A recommendation from the administration would come in next week to accept a bid. Mr. Eckert provided that the bids received were on the main construction, but there would be a separate cost that would be provided next week for furniture and technology. Four rooms will come offline in May 2020, and then four more when school ends, with 4 rooms coming online in September and the other 4 by October-November 2020. The same schedule would be followed in the following summer. Dr. Soni asked about electronic technology, and the use of electric in the rooms. Ms. Fano provided that there would be overhead electric and around the perimeter. She also provided that there were discussions about cameras, but rather than have installed cameras, the district would work on

casting from devices rather than having something stationary. Ms. Stifelman continued with an update on the fieldhouse, and asked Mr. Eckert to provide the memo from the architect to the full Board. Dr. Soni asked if the ADA accessibility alternate was included in the bid. Mr. Eckert provided that would be included. Ms. Stifelman provided an update on the budget. There will be a 2% tax levy increase. The district will not know for at least two weeks what the actual state aid will be. There is presently a \$1.2 million gap in the budget. She noted health insurance increase projections of over 20%. The hope is that amount will drop in the coming weeks. Retable's in town did increase slightly so that the tax increase is 1.88%.

There was an update on the community school. Because of weather, the final ski club date will be scheduled on February 21. Full financials and parent surveys will be discussed in a future FFT meeting. Summer camp registration is underway. Thirty-six parents attended information sessions last week. Community School Before/After Care rates will be presented in March. A survey will be conducted before that the rates are finalized.

There are forty six out of fifty three bus cameras installed. All primary buses have received cameras. There were 50 violations as of last week, with 6 more on the way. The committee will use Teams to establish committee goals and communicate.

Personnel-MacKay-no public update.

Policy-Conti-meeting is Thursday. Working through the latest Strauss Esmay alert.

Negotiations-DeVito/Soni-Dr. Soni had no update. Ms. DeVito noted that the district has worked well with the Teamsters negotiating team and has come to three separate MOAs, but none have passed. Together with the Teamsters negotiating team, we have filed for a mediator to help bring resolution to the negotiation.

LIAISON REPORTS

VPAC-DeVito-strings fest is Monday, February 24. Ms. DeVito also attended Cabaret Night, and it was a great event.

Ms. DeVito also attended the 2-1-1 training at Town Hall. The attendees discovered information about the service. The attendees were from many different parts of Randolph. Ms. Fano noted that this service is used by district administrators as a resource.

HS PTO-Roche-attended session on teens and stress. There were many questions, and there was a discussion about turning into a larger series.

PUBLIC STATEMENT

A resident thanked Mr. Zitomer ethics for doing a lengthier ethics presentation than in prior years, but was disappointed that the Board was not able to answer the questions more easily.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Stifelman asked Ms. Fano about the potential of a follow-up presentation from the high school about vaping. Ms. Fano replied that the high school administration is scheduled for another presentation about vaping, but also suspension and code of conduct. Ms. Fano also asked that any Board members with specific questions should reach out to help guide the presentation. Ms. Stifelman noted her questions about the challenges of vaping and proposed penalties for students caught vaping. Ms. Fano also noted the challenges with changing the policy, since there are questions around illegal substances. Ms. Stifelman asked Mr. Zitomer for clarification around the standard for drug testing students. Mr. Zitomer provided that the school administrator need only have reasonable suspicion a student is using an illegal substance.

Dr. Soni asked if the schedule of presentations could be provided to the Board. Ms. Fano noted that would be provided, and that next week would include a presentation from Frank Perrone with a Visual and Performing Arts presentation.

Ms. MacKay noted her view on suspensions as a last case scenario, also the convergence of social and emotional learning and punitive measures. Ms. Fano noted the district's process towards addressing these issues. Mr. Faranetta felt the focus of the follow-up presentation should be what the best practice the administration is hoping to implement in the future.

Motions:

Personnel Motions 1-2

Finance, Facilities and Transportation Motions 1–2

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION MOTIONS 1-2 v2

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

Revised: 2-11-20

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 Susan DeVito and unanimously carried by a roll call vote to approve Personnel and Administration Motions 1–2. Motions passed.

1. RESIGNATIONS

A. Certificated Staff

1. Accept the resignation of Susan Herschman, School Psychologist at Randolph Middle School, effective March 31, 2020

2. Accept the resignation of Sandra Zarillo, Teacher of Mathematics at Randolph High School, effective March 22, 2020 or sooner if a replacement is secured.

B. Support Staff

1. Accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Agnes Gerrety, Operations Manager at Central Office, effective May 1, 2020.

2. APPOINTMENTS

A. Certificated Staff

1. Approve the appointment of Anthony Eskin, Teacher of Music at Randolph Middle School, at a salary of \$54,140 (Level BA/Step 1) to be prorated based on start date, effective February 12, 2020 through June 30, 2020 for the 2019-2020 school year.

2. Approve the appointment of Kristen Joseph, Teacher of Psychology at Randolph High School, at a salary of \$54,140 (Level BA/Step 1) to be prorated based on start date, effective on or about March 2, 2020 through June 30, 2020 for the 2019-2020 school year.

FINANCE/FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION MOTIONS 1-2

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

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

1. RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT TUITION STUDENT

BE IT RESOLVED, the Randolph Township Board of Education approve the acceptance of grade 11 student GE19-20-1 as a tuition student, effective on or about February 12, 2020, at a rate of \$ 40,000 for the 2019-2020 school year.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION

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

➤ HIGH SCHOOL:

- donation from Choir and Theater Booster Association will be providing a selection of food, having an estimated value of \$425, for the annual Cabaret Concert held Feb 7.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Deborah Iosso, Principal of Randolph High School acknowledge the donation in a letter to the appropriate parties.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Manfred-recognized Aggie Gerrety, who will retire on May 1. She also congratulated Ms. Petrat.

Mr. Conti-none

Ms. MacKay-discussed the potential of using Teams to sign-up to attend events.

Ms. Stifelman-none

Ms. Roche-none

Ms. DeVito-none

Mr. Soni-appreciated the work of Aggie Gerrety, who will retire on May 1. Welcomed Ms. Petrat. Thanked the district for allowing him to attend a Social & Emotional Learning conference on Friday.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:44 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald M. Eckert
Board Secretary