

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING – BOARD RETREAT MINUTES

April 29, 2022

(Administration Building Room 41– Open the meeting and enter Executive Session)

5:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Time: 5:51 pm

1. FLAG SALUTE

2. OPENING STATEMENT

In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, this public body, the Hopatcong Board of Education hereby announces that The New Jersey Herald and the Daily Record have been notified by email that this Board of Education Retreat Meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. on April 29, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT – added at meeting

The public noted concerns with state mandated curriculum; potential need to increase class sizes. One member of the public added that the years of 0% increases put us in this hole.

3. ROLL CALL

Present	Scott Francis	Present	Nicole Falconi-Shubert	Present	Jayna Gulan
Present	Jackie Turkington	Present	Gerard Gruenfelder	Present	Philip DiStefano
		Present	Jennifer Polowchena	Absent	Alex McLean

4. BOARD RETREAT

a. Public Relations

1. Donation of Instruments – Yi Qian – *Presentation regarding Elite Prep Academy and the collaboration between they and the Hopatcong Borough Schools.*
2. Op Ed Ideas – *Dr. Piccirillo read draft of letter to the editor. Board was in agreement that it expressed the district's concerns perfectly.*

b. Curriculum – *Must be approved every year. Mr. DiStefano would like it done by policy (2 readings), Dr. Piccirillo wants it done by vote. Mr. Francis believes the board needs to discuss this further.*

c. Long Term Strategic Planning and Board Goals – *Mr. DiStefano will provide a presentation on process to meet goals. Discusses Hopatcong Board of Education Mission statement and Vision statement.*

d. Reconfiguration – *Dr. Piccirillo gives an update on consolidation efforts. We are still looking to share services, future use or sale of Tulsa Trail. Mr. Gruenfelder asks for a postponement on decision on reconfiguration.*

e. Facilities – *Mr. Francis makes a motion on whether or not we are keeping Tulsa Trail Building and during discussion rescinds his motion without a second.*

f. Cooperative - mtg with auditor and attorney is upcoming

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- g. Transportation - continuing to investigate options to bring transportation back in house
- h. Income Ideas
 - 1. Garage – sale/lease/use will explore options
 - 2. Tulsa Trail – no options will be undertaken until reconfiguration discussions are completed
 - 3. Referendum Ideas – long term planning needs to be based upon reconfiguration planning, continue discussions with municipality regarding shared initiatives, single issue meeting may be beneficial to help generate and gather ideas from the community about potential inclusion in a referendum.

5. RESOLUTIONS

- a. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the opening of an account at Fulton Bank for the Rochkind Scholarship, which was previously approved at the April 25, 2022 Board of Education Meeting.
- b. It is recommended by the Superintendent that all existing curricula and courses of study and textbooks for the district schools be approved for the 2022/2023 school year. Every effort will be made to standardize curricula formats during the 2022/2023 school year, with progress reports reported to the Board of Education.

Motion to approve 5a-5b:

(ACTION) Motion by Falconi-Shubert, seconded by Polowchena

Yes	Scott Francis	Yes	Nicole Falconi-Shubert	Yes	Jayna Gulan
Yes	Jackie Turkington	Yes	Gerard Gruenfelder	Yes	Philip DiStefano
		Yes	Jennifer Polowchena	Absent	Alex McLean

6. PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL DISCUSSION

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn:

(ACTION) Motion by Turkington, seconded by Falconi-Shubert

All in favor Yes Time: 10:23 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Hallenbeck, Board Secretary