

WANAQUE BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING February 16, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Wanaque Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 7:00 pm, in the Wanaque School Gymnasium, First Street, Wanaque, NJ 07465

Minutes

I. Call To Order/Sunshine Statement

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, P.L. 1975, c.231, s.1; amended 2006, c.70, s.2, the Wanaque Board of Education has provided adequate notice of this meeting by sending a notice of the time, date, location, and to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting to Suburban Trends on January 12, 2022 via email and the Herald News on January 12, 2022 via email. Copies of this notice have also been placed in the Borough Hall and in the Main Office of both Wanaque and Haskell Schools and filed with the Wanaque Borough Clerk on January 12, 2022.

Flag Salute/Public Participation Statement/Roll Call

BOARD MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mr. Barnhardt (Robert)	X	
Ms. Bruenjes (Carolyn)	X	
Mr. Camisa (Nicholas)		X
Ms. Demetriou (Angela)	X	
Mr. Hain (Barry)		X
Mr. McFarlane (Richard)	X	
Ms. Reid (Erika)	X	
Mr. Tully (Richard)		X
Mr. Velante (Jason)		X

Attendance

- Mr. Patrick McQueeney, Superintendent
- Mr. Adam Weiss, Board Attorney
- MS. Nancy Di Bartolo, Business Administrator
- Ms. Samantha Nash, Curriculum Director
- Ms. Molly Rieth, Confidential Secretary
- Public 13

II. Statement to the Public

Often times it may appear to members of our audience that the Board of Education takes action with very little comment and in many cases by unanimous vote. Before a matter is placed on the agenda at a public meeting, the administration has thoroughly reviewed the matter with the Superintendent of Schools. The members of the board work with the administration and Superintendent to assure that the members fully understand the matter. Only then is it placed on the agenda for action at a public meeting. In rare instances, matters are presented to the Board of Education for discussion at the same meeting that final action may be taken.

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III. Superintendent's Report

- **Safe Return to School Update** – On Monday, February 7th, Governor Murphy announced that the mask mandate in schools would expire for Monday, March 7th. In addition, he announced that revised guidance regarding many other aspects of our health and safety protocols and our Safe Return to School Plan would be coming soon. We are excited for the opportunities to continue to transition back to our traditional instruction with items such as our return to our normal lunch schedules starting next week and the school mask mandate expiring for March 7th. However, we do not yet have all the guidance from the NJ Department of Health to allow us to make a complete announcement regarding changes to our school health and safety protocols and our Safe Return to School Plan. To avoid unnecessary confusion for our families, we will not send out several disjointed communications at this time. We will wait until we can share all the changes to our health and safety protocols so that our families have all the information they need as we continue to transition to our typical school day. Just today, the Governor mentioned in his weekly COVID press conference that he expects the guidance to be shared with schools as early as next week. Relatedly, on the agenda this evening is a reapproval of our Safe Return to School Plan. The plan up for renewal tonight has not been changed to reflect any new announcements. We are required to approve this plan every 6 months by the state as a part of the American Rescue Plan guidance. I anticipate this plan being resubmitted at our March meeting with the revisions related to the mask mandate expiring March 7th and the other anticipated changes referenced by the Governor.
- **WPS Mid-Year District Assessment Presentation** – Mrs. Samantha Nash, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development

IV. Committee Reports

- A. **Curriculum and Instruction** – Ms. Reid – Mrs. Nash presented the mid-year assessment summary to the Curriculum Committee, and it will be shared with the full board and the public tonight. The school district assessment data is showing that students have experienced learning loss because of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the data also shows that the interventions and supports the district is providing our students is showing positive student growth across the board. We are proud of the work done by our students and staff to produce such great student growth.
- B. **Finance, Facilities, and Operations** – Mr. McQueeney and Mrs. DiBartolo shared the budget situation for the 2022-2023 school year with the committee at our meeting. Due to increased costs in various expense lines in the budget and the continued reduction in state aid because of state legislation, the district will need to make up a difference of revenues and expenses of over \$600,000. Mr. McQueeney and Mrs. DiBartolo provided solutions and a plan that will help restructure the district to meet this deficient and position the district's operating budget for sustained success through future school years. The Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee will continue to work with Mr. McQueeney and Mrs. DiBartolo to develop a budget that minimizes the impact on student programs while ensuring efficiencies in spending that will bring back value to the district. Since the Governor's Address isn't until March 8th what does that mean for the budget meeting?
Ms. Di Bartolo said the Governor's Budget Address is on March 8th which means the numbers should be released on March 10th. We will have to schedule a finance meeting prior to the board meeting on the March 15, 2022.

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- C. Personnel and Policy - Mr. McQueeney shared various policies and regulations for 1st and 2nd readings. A new policy was introduced that is required as per the Timothy Piazza Law. This law requires all K-12 districts have a policy regarding Anti-Hazing in our schools. Additionally, the committee reviewed the approvals of an additional substitute, an intern for our technology department and a family medical leave for a staff member.
- D. Negotiations/Employee Relations
- E. Communications/Public Relations
- F. Tri-District

V. Business Administrator’s Report

Ms. Di Bartolo said the Governor’s Budget Address was discussed earlier under Committee.

VI. Approval of Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wanaque Board of Education approves the Minutes of the following meetings, as submitted:

January 18, 2022		Regular Meeting Minutes	
MOTION: Ms. Reid		SECOND: Mr. McFarlane	
BOARD MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Barnhardt (Robert)	X		
Ms. Bruenjes (Carolyn)	X		
Mr. Camisa (Nicholas)	Absent		
Mr. Hain (Barry)	Absent		
Mr. McFarlane (Richard)	X		
Ms. Reid (Erika)	X		
Mr. Tully (Richard)	Absent		
Mr. Velante (Jason)	Absent		
Ms. Demetriou (Angela)	X		

VII. Correspondence

- a. School Digest – January 2022

VIII. Public Comment – Agenda items only

No questions or comments.

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IX. Resolutions
A. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wanaque Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves the following curriculum/instruction resolutions:

1. Approve the revised submission of the Wanaque School District Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service.
2. Pursuant to PL 2015, Chapter 47 the Wanaque Board of Education approves the Contract with the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired for Student #716137 for the 2021/2022 school year at a cost of \$2,200.00.
3. Affirm HIB #H0005-2022.
4. Affirm HIB #W0006-2022.

Curriculum and Instruction #1-4

MOTION: Mr. Barnhardt		SECOND: Mr. McFarlane	
BOARD MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Barnhardt (Robert)	X		
Ms. Bruenjes (Carolyn)	X		
Mr. Camisa (Nicholas)	Absent		
Mr. Hain (Barry)	Absent		
Mr. McFarlane (Richard)	X		
Ms. Reid (Erika)	X		
Mr. Tully (Richard)	Absent		
Mr. Velante (Jason)	Absent		
Ms. Demetriou (Angela)	X		

B. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND OPERATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wanaque Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, approves the following finance, facilities, and operations resolutions:

1. **Financial Reports:**

Secretary's (A148) Report	- Ms. Nancy DiBartolo
For January 2022	Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Cash Reconciliation (A149) Report	- Mr. Edward Flores
For January 2022	Bookkeeper

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2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, move that pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6:23A-16.10(c)4*, we certify that as of January 2022 after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate District officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(b)* and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

3. **Approve the revised bills and claims for the month of January 2022:**

10/11	General Current Expense	\$1,770,571.54
20	Special Revenues	\$ 90,104.09
30	Capital Project	\$
40	Debt Service	\$
	Total	\$1,860,675.63

4. **Approve payment of bills and claims for the month of February 2022:**

10/11	General Current Expense	\$912,852.04
20	Special Revenues	\$ 48,192.01
30	Capital Project	\$
40	Debt Service	\$
	Total	\$961,044.05

5. Approve the necessary transfers for the month of January 2022 to achieve the thoroughness standards of the State of New Jersey and of the District for the current year.

6. Approve the acceptance of funds for the National School Lunch Program Equipment Grant in the amount of \$19,173.00

7. Approval of Submission of the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist Statement of Assurance School Year 2021-2022.

8. Approval of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Homeless Children and Youth Program funds in the amount of \$7,288.

9. Approve the acceptance of the entitlement funds for the School Security Grant in the amount of \$45,858.00.

10. Approve the settlement agreement with the parents of student #715435.

Finance, Facilities, and Operations #1-10

MOTION: Ms. Reid	SECOND: Ms. Bruenjes		
BOARD MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Barnhardt (Robert)	X		
Ms. Bruenjes (Carolyn)	X		

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Personnel and Policy #1-7

MOTION: Ms. Reid	SECOND: Ms. Bruenjes		
BOARD MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Barnhardt (Robert)	X		
Ms. Bruenjes (Carolyn)	X		
Mr. Camisa (Nicholas)	Absent		
Mr. Hain (Barry)	Absent		
Mr. McFarlane (Richard)	X		
Ms. Reid (Erika)	X		
Mr. Tully (Richard)	Absent		
Mr. Velante (Jason)	Absent		
Ms. Demetriou (Angela)	X		

D. NEGOTIATIONS/EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

E. COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC RELATIONS

F. TRI-DISTRICT

G. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wanaque Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following old/new business resolutions:

- The Wanaque Board of Education acknowledges the \$500 donation for the Haskell School Preschool Program from Accurate Door & Hardware, Inc., Totowa, NJ.

The Wanaque Board of Education accepts the donation and wishes to express its gratitude and thanks to Accurate Door & Hardware, Inc.

Old/New Business #1

MOTION: Ms. Bruenjes	SECOND: Mr. McFarlane		
BOARD MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Barnhardt (Robert)	X		
Ms. Bruenjes (Carolyn)	X		
Mr. Camisa (Nicholas)	Absent		
Mr. Hain (Barry)	Absent		
Mr. McFarlane (Richard)	X		

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Ms. Reid (Erika)	X		
Mr. Tully (Richard)	Absent		
Mr. Velante (Jason)	Absent		
Ms. Demetriou (Angela)	X		

X. Public Comment – Any subject as it relates to the schools.

Ms. Brokenshire – Haskell – Made a statement regarding health concerns for students wearing masks.

Mr. Quigley – Florham Park – Made a statement regarding health concerns for students wearing masks.

Mrs. Quigley – Florham Park – Handed out a card and made a statement regarding the Covid-10 vaccine.

Mr. Brokenshire – Haskell – Played a recording of a discussion regarding wearing masks.

Mrs. Caposele – Wanaque – Made a statement regarding her concerns with her children wearing masks.

Mr. Sisco – Whippany – Made a statement about the negative impact wearing a mask has on children.

Mrs. Perry – Haskell – Asked if the mask mandate was dropped and then brought back in the future what would the school do, would Mr. McQueeney write a letter to the Governor?

Mr. McQueeney said he is obligated to follow an executive order to protect his certification and the certification of all the administrators. No letter would be written to the Governor as it is my responsibility to be in compliance with all the laws.

Mr. Roettger – Wanaque – Asked if the mask mandate is lifted on March 7, 2022 when will it take effect in the schools, do we have to wait for the next board meeting?

Ms. Demetriou stated it is not something that the board votes on.

Mr. McQueeney explained there will be a meeting in the next week with the Response Team, then a letter will be sent to the community explaining what we will be doing.

Mrs. Quigley – Florham Park – Made a statement regarding the mandates and laws.

Closed public comment at 7:52 pm.


XI. Executive Session – The board did not retire into Executive Session this evening.

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XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made at 7:52 pm by Ms. Reid and seconded by Mr. Barnhardt. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy Di Bartolo', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nancy Di Bartolo
Board Secretary