

**MINE HILL BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
May 11, 2020**

1. Call to Order

2. Statement of Compliance

In Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, adequate notice of date, time and location for this meeting has been properly advertised in the Daily Record on January 11, 2020 and the Randolph Reporter on January 16, 2019 and copies of the agenda have been posted on the district website and emailed to the Clerk of the Township of Mine Hill.

3. Roll Call

Katie Bartnick	Yes	Diane Morris	Yes
Karen Bruseo	Yes	Srinivasa Rajagopal	Yes
Peter Bruseo	Yes	Jennifer Waters	Yes

4. Executive Session

On the motion of Diane Morris seconded by Katie Bartnick at 6:30 p.m. the board approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-11, permits the Board of Education to meeting in closed session to discuss certain matters, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss: (select on or more)

- 1) *A matter rendered confidential by federal or state law*
- 2) *A matter in which release of information would impair the right to receive government funds*
- 3) *Material the disclosure of which constitutes and unwarranted invasion of individual privacy*
- 4) **A collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiations related to it**
- 5) *A matter involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds*
- 6) *Protection of public safety and property and/or investigations of possible violations or violations of law*
- 7) *Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation and/or matters of attorney-client privilege*
- 8) **Specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session**
- 9) *Deliberation after a public hearing that could result in a civil penalty or other loss;*

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Note: This closed session will include items in category(s) 4 & 8. It may be adjourned while business is conducted in public then reconvened after public business has been completed.

5. Regular Session – 7:04 p.m.

6. Flag Salute

7. Mission and Vision

Vision

We envision all learners maximizing their potential to be innovators, global thinkers, and lifelong learners.

Mission

Through a variety of learning experiences, Canfield Avenue School students will be challenged to maximize their potential in a nurturing and supportive learning environment.

8. Approval of Minutes

- a. RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the **executive session minutes** of the meeting held on **April 27, 2020.**
- b. RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the **regular session minutes** of the meeting held on **April 27, 2020.**

Motion of: Katie Bartnick Seconded by: Srinivasa Rajagopal

Roll Call Vote	Katie Bartnick	Karen Bruseo	Peter Bruseo	Diane Morris	Srinivasa Rajagopal	Jennifer Waters
6-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

9. Correspondence

10. Superintendent’s Report

- COVID update
- EOY closing procedures
- Graduation celebrations
- Purchase of PPE
- Budget Uncertainty
- Delay of Tax Payment from the Town

11. Presentations / Report

- Virtual Learning Presentation – Miss Cicchino and Mr. Suarez
- Strategic Plan Presentation – Patrick Fennel

12. Business Administrator’s Report

- Cash Flow analysis presented indicated that without payment from the town the district would need an estimated \$650,000 to close of the school year on just essential purchases.
- Custodians working full time hours are 8am to 4:30 pm.
- HVAC project status
- STEAM room status
- Facility Assessment Report will be presented at the May 27th Board Meeting

13. Public Discussion

14. FINANCE *Srinivasa Rajagopal, Karen Bruseo, Diane Morris*

- a. RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Business Administrator and approves the **Joint Transportation Agreement** with Rockaway Township BOE for Transportation Services for field trips for the 2020-2021 school year.

- b. RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby ratifies the **Memorandum of Agreement with the Mine Hill Teachers Association**, dated April 16, 2020, for the contract period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023, including related mutually adopted salary guides, which was previously ratified by the Association and which is on file in the office of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes its Board President to execute an appropriate successor collective negotiations agreement upon approval of the form of same by the Board’s Labor Counsel.

- c. WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has appropriated \$10 million for Shared Services and School District Consolidation Study and Implementation Grants to assist local units with the study, development and implementation of new shared and regional services; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) is tasked with administering these grant funds through the **Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP)**; and

WHEREAS, LEAP Implementation Grants exist to support costs associated with shared service implementation to ensure that meaningful, efficiency generating initiatives are not hindered by short term transitional expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Roxbury Township Board of Education and the Mine Hill Board of Education propose to enter into a shared services agreement, but face certain expenses associated with implementation that present a burden to the local units; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this shared services agreement is to improve and expand our shared services, which will benefit the residents of all participating local units; and

WHEREAS, the Roxbury Township Board of Education has agreed to be the lead agency in this program and will submit the application to DLGS on behalf of all participating units; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Mine Hill Board of Education, that the Mine Hill Board of Education does hereby join with Roxbury Township Board of Education in applying for a LEAP Implementation Grant in the amount of \$250,000 to support implementation of this shared service.

Motion of: Karen Bruseo

Seconded by: Jennifer Waters

Roll Call Vote	Katie Bartnick	Karen Bruseo	Peter Bruseo	Diane Morris	Srinivasa Rajagopal	Jennifer Waters
6-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

15. INSTRUCTION & CURRICULUM

Committee of a whole

16. PERSONNEL

Committee of a whole

- a. RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the **Business Administrator/Board Secretary Employment Contract** for **Carolina Rodriguez** for the **2020-2021 school year**, which was submitted and approved by the County Superintendent. (Available for review in the business office).
- b. RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent and approves the **renewal of the full-time Administrative Staff for the 2020-2021 school year** as follows:

Employee Name	Position
Lee Nittel	Superintendent
Carolina Rodriguez	Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Adam Zygmunt	Principal
Lori Bullock	Administrative Assistant to the Principal
Lourdes Conroy	Main Office Secretary
Debra Hanley	Administrative Assistant to the Business Administrator
Zorina Munson	Secretary to the Child Study Team (F/T – 10 months)
Lisa Palmieri	School Treasurer
Angela Sabatino	Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent; Secretary to the Board Secretary

- c. RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent and approves the **renewal of tenured certificated staff for the 2020-2021 school year** as follows:

Tenured Staff	Certification
Janice Bochicchio	Elementary School Teacher
Diana Carroll	Teacher of Preschool Through Grade 3
Susan Charlton	School Librarian, Educational Media Specialist/Gifted & Talented
Jessica Cicchino	Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6
Susan Day	Elementary School Teacher
Michelle Eastman	Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6, Teacher of the Handicapped
Marisa Graney	Elementary School Teacher, Teacher of Students w/Disabilities
Melissa Gusterovic	Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6
Tabitha Hertz	Elementary School Teacher, Teacher of the Handicapped
Lansing Holman	Teacher of the Handicapped
Melissa Kenny	Elementary School Teacher
Kay Kim	Elementary School Teacher
Jennifer Ludwig	Elementary School Teacher
Ivonne Martinez	Teacher of Spanish, Teacher of English as a Second Language
Matthew Martyniuk	Elementary School Teacher with Subject Matter Preparation: Science I
Karyl Meehan	Elementary School Teacher
Margaret Nunermacker	Elementary School Teacher, Teacher of the Handicapped
Lyndsee Olivo	Elementary School Teacher
Beth Ondish	Elementary School Teacher, Teacher of the Handicapped
Cindy Pyrzynski	Teacher of Physical Education
Dorothy Quinn	Elementary School Teacher
Mark Richardson	Teacher of Music
Lauren Snarski	School Counselor
Theresa Steele	Elementary School Teacher with Subject Matter Preparation: Mathematics
Jeffrey Steidl	Teacher of Health and Physical Education
Robby Suarez	Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6
Noreen Vetter	School Nurse
Danielle Wilson	Elementary School Teacher with Subject Matter Preparation: Mathematics, Teacher of S.S.

Motion of: Jennifer Waters

Seconded by: Karen Bruseo

Roll Call Vote	Katie Bartnick	Karen Bruseo	Peter Bruseo	Diane Morris	Srinivasa Rajagopal	Jennifer Waters
6-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

17. POLICY, OPERATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Committee of a whole; Chairperson: Frank Dugan

- a. RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent and approves the **2020-2022 Mine Hill Strategic Plan** facilitated by Empowerment Solutions. (See attached)

Roll Call Vote	Katie Bartnick	Karen Bruseo	Peter Bruseo	Diane Morris	Srinivasa Rajagopal	Jennifer Waters
6-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

18. BUILDING & GROUNDS

Jennifer Waters, Srinivasa Rajagopal, Pete Bruseo

19. Presidents Report

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2392 and Assembly Bill 3969, currently pending in the state Legislature, would authorize the Department of Community Affairs to permit municipalities to delay or alter the transmission of property tax revenue to school districts during gubernatorial-declared emergencies; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's public schools are highly dependent on property tax revenue to support education programs; and

WHEREAS, on average, local property taxes constitute close to 60% of public-school revenue, with the percentage even greater in a significant number of districts; and

WHEREAS, delaying or altering the transmission of property tax revenue from municipalities would result in a financial crisis for school districts, seriously disrupting the educational process; and

WHEREAS, although public school buildings are closed during the current health emergency, the education of our students is taking place through remote instruction and, therefore, continued timely transmission of all property tax revenue due to the school district is critical for the educational process to continue without interruption; and

WHEREAS, under our state's current structure, municipalities are designated as the authorities to collect property taxes, but those taxes are levied for specific purposes—e.g., municipal, school, county, fire district—and these obligations must continue to be met; and

WHEREAS, municipal governing bodies are empowered under current law to borrow in order to ensure that full payments to school districts are made;

WHEREAS, the Mine Hill Board of Education recognizes the impact of the current public health emergency on the state and local governments, as well as local school districts, but believes that this legislation would only worsen the situation for our communities; and

WHEREAS, while S-2392/A-3969 would require a municipality to pay a percentage of the revenue due to a school district based on consultation between the state Departments of Community Affairs and Education, the amount of taxes collected at the time and the financial condition of the municipality and school district, it does not address subsequent payment to the school district to make up the full shortfall amount; and

WHEREAS, as currently written, S-2392/A-3969, which is designed to ease a financial burden on municipalities, would place a severe strain on school districts and the students and families that they serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mine Hill Board of Education urges the State Legislature and Governor to oppose S-2392/A-3969; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Philip D. Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, and the 25th Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Motion of: Diane Morris Seconded by: Katie Bartnick

Roll Call Vote	Katie Bartnick	Karen Bruseo	Peter Bruseo	Diane Morris	Srinivasa Rajagopal	Jennifer Waters
6-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

20. Dover Report

Katie Bartnick, Diane Morris, Karen Bruseo

- Mrs. Bartnick attended the Dover Board Meeting. Dover discussed the budget, new positions, transparency issues and a Board Vacancy.

21. MHEF Report

Katie Bartnick, Jennifer Waters

N/A

22. Liaison to the Mine Hill Township Report

Karen Bruseo, Jennifer Waters

N/A

23. Community Committee Report

Katie Bartnick, Jennifer Waters, Diane Morris

- Mr. Miller requested a meeting be set up with the Mine Hill Community Committee for Thursday, May 21, 2020.

24. Old Business

- RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent and approves the placement of **Danielle Jackson**, Caldwell University student, to conduct her **fall practicum and spring student teaching** during the 2020-21 school year with Miss Friedland.

Motion of: Jennifer Waters Seconded by: Katie Bartnick

Roll Call Vote	Katie Bartnick	Karen Bruseo	Peter Bruseo	Diane Morris	Srinivasa Rajagopal	Jennifer Waters
5-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstained

25. New Business

- Accept resignation of Frank Dugan, Board Member.
- WHEREAS, **Frank Dugan has resigned** from her 3-year term board position with 2 years 7 months remaining in his term;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has accepted his resignation;

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board Secretary to advertise in the official legal paper and on the website that a vacancy in the 1st year of a 3 year term, position exists and the Board is seeking letter(s) of interest from candidates to fill the vacancy and/or nominations from board members.

All letters of interest and nominations are due in the board office, to the board secretary by June 25, 2020 3:00 p.m.

Motion of: Diane Morris Seconded by: Katie Bartnick

Roll Call Vote	Katie Bartnick	Karen Bruseo	Peter Bruseo	Diane Morris	Srinivasa Rajagopal	Jennifer Waters
6-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

26. Public Discussion

- Cindy Pyrzynski – Important to keep community involved knowing school is closed until the end of the year.
- Mark Richardson – NJEA pulling up his lessons for the State of New Jersey to view.

27. Executive Session – 9:17 p.m.

Motion of: Jennifer Waters Seconded by: Katie Bartnick

Roll Call Vote	Katie Bartnick	Karen Bruseo	Peter Bruseo	Diane Morris	Srinivasa Rajagopal	Jennifer Waters
6-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

28. Return to Public Session – 9:31 p.m.

29. Adjournment

On the motion of Karen Bruseo seconded by Jennifer Waters, the board adjourns the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Roll Call Vote	Katie Bartnick	Karen Bruseo	Peter Bruseo	Diane Morris	Srinivasa Rajagopal	Jennifer Waters
6-0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Respectfully submitted,

C. Rodriguez

Carolina Rodriguez
Business Administrator/Board Secretary