

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE TENAFLY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 25, 2014  
HELD AT THE HEGELEIN BUILDING, 500 TENAFLY ROAD, TENAFLY, NJ

DATE 7/22/14  
APPROVED [Signature]

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE TENAFLY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 25, 2014  
HELD AT THE HEGELEIN BUILDING, 500 TENAFLY RD., TENAFLY, NJ

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Board President Edward J. Salaski who read the following statement:

“The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right to the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon.”

In accordance with provisions of this act, the Tenafly Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be publicized by having the date, time and place thereof posted at the Borough office, Tenafly Public Library, administrative building, in the local press and on the district's web site.

On roll call, the following Board members answered present:

Mark Aronson	Richard H. Press
Sam A. Bruno	Lynne W. Stewart
Donald H. Kaplan	Edward J. Salaski
Eileen D. Pleva	

The following Board member was absent:

April Uram

The following staff members were present:

Ms. Lynn Trager, Superintendent  
Ms. Barbara Laudicina, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Yas Usami, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

President Salaski opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The Board interviewed the final candidates who expressed interest in running for the unexpired Board seat. Mr. Salaski explained the procedure for the interview process.

The following are the candidates who were interviewed:

Sheryl Gaines  
Linda Khorozian  
Sherri Rothstein

After the interviews concluded, Mr. Salaski raised the second item on the agenda which was a discussion on the risks and liability issue with the Geissinger track when lights are not on, but are available. The lighting issue was also discussed at the June 20<sup>th</sup> ad hoc meeting with the Borough. The Borough suggested that the Board light the track

year round (with the lower wattage one-bulb unit on each pole), seven days a week, with lights shut off at 10:00 p.m.

Ms. Trager explained what the district's risk manager said concerning the track lighting and liability.

Several Board members voiced opinions on the lighting issue. Ms. Trager explained that the purpose of raising the track issue tonight was due to the liability issue and also due to a change order that was thought to be needed; however, the lighting poles already have the one-bulb lower wattage light unit. In addition, Ms. Trager stated that no decision has been made to change the Board's position.

Mr. Bruno read his personal statement on the above topic, and requested it be entered into the Board minutes (see attached); and requested that the Superintendent memo of June 20<sup>th</sup> on the ad hoc mtg. be included in the minutes, as well as the recent letter from the Tenafly Recreation sent to the Board regarding access and lighting of Geissinger Field.

(Ms. Trager stated that the Superintendent memos to the Board are confidential and not to be added into the minutes. The May 23 letter from Tenafly Recreation is attached.)

The Board agreed to see what the lower wattage one-bulb unit (located at the top of the light poles) would actually look like.

Ms. Trager stated that she will get information from other districts and will bring forward to the Board any new suggestions that may be up for consideration.

Mr. Salaski suggested that when the lighting project is finished and operational, the Board and administration will then re-examine what it looks like for evaluation and determination of bringing forth a change or not, and then to get community input regarding the lighting policy.

A motion was made by Ms. Lynne W. Stewart and seconded by Ms. Eileen D. Pleva that the Board convenes in closed session. The session may include discussions of negotiations, contractual matters, litigation and personnel. Pursuant to Open Public Meetings Act, the Tenafly Board of Education is required to notify the public when the minutes of this closed session will be available. At this time that cannot be determined. When the need for confidentiality no longer exists, the minutes will be available to the public.

The motion was approved by those present. Ms. April Uram was absent from the meeting.

The meeting recessed to closed session at 8:22 p.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 8:57 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Donald H. Kaplan and seconded by Mr. Richard H. Press to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was approved by those present. Ms. April Uram was absent from the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Yas Usami  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary

**GEISSINGER FIELD**  
**SHARED SERVICES CAPITAL PROJECT**

**“LIGHTING and HOURS of OPERATION**  
**of the**  
**TRACK around the IMPROVED GEISSINGER FIELD”**

With regard to the above captioned topic and this Board’s conversations and discussions this evening and previously; I offer the following comments and request this statement, as is, be entered into this evening’s Special public meeting minutes.

Also requested to be entered into these same meeting minutes is the:

- Statement, in its entirety, from the “Superintendent’s Memo” of Friday June 20, 2014 referring to the meeting convened that morning attended by members and administrators from both the Borough and District.
- Letter from the Tenafly Recreation Board addressed to the TBoE expressing their views regarding access and use of the track upon completion of the capital project at Geissinger Field.

I am opposed to the lighting of the 6 lane all weather track, encircling Geissinger Field, for use after sunset or before sunrise.

I offer the following as reasons why I have not and do not currently support a decision to light the track:

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- Previously, I had suggested and requested, (not demanded), the Administration to consider sampling or surveying, of near neighbor similar public school districts, to determine what and how their respective policies or practices were applied to govern use of their tracks. To date no survey results have been provided.
  - To this Board's collective or shared knowledge and information not one communication has been received from any resident or non-resident indicating his/her opinion in favor of lighting the track after sunset. The only communication that has been received, as referenced above, is a letter from the Tenaflly Recreation Board.
  - This Board has not made any attempt to convene either a Special Meeting or attempted to solicit public opinion, with residents who desire to express themselves, for our education and understanding on this matter.
  - No attempt has been made to quantify the use, demand, needs or expectations of those residents who use the track to walk, jog or run. Certainly, there is plentiful anecdotal evidence that the track is beloved, used and enjoyed. How many Tenaflly residents use it? When do they use it? What do they know that we don't know? What are their needs and expectations and why? The track is a valued amenity for the community. How can this Board make an informed, measured and reasonable decision without facts, a modicum of data and especially a narrative from the residents who use the track?
  - During previous TBoE meetings, dating even prior to last year's June 18<sup>th</sup> project discussion with the community; there was a chorus of voices speaking of the Board's "being respectful and a good neighbor". How can the desire to be a good neighbor and respectful be reconciled with the act of lighting the track without the Board having done its homework in earnest? Were those voices falsetto or puffery?

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- “. . . Build it . . .” or “. . . light it . . .” and they will come. The recently opened soccer cage, (aka “ToonkelDrome”), located at at northwest corner of Tenafly and Riveredge Roads; offers images that new, improved modern recreational/athletic facilities are immediately successful in attracting users. Thinking aloud, hypothetically, if the track is lighted will doing so for the right reasons exponentially increase use by residents and ring the dinner bell to entice non-residents to come on by? The slightest hint of consideration given to increase staff FTEs and payroll expense to “monitor” this outdoor facility is simply unthinkable.
  - Could lighting the track also create the unintended consequence of unauthorized use of Geissinger Field for random at will twilight athletic activities?
  - To be certain this matter does not impact students or student athletes. However, given what this long overdue capital project will provide the adults and children of the District and community; that one segment of the population may experience a change not so appreciated in their experience is, unfortunately, by definition a hidden cost of progress.
  - A decision to light the track would, as I understand it, make the track available for lighting for the calendar period March 1 through November 30 with the proviso that no other activity be scheduled upon Geissinger Field. Foregoing, the consideration of the operational expense for electricity and normal reduction in the lifetime of the asset; how many additional hours does this represent?

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- Urban legend and observation confirms the track is used well past 10:00 P.M.. If the Board makes a decision to light the track would the Board, (now or in the distant unknown future), be held to a potential legal ruling that it should light the track for all or anyone till the wee hours of the morning?
  - Consideration of liability, insurance coverage, insurance premium, potential future ratable experience and managing risk has been given new meaning and importance thanks to progress and modernization. Is it prudent, wise and common sense to allow anyone to walk on the track after sunset and before sunrise?

Despite decades of having allowed, practically speaking, unrestricted access and use; we come to a proverbial fork in our track.

We are confronted with balancing sense and sensibility, for multiple genuine interests, begging the question of- better to light a luminary rather than walk in darkness.

Thank you.





**BOROUGH OF TENAFLY  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION**

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*"ENJOY YOUR LEISURE WITH TENAFLY RECREATION"*

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*Received 5/27/14*

May 23, 2014

Tenaflly Board of Education  
500 Tenaflly Road  
Tenaflly, NJ 07670

Dear Members of the Tenaflly Board of Education,

Last year the Recreation Board sent a letter in full support of adding turf and lights to Geissinger Field as part of a shared service agreement between the Borough and the Board of Education. The Recreation Board felt that this project would enhance the opportunities for both youth and adult residents of the community to maximize use of the the field and track. Unfortunately it appears that in several respects the availability of time that the track will be open has been reduced and compromised, negatively impacting the ability of all town residents to pursue healthy and safe recreational activities. While other municipalities have found a solution that benefits all residents, it is very disappointing that the powers to be could not find a way to have the walking track operating during the same hours it is currently available.

As pursuant to our understanding when the Tenaflly Recreation Board endorsed this project, we also request that the Recreation Director be a standing member of the Joint Use Committee and be involved when these issues are discussed.

Sincerely,

Tenaflly Recreation Board