

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
(BOARD RETREAT)
OF THE TENAFLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 11, 2014
HELD AT THE HEGELEIN BUILDING, 500 TENAFLY ROAD, TENAFLY, NJ

DATE 12/9/14
APPROVED [Signature]

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING (BOARD RETREAT)
OF THE TENAFLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 11, 2014
HELD AT THE HEGELEIN BUILDING, 500 TENAFLY RD., TENAFLY, NJ

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 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:

Sam A. Bruno	Sherri Rothstein
Donald H. Kaplan	Lynne W. Stewart
Eileen D. Pleva	April Uram
Richard H. Press	Edward J. Salaski

The following Board member was absent:

Mark Aronson

The following staff members were present:

Ms. Lynn Trager, Superintendent
Ms. Barbara Laudicina, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Terry Collins, Assistant to the Superintendent for Human Resources

The following staff member was absent for the closed session, due to a conflict of interest.

Mr. Yas Usami, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

A motion was made by Mr. Sam A. Bruno and seconded by Mr. Donald H. Kaplan 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. Mr. Mark Aronson was absent from the meeting.

The meeting recessed to closed session at 5:04 p.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 7:16 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m. by President 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:

Sam A. Bruno *	Sherri Rothstein
Donald H. Kaplan	Lynne W. Stewart
Eileen D. Pleva	April Uram
Richard H. Press	Edward J. Salaski

* Left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

The following Board member was absent:

Mark Aronson

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.

Ms. Trager reviewed the District Goals. Goal 4 was discussed regarding shared service agreement with Alpine for custodial/maintenance support and supplies.

Board Goals

The 2013-2014 Board Goals were reviewed. The 2014-2015 goals were discussed, and the Board was in agreement with maintaining the 4 goals set for 2014-2015.

Superintendent Goals

The Superintendent goals are a collaboration of ideas from the Board, staff and administration.

Topics discussed:

- **New Generation Science Standard 3-year phase in program, and the New Mandated Standards for Science**

Changes will be made next year to prepare for full implementation in September 2016. Most changes will be at the elementary level. Secondary level is already being implementing most changes.

The Board made the following comments and inquiries:

Ms. Uram asked who developed the standards. Ms. Trager replied that many states had input in the development of the standards. The standards incorporate changes in the way science is being taught while following the curriculum.

Ms. Pleva asked what things are being eliminated. Ms. Trager said that she must confer with Science Supervisor Cathy Paz.

Mr. Press asked if the students are writing much. Ms. Uram and Ms. Pleva stated that their own children are writing. Ms. Trager stated that there is a formal grammar component due to the lack of grammar, and that the district needs a more structured approach while also being creative.

- **Later Starting Times for Middle School and High School Students**

There is legislature being presented on this topic, and the research is clear that there is a negative impact on school performance when teenagers start school too early.

Some of the factors to consider with later start times involve bussing, athletics, clubs, after school jobs, etc. There are districts who have implemented later times. Bussing is not an issue for our district. Athletics and clubs must be worked on. An exploratory committee can be formed with parents, Board members, teachers, coaches, etc. to review this issue and to see if it is best for our children. Possibly, this idea can be implemented in one school. The Board was in agreement to explore this.

Ms. Pleva would like to have traffic patterns considered on this issue.

- **VDI (Virtual Desktop Infrastructure)**

A 1:1 laptop model was discussed. The district prefers a VDI model over a 1:1 laptop model. The district hopes to phase this in over 3 years. The VDI model will allow students to have access to lessons and files at any computer, tablet, Smartphone in school or away from school. Classrooms will be equipped with less expensive Chromebooks instead of desktops and laptops. Teachers will have the ability to use technology for individualized instruction, and will provide greater opportunities for research, problem solving, and critical thinking.

Ms. Pleva stated there are students without computers and other devices such as Smartphones and tablets. Ms. Trager indicated that those students may access school devices, go to the library, or they may borrow one from the school.

Mr. Press asked about interactive instruction like the one that was observed at Samsung. Ms. Trager indicated that the district is piloting three Smart TV's that will have interactive capabilities.

- **Pre-School for General Education Students or Child Care Concept**

The Board and administration discussed the high school as a location for a preschool class in 2016-2017. An early childhood development class can integrate special education preschoolers currently in the elementary schools with regular education preschoolers. This would relieve space at the elementary schools where some preschool special education programs are housed. This would not be a revenue generator.

- **Change Literacy Staff Developer to an Assistant Principal for Elementary Schools with a Focus on Literacy**

The job responsibilities would include the following: have workshops on literacy; instructional support; work with teachers on curriculum; make changes to curriculum; teacher observations (principals have 60+ observations); SCIP Committee - mentoring, professional development; be a 10.5 month position; and administer PARCC exams.

The Board made the following comments and inquiries:

Ms. Uram stated that this is a big job for one person. Ms. Trager replied that this position would not involve the responsibility of being in charge of discipline, which is typically a responsibility of an assistant principal.

Ms. Stewart asked what the salary implications would be. Ms. Trager said the current position is in the \$60,000 range, and the assistant principal position would be approximately \$105,000.

Ms. Uram asked if the administration is recommending their support, and asked if the district will lose something as literacy developer. Ms. Trager stated that the literacy developer position involves teacher coaching teacher, but it will become administrator coaching teacher. The administrator will not evaluate those teachers, but the focus would be on coaching. Many of the things being done now by the literacy developer are administrative.

The Board agreed that the change of position is a good idea.

- **Staffing for the Middle School**

There will be a large 6th grade population coming next year and a new reading program will be implemented. Reading teachers will have a coaching period. Brian Ross, Ann Powell, and Mary Delouvrier came up with a “Cadillac” plan, but Ms. Trager is not sure if the full “Cadillac” plan will come forward in the budget. Ms. Trager supports the concept of the reading aspect.

- **ROD Grants**

Mr. Usami reviewed the ROD grant eligible projects for 2015-2016. The School Development Authority (SDA) reimburses 40% of the cost of the project to school districts. 2015-2016 is the last year to begin approved projects. The SDA approved projects are: the TMS Roof Replacement, VoIP Phone System, and Panic Buttons. The total estimated cost is \$3,745,420. The budgeted amount or local share is \$2,264,292, and the state reimbursement is \$1,481,128.

Ms. Uram asked if panic buttons are necessary. Mr. Press and Ms. Trager indicated the need for them. Other Board members agreed.

- **Board Officer Selection Process**

Mr. Salaski stated that he does not have a plan for the selection process, and stated that if someone is willing to serve as president, he would he will not take it personally.

Ms. Stewart stated she felt the same way for her vice president position.

Mr. Press said the key is to work together, be respectful, have experience, and work with the administration.

Ms. Uram asked Ms. Stewart if she would like to be Board president. Ms. Stewart said if the Board wants her then she would say yes in the future.

Mr. Salaski expressed that maintaining transparency is important.

Ms. Rothstein stated that both the president and vice president positions are for people who want to do the job, and it requires dedication.

Ms. Pleva expressed that one must be a joiner and not a divider.

- **Board Meeting Schedule**

The date of January 27 was discussed for a Board Retreat. NJSBA representative Al Annunziata will conduct the discussion on the Board Code of Ethics, as this is a Board requirement. The Board will think about other topics to be addressed.

A motion was made by Ms. Sherri Rothstein and seconded by Mr. Richard H. Press to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was approved by those present.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Yas Usami".

Yas Usami
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary