

MINUTES OF THE BOARD RETREAT  
OF THE TENAFLY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TUESDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 10, 2015  
HELD AT THE HEGELEIN BUILDING, 500 TENAFLY RD., TENAFLY, NJ

DATE 12/15/15  
APPROVED [Signature]

MINUTES OF THE BOARD RETREAT  
OF THE TENAFLY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TUESDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 10, 2015  
HELD AT THE HEGELEIN BUILDING, 500 TENAFLY RD., TENAFLY, NJ

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 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:

Stephanie Addison-Fontaine *	Richard H. Press
Mark Aronson **	April Uram
Sam A. Bruno	Edward J. Salaski
Eileen D. Pleva	

\* Arrived at 5:15 p.m.

\*\* Arrived at 6:12 p.m.

The following Board members were absent:

Janet I. Horan  
Lynne W. Stewart

The following staff members were present:

Ms. Lynn Trager, Superintendent  
Ms. Barbara Laudicina, Assistant Superintendent

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

Mr. Yas Usami, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

WHEREAS, the Tenafly Board of Education has been formed pursuant to applicable New Jersey Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Board is charged with the responsibility of performing all acts and doing all things, consistent with law and the rules of the State Board of Education, necessary for the lawful and proper conduct, equipment and maintenance of the public schools and public school property of the Tenafly Public School District; and

WHEREAS, Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10-4-12) permits the exclusion of the public ("Closed Session") from a meeting of the Board in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that circumstances exist for such a Closed Session;

WHEREAS, the Board has found the action described below to be necessary and proper;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board on the date indicated above that:

- 1.) The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action on the Closed Session herein set forth.
- 2.) The subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
  - Negotiations
  - Lease Agreement
  - HIB investigation
- 3.) The Board will return to Open Session at approximately 6:30 p.m.

No formal action will be taken.

The motion was approved by those present. Ms. Janet I. Horan and Ms. Lynne W. Stewart were absent from the meeting. Mr. Mark Aronson was absent for the beginning of the closed session, due to a conflict of interest.

The meeting recessed to closed session at 5:12 p.m.

Mr. Usami joined the meeting at 6:02 p.m., and Mr. Aronson joined the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 6:25 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m. by Board President Salaski who read the following statement:

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On roll call, the following Board members answered present:

Stephanie Addison-Fontaine	Richard H. Press
Mark Aronson	April Uram
Sam A. Bruno	Edward J. Salaski
Eileen D. Pleva	

The following Board members were absent:

Janet I. Horan  
Lynne W. Stewart

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, and provided an opportunity for public comment.

No comments were made.

The district and Board remained the same as the current year. Ms. Trager mentioned that the Superintendent Goals are the same as her Merit Goals that were approved at the July 28, 2015 Board Meeting.

The following ideas were discussed:

### **Continuation of 1:1 Chromebook Initiative**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade rollout has gone very well. Chromebooks will be in all high school classrooms and high school teachers will be provided with laptops from the existing inventory. There was a question as to whether it was necessary to have Chromebooks in all classrooms. Some thought that each student would be provided with a Chromebook. Ms. Trager explained that the plan had been to provide Chromebooks in all classrooms. An assessment will be made after the implementation in the high school to see if it's necessary to have Chromebooks in all classrooms.

### **Early Childhood Learning Center**

A center will provide learning opportunities for the community preschoolers and staff who have preschool age children. It will also serve as a teaching lab for the high school students enrolled in early childhood development. This program will be an enterprise account similar to the SACC program. It should be self-sustaining, however, the first year may require a small board subsidy. The plan is to open for the 2016-2017 school year, but may be pushed to the following school year if registration is not ready in January 2016.

### **Vice Principal Position for the Elementary Schools**

Having one vice principal was discussed for the four elementary schools whose primary functions are to articulate, coordinate and ensure consistency of all curriculum across the elementary level, to perform teacher observations, and to target teacher professional development.

Most trustees supported the position, however, there were some concerns, e.g.: (1) would funding be available in future years for this position; (2) everyone has more responsibilities, but that does not necessarily result in extra personnel; (3) should additional funding go towards teaching staff and/or instruction.

Ms. Trager indicated that an additional vice principal could be added in the future in order to have two vice principals for four elementary schools. A question was raised if it would grow to three and then four vice principals. Ms. Trager stated that two would be the maximum since that is what is recommended in this type of model. It was agreed that the elementary principals would attend the next public meeting to discuss their need for the VP position.

### **Complete Expansion of the High School Transition Program**

A 1.0 FTE teacher will be needed to complete the expansion.

### **Addition of English/Social Studies Interdisciplinary Course at the High School**

### **Continued Exploration of a Schedule Change at the High School with Longer Periods and a Unit Lunch**

If the concept is recommended by the committee, there will be a need for professional development in 2016-2017 with implementation the following year.

### **Expansion of the Academy Approach to the Business Department**

This will be based on student interest, and the idea is to have students participate in internships.

### **Maintain Class Size**

Class sizes are at a good size as action was taken in previous years.

### **Discussion of Full Financial Support for the Swimming and Hockey Teams as Requested by Parents**

The Board had agreed a couple of years ago to fund the sports, with exception of pool and ice rental. The trustees present agreed to fully fund the teams for rental time in 2016-2017. The Board does not fund personal equipment for each of the sports such as sticks, skates, helmets, pads, caps, swim suits, goggles, etc.

## **Implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards**

Alignment and revision of the science curriculum has been underway. There will be full implementation for grades 6-12 in September 2016. There will be curriculum writing for K-5 during the 2016-2017 school year, with full implementation in September 2017.

## **Capital Projects**

The Board was informed of upcoming projects and potential projects for next year and beyond. Upcoming projects from the current budget are the new phone system, middle school roof replacement and cooling tower at the high school. Mr. Usami mentioned that the cooling tower has been in the plans, but had not reached a point where it needed to be replaced. It has reached that point now. To replace it during the summer, a bid would need to be awarded prior to the adoption of the 2016-2017 budget. Thus, Mr. Usami recommended a Capital Reserve withdrawal this school year to fund the project in order to award the bid in a timely fashion. Estimated cost was \$250,000, however, a firmer estimate would be provided by the architect when projects for the Long Range Facility Plan are to be reviewed the following week.

Projects tentatively planned for 2016-2017 are the Middle School parking lot, fire rated doors for the gymnasiums, and steel doors for the entry/exit to the stairwells. Also, a possibility is replacing the Middle School Gym Bleachers, however, trustees indicated they had been informed that the bleachers did not need to be replaced at this time. Mr. Usami said that he would follow up with the architect. The High School tennis courts resurfacing would most likely be scheduled in 2017-2018. Summer school and summer recreation will be moved to the High School, since the Middle School roof and parking lot project are scheduled for the summer of 2016. The tennis court resurfacing would not be possible with those two activities at the High School.

## **Banked Cap**

There was discussion about the possibility of using Banked Cap in the 2016-2017 budget. The 2016-2017 budget would be the last opportunity to utilize Banked Cap in the foreseeable future.

## **2016-17 School Calendar**

Discussed the calendar. February break is not a full week, and the first day of the Memorial Day Break (5/26/16) will be used if 3 snow days are exceeded in the school year.

## **2016-17 Board Meeting Schedule**

The Board was given the meeting schedule to review and to discuss at a future meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Richard H. Press and seconded by Ms. Stephanie Addison-Fontaine to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was approved by those present. Ms. Janet I. Horan and Ms. Lynne W. Stewart were absent from the meeting. Ms. April Uram left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yas Usami', written in a cursive style.

Yas Usami  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary