

MINUTES OF THE BOARD RETREAT
OF THE TENAFLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING, NOVEMBER 15, 2016
HELD AT THE HEGELEIN BUILDING, 500 TENAFLY RD., TENAFLY, NJ

DATE 12/13/16
APPROVED [Signature]

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TUESDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING, NOVEMBER 15, 2016
HELD AT THE HEGELEIN BUILDING, 500 TENAFLY RD., TENAFLY, NJ

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Board President Lynne W. Stewart 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	Edward J. Salaski *
Sam A. Bruno	April Uram **
Janet I. Horan	Eileen D. Pleva
Richard H. Press	Lynne W. Stewart
Sherri Rothstein	

* Arrived at 5:39 p.m.

** Arrived at 8:00 p.m.

The following staff members were present:

Ms. Lynn Trager, Superintendent
Ms. Barbara Laudicina, Assistant Superintendent
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
 - Liability Issue
- 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. Mr. Edward J. Salaski arrived at 5:39 p.m. to the meeting, and Ms. April Uram was absent from the closed session.

The meeting recessed to closed session at 5:35 p.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 6:32 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Board President Stewart who read the following statement:

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On roll call, the following Board members answered present:

Mark Aronson	Edward J. Salaski
Sam A. Bruno	April Uram *
Janet I. Horan	Eileen D. Pleva
Richard H. Press	Lynne W. Stewart
Sherri Rothstein	

* Arrived at 8:00 p.m.

The following staff members were present:

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

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

District Goals for 2017-2020

The Board discussed the district goals and decided to keep the current four goals without the bullet points, along with some minor revisions (in bold). In addition, the Board added four goals. The eight goals are:

- Goal 1 – To sustain a dynamic learning environment that prepares each and every student to succeed in the 21st century
- Goal 2 – To monitor and revise curriculum and instruction to ensure its rigor and relevance
- Goal 3 – To continue **to improve** communication among the Board of Education, administration, teachers, students, parents, and community
- Goal 4 – **To ensure fiscal responsibility (may be revised)**
- Goal 5 – To foster a culture and environment that respects and values staff, and nurtures their professional growth
- Goal 6 – To support each student on finding their optimal balance among their intellectual, social and emotional self
- Goal 7 – To inspire and support instructional innovation among staff
- Goal 8 – To infuse in our culture a respect of diverse people

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles remain the same.

Board Goals

The Board reviewed the four current Board Goals and changed the language in Goal #4. The four goals are:

- Goal 1 – Set up a process to regularly monitor progress towards district goals
- Goal 2 – Maintain a culture of mutual trust, respect and professionalism among board members and administration

Goal 3 – Ensure the safety of our students and upkeep of our facilities in a fiscally responsible manner

Goal 4 – Ensure that adequate **resources** are directed towards **all of the district goals**

Ideas discussed:

Implementation of New High School Schedule

The new schedule will need to address traffic, scheduling conflicts, special education concerns, and a unit lunch. The main discussion focused on traffic. Ms. Trager indicated that there will be a discussion with the principals involving the possible start time change (earlier) at the elementary schools. Also, discussions with the police chief, parents and the mayor were brought up. Ms. Trager also mentioned that a review of the new schedule will be done after a few months of implementation.

Technology Mentors

The implementation of the 1:1 Chromebook initiative has the district staff developer responding to technical questions which has taken away time on assisting teachers with the application of the programs. Over the summer, 10 teachers were trained by the staff developer on technical process and how to teach their colleagues on the application in order for them to serve as “tech coaches.” The 10 tech coaches participated in a professional development workshop that resulted in extremely favorable reactions from their peers. The district would like to move forward with this concept of tech coaches in the high school and middle school throughout the next school year. The coaches (three at middle school and four at high school) will be available during four prep periods a week. There will be a stipend for the positions that will be determined, if we are to proceed. This is a model that has been used by Northern Valley Regional. This would not extend to the elementary schools since its schedule would not be conducive to this model. There was some concern that the program will not be utilized by enough teachers. Ms. Trager indicated that the principals will monitor and evaluate the program. Ms. Trager added that she would like to see students trained in Google Docs and Apps, thus becoming trainers for fellow students. She heard this has been implemented at Glen Rock High School.

Health Paraprofessional

The Middle School has requested a part-time health paraprofessional to assist the nurse for 2017-2018. The health paraprofessional may perform all the duties of a school nurse, with the exception of teaching a class since they are not certificated to teach. The Middle School has over 900 students with only one nurse providing services. In addition, some of the students have health related issues that require more attention. The additional part-time person is estimated at a cost of \$36,321. The questions are whether there is a need for this position and whether this position will compromise another item(s) in the upcoming budget.

Chromebook Initiative – Phase III

The final phase of the 1:1 Chromebook initiative will be to purchase Chromebooks and carts in the current year and have them ready for the start of the 2017-2018 school year. It is anticipated that grades K-7 will be equipped with Chromebooks. This will be a total of 3,238 Chromebooks and 114 carts for a total expense of \$1,072,120. There is a possibility that Kindergarten and first grade may opt for iPads rather than Chromebooks, and wait until the 2017-2018 school year to purchase them. In addition, teachers will need laptops and we will begin an Evergreen plan to replace older models. We anticipate 200 laptops for a total of \$276,000 for 2017-2018.

Middle School Schedule

The district is exploring the possibility of changing the Middle School schedule. There will be a recommendation once the study is completed.

Maintain Class Size

There will be a continued effort to maintain class size.

Capital Projects

There was discussion about a possible referendum for air conditioning that is estimated at \$17,037,000. It was pointed out that there will be additional costs such as: election expenses; newsletters/informational mailings; annual increase in energy consumption; and annual maintenance and repairs. The architect and engineer will be presenting the Feasibility Study at the December 13 public meeting.

The district proposes the following capital projects: to replace the High School tennis courts in order to meet regulation standards at an estimated cost of \$585,000; to replace the main entrance doors (four pairs) at Maugham School at an estimated cost of \$78,000; to correct and repair cracked and uneven flooring at Smith School at an estimated cost of \$52,000; and to replace boilers at the High School at an estimated cost of \$455,000. The flooring issue is thought to be a relatively easy solution and may be done during this school year. However, in the event that it's a bigger issue, the boiler replacement at the High School may need to be pushed to another year. The proposed projects will utilize capital reserve funds and the balance will be from the budget's capital outlay expense.

Miscellaneous

A World Language program analysis was brought up and the revamping of the High School Academies for a different type of experience.

A motion was made by Mr. Edward J. Salaski and seconded by Mr. Sam A. Bruno 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 unanimously approved.

Ms. Barbara Laudicina and Mr. Yas Usami were absent from the closed session.

The meeting recessed to closed session at 9:06 p.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 9:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Edward J. Salaski and seconded by Mr. Sam A. Bruno to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Yas Usami
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary