

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
OF THE TENAFLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 1, 2011
HELD AT TENAFLY HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER
19 COLUMBUS DRIVE, TENAFLY, NJ

DATE 3/22/11

APPROVED Laura F. Mondello

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19 COLUMBUS DRIVE, TENAFLY, NJ

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Board President Phyllis Perskie-Kesslen who read the following statement:

"In accordance with provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the Tenafly Board of Education has notified local newspapers of this meeting, and Notice and Agenda of this meeting have been delivered to the Borough Hall for posting."

On roll call, the following Board members answered present:

Mark Aronson	Lynne W. Stewart
Sam A. Bruno	Sharon F. Strompf
Donald H. Kaplan	Jonathan M. Teall
Alexandra Spyridaki	Phyllis Perskie-Kesslen

The following Board member was absent:

Richard H. Press

The following staff members were present:

Ms. Lynn Trager, Superintendent
Ms. Barbara Laudicina, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Louis P. Mondello, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

A motion was made by Mr. Donald H. Kaplan and seconded by Mr. Jonathan M. Teall 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. Richard H. Press was absent from the meeting.

The meeting recessed to closed session at 7:41 p.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 8:05 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by Board President Perskie-Kesslen who read the following statement:

"In accordance with provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the Tenafly Board of Education has notified local newspapers of this meeting, and Notice and Agenda of this meeting have been delivered to the Borough Hall for posting."

On roll call, the following Board members answered present:

Mark Aronson	Lynne Stewart
Sam A. Bruno	Sharon Strompf
Donald H. Kaplan	Jonathan M. Teall
Alexandra Spyridaki	Phyllis Perskie-Kessler

The following Board member was absent:

Richard H. Press

The following staff members were present:

Ms. Lynn Trager, Superintendent
Ms. Barbara Laudicina, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Louis P. Mondello, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

The following principal representatives were present:

Dr. Dora P. Kontogiannis, Principal of High School
Dr. Ann Powell, Principal of Middle School

Also present:

Ms. Suzanne Bassett, Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Services
Ms. Terry Collins, Assistant to the Superintendent for Human Resources

Rupal Kankariya, Student Representative
Adam Zane, Student Representative

President Perskie-Kessler opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Alexandra Spyridaki and seconded by Mr. Donald H. Kaplan to approve the Minutes of the Regular Public and Closed Executive Meeting of February 15, 2011.

The Minutes of the Regular Public and Closed Executive Meeting of February 15, 2011 were approved by those present. Mr. Richard H. Press was absent from the meeting.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Smith School Principal Mr. Neil Kaplicer introduced the program showcasing the "Conflict Busters." This program consists of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students from all 4 elementary schools, with the concept of training young students how to peacefully and positively solve disputes, while learning leadership and other life skills. Smith guidance counselor Sandra Massaro described the peer mediation goals, and several students spoke about what their activities are for solving problems and gave a demonstration.

President Perskie-Kessler thanked everyone involved in tonight's showcase, and pointed out to the audience that one of the district's current programs is selected and showcased at every other Board meeting.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Perskie-Kessler stated that the focus of tonight's meeting is to discuss the preliminary budget and turned the meeting over to Superintendent Lynn Trager.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Trager made a few brief announcements: the boys' basketball team won the big North Patriot division title victory over Ramsey and congratulations were offered; this is "Read Across America" week in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, and Ms. Trager and Ms. Laudicina visited classes and read stories; and re-registration letters will be mailed soon to all parents and guardians, and information and forms will be available on the district website.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Adam Zane reported that the juniors are taking part in HSPA testing this week which started today and will end on Thursday.

Rupal Kankariya stated that the THS Olympics will be held next Friday, and all are welcome to attend. Also, the THS Spring Play "Guys and Dolls" will be performed on March 24-26.

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report.

REPORTS, PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Ms. Trager discussed the preliminary budget and goals accomplished (a copy of the presentation is available upon request).

President Perskie-Kesslen thanked the Board, Mr. Mondello and the administration for their hard work and input in preparing a very comprehensive budget. She commended and commented on the pro-active stance the Board committees, administration, and community have taken towards seeking alternative revenue, and coming up with ideas to save taxpayer money while still maintaining an excellent school system in Tenafly. Also, a special thank you was given to Ms. Alexandra Spyridaki for preparing tonight's attractive PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Perskie-Kesslen solicited comments and questions from the Board.

Ms. Lynne Stewart asked the administration if there was a possibility that Tenafly may not get extraordinary aid. Ms. Trager replied that she and other superintendents met on Monday with the Commissioner of Education and asked that same question. The answer given was that extraordinary aid is still a budgeted item but that they could not guarantee this state aid figure.

Ms. Spyridaki commented that because Tenafly was able to stay below the 2% mandated state cap, it is a testament of the many changes and tough decisions made in the district while still maintaining Tenafly's reputation of offering an outstanding education.

Mr. Mark Aronson commended Ms. Trager, the Board and administration, principals and teachers for an outstanding job. Programs have been maintained and excellent results are still produced. Mark suggested the state aid that Tenafly received should be used to offset the tax levy even further than presented in the preliminary budget.

Mr. Donald Kaplan stated he thinks the state aid in the budget is being used reasonably, citing in particular the use of money towards replacing technology; with the other half of the money to be returned to the taxpayer.

Ms. Stewart expressed concern that if Tenafly does not get the extraordinary aid, it may be wise to hold back some of the state aid for now until the state makes a final decision.

Mr. Jonathan Teall stated he is comfortable with the present balance of the use of the state aid, and also supports replacing technology in the district which was not funded last year. He also stated that it is prudent to withhold some of the money, as final decisions have not yet been made by the state.

Ms. Sharon Strompf commented that she is in favor of giving back half of the funds to reduce debt service.

Mr. Sam Bruno expressed an interest in reviewing the line-by line budget document; and commented that he is pleased that the budget reflects no reductions in programs, curriculum or staff.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION-COMMUNITY COMMENTARY

President Perskie-Kesslen inquired if there were any members of the audience who wished to address the Board on any item on the agenda.

Christine Evron - Leroy St. - requested the breakdown of the transportation budget (in-district and out-of-district).

Mr. Mondello gave the transportation figures.

Ernest Kollitides - Clinton Ave. – asked Ms. Trager what constitutes the approximately \$14,500 cost per student in the district, as he believes it to be higher when taking other variables into consideration. He also commended Ms. Trager and the district for reducing expenditures in the preliminary budget.

Mr. Mondello clarified that the state calculation of cost per pupil is based on the operating budget of the school systems.

Amy Rhodes - Edward Court – questioned what potential effect the roof problems would have on this budget and future budgets.

Ms. Perskie-Kesslen explained that the district is in the process of getting an unbiased opinion of the condition of the roofs; and stated the strong possibility of going out for a referendum in the future to replace roofs.

RESOLUTIONS

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Jonathan M. Teall and seconded by Ms. Lynne W. Stewart to approve Resolutions P-1 through P-6.

RESOLUTION P-1 SUBSTITUTES

BE IT RESOLVED that the substitutes with a County License or New Jersey teacher certification listed below be approved by the Board of Education for the 2010/11 school year in accordance with Senate Bill #851 regarding criminal history background check:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DEGREE</u>	<u>CERTIFICATION</u>	<u>MAJOR/MINOR</u>
Jamie Charles	B.S.	County License	Biology
Jane Wysoki	B.A.	County License	Spanish/Early Childhood

RESOLUTION P-2 HIRES

BE IT RESOLVED that the following persons be employed to fill the positions listed for the length of time and compensation indicated and subject to all federal, state, county and local regulations governing said employment and in accordance with Senate Bill #851 regarding a criminal history background check:

<u>NAME AND POSITION</u>	<u>EMPLOYMENT DATES</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION AND SALARY</u>
Elyse Carlin Leave Replacement Guidance Counselor - MS	5/16/11-6/30/11 9/1/11-6/30/12	Per diem for days worked based on M.A.+8, Step 2 for mid-May to June 2011 M.A.+8, Step 3 -2011/12 \$52,634 annual salary
Wanda Lorenzo Special Ed – 19 hr. a week aide-Smith School	3/ 2/11– 6/30/11	\$18.67 an hour, 19 hrs. week \$12,983 annual prorated

RESOLUTION P- 3 APPROVAL OF UNPAID VOLUNTEER ATHLETIC AIDE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the following individual as an unpaid Volunteer Athletic Aide for the 2010-11 school year pending successful completion of the Criminal History Background check:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ATHLETIC AIDE FOR SPORT</u>
Christine Giordano	Softball

RESOLUTION P-4 TEMPORARY INCREASE IN ASSIGNMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the following temporary teacher assignment for the period April 25 through the end of the 2010-11 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CURRENT ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>NEW ASSIGNMENT</u>
Caitlin Cranwell Special Ed Teacher	.8 FTE Special Ed High School	.8 FTE Special Ed – H.S. and .2 FTE Special Ed teacher Leave Replacement – H.S. to be paid for days worked

RESOLUTION P-5 APPOINTMENTS TO EXTRA-COMPENSATION POSITIONS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the following appointments:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SPORT</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
James D. Turner	Spring Weight Training Advisor	\$1,218

Peter Enblom

Chaperone/Advisor for \$25 an hour not to exceed
Girls Golf Pilot Program \$1,250 during spring of 2011.

RESOLUTION P-6 LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR HIGH SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, in accordance with Article VI, B. and C. grants High School Special Education teacher Dinah Huh, who is expecting a baby June 30, 2011, a maternity/disability leave of absence using accumulated sick days effective June 13, 2011, not to exceed June 23, 2011 to be followed by an unpaid child-rearing leave of absence under the Family Medical Leave Act for no more than 12 weeks beginning September 1 through November 25, 2011.

Resolutions P-1 through P-6 were approved by those present. Mr. Richard H. Press was absent from the meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

A motion was made by Mr. Sam A. Bruno and seconded by Ms. Sharon F. Strompf to approve Resolutions A-1 through A-3.

**RESOLUTION A-1 SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF POLICY #2431.3
“PRACTICE AND PRE-SEASON HEAT-ACCLIMATION FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS”**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education will have its second reading and adoption of Policy # 2431.3 “Practice and Pre-Season Heat-Acclimation for Interscholastic Athletics.”

**RESOLUTION A-2 SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF POLICY #2431.4
“CONCUSSION TESTING AND RETURN-TO-PLAY”**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education will have its second reading and adoption of Policy #4159 “Support Staff Member/School District Reporting Responsibilities.”

RESOLUTION A-3 GIFTS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board accept with thanks and appreciation for the following:

DONOR	SCHOOL/LOCATION	ITEM/AMOUNT
Stillman School HSA	Stillman School	Money for a SmartBoard

Resolutions A-1 through A-3 were approved by those present. Mr. Richard H. Press was absent from the meeting.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A motion was made by Mr. Mark Aronson and seconded by Ms. Alexandra Spyridaki to approve Resolution S-1.

RESOLUTION S-1 APPROVAL OF NEW PLACEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the placement for the following pupils.

STUDENT	SCHOOL	TYPE	TUITION
# 764	Park Academy	Public	From March, 2011 to June, 2011 \$45,149 prorated for a total of \$18,060
# 765	Berkley St. Elementary School, New Milford	Public	From February, 2011 to June, 2011 \$ 51,348 prorated for a total of \$25,674
# 766	New Alliance Academy	Private	From February, 2011 to June, 2011 \$67,275 prorated for a total of \$33,637

Resolution S-1 was approved by those present. Mr. Richard H. Press was absent from the meeting.

FINANCE

A motion was made by Mr. Donald H. Kaplan and seconded by Mr. Jonathan M. Teall to approve Resolutions F-1 through F-9.

RESOLUTION F-1 APPROVAL TO ADOPT PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR THE FY 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

1. Approval of Base Budget

BE IT RESOLVED that the Tenaflly Board of Education approves a preliminary FY 2011-2012 school district budget as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$ 58,216,796	\$ 54,209,758
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 910,637	
Debt Service Fund	\$ 2,976,514	\$ 2,595,879
Total Base Budget	\$ 62,103,947	\$ 56,805,637

RESOLUTION F-2 SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2011

BE IT RESOLVED that the Secretary's report for the month of January 2011, be accepted as submitted (or amended if changes are made during the meeting) and filed in the official minutes of this meeting.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11, we certify that as the board secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) did not reflect an over expenditure in any of the major accounts or funds, and based on the appropriation balances reflected in this report and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that the district has sufficient funds available to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

RESOLUTION F-3 TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2011

BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer's report for the month of January 2011, be accepted as submitted and filed in the official minutes of this meeting.

RESOLUTION F-4 TRANSFERS FOR FEBRUARY 2011

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves transfers for the 2010-2011 school budget in a report dated February 28, 2011, as submitted and filed in the Business Administrator/Board Secretary's office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this transfer list be attached to the official minutes of the Board.

RESOLUTION F-5 APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR FEBRUARY 2011

BE IT RESOLVED that bills properly certified as to validated purchase orders and receiving documentation and approved in the total sum of \$5,170,352.67 for February 28, 2011, as shown on the list of bills submitted to the Board of Education and which shall be made a part of the resolution be and hereby are approved for payment and are to be charged to the following fund accounts:

	<u>Fund Totals</u>	
(10)	General Fund	\$201,411.94
(11)	General Current Expense	\$4,741,005.31
(13)	Special Schools	\$67.00
(20)	Special Revenue Funds	\$137,574.19
(30)	Capital Projects Funds	\$73.40
(50)	Enterprise Fund	\$23,187.89
(60)	Trust and Agency Funds	\$67,032.94
	TOTAL	\$5,170,352.67

RESOLUTION F- 6 PAYROLL FOR FEBRUARY 2011

BE IT RESOLVED that the regular payroll be and hereby is approved for payment as follows:

PAYROLL	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2/15/11	\$1,674,304.57
2/28/11	\$1,695,901.71

RESOLUTION F-7 APPROVAL TO SUBMIT THE AMENDED 2010-2011 TITLE III AND TITLE IIA GRANT TO INCLUDE THE 2009-2010 CARRY-OVER FUNDS UNDER THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND GRANT (NCLB)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Tenafly Board of Education approves the submission of the amended 2010-2011 NCLB grant to include 2009-2010 carry-over funds for NJDOE approval:

<u>Program Name</u>	<u>Grant Number</u>	<u>FY 2009 Awarded Amount</u>
NCLB Consolidated	NCLB516005C	
Title IIA		\$ 29,140
Title III		\$ 3,376

RESOLUTION F-8 APPROVAL TO DISPOSE OF OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that the Tenafly Board of Education approves the disposal of obsolete equipment that is either obsolete, damaged or beyond repair as listed.

Refrigerator (Model RHT3-32NUT, Serial #207706-86 – Traulsen & Co.-76W-83H)

RESOLUTION F- 9 APPROVAL OF DISTRICT TRAVEL AND WORK-RELATED EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

WHEREAS, in order to be in compliance with the State of New Jersey's adoption of P.L. 2007, c.53, An Act Concerning School District Accountability, also known as Assembly Bill 5 (A5), and the NJDOE enactment of N.J.A.C.6A:23B-1; and

WHEREAS, those on the attached list are attending the administratively approved conferences, conventions, staff training sessions, seminars, or workshops; and

WHEREAS, the total expected cost of such conferences, conventions, staff training sessions, seminars, or workshops has been provided; and

WHEREAS, the attendance at the stated function was previously approved by the Superintendent of Schools through the appropriate administrator(s) as work related and within the scope of the work responsibilities of the attendee; and

WHEREAS, the attendance at the function(s) was approved as promoting delivery of instruction or furthering efficient operation of the school district, and fiscally prudent; and

WHEREAS, the travel and related expenses particular to attendance at the function(s) may exceed the state travel guidelines established by the Department of Treasury in NJOMB circular letter;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tenafly Board of Education approves attendance at the administratively approved function(s) as necessary, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that those expenses that appear on the attached form titled "TRAVEL AND WORK-RELATED EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS" for lodging, meals and gratuities are within the limits of the State travel reimbursement guidelines and are justified and reimbursable upon submission of the required receipts up to the current established limits as specified in the General Services Administration website, with any additional costs for lodging, meals and gratuities expenses above those established limits to be personally borne by the attendee(s).

Resolutions F-2 through F-9 were approved by those present.

Resolution F-1 was approved as follows:

Yes - 7	Sam A. Bruno	No - 1	Mark Aronson
	Donald H. Kaplan		
	Alexandra Spyridaki	Absent - 1	Richard H. Press
	Lynne W. Stewart		
	Sharon F. Strompf		
	Jonathan M. Teall		
	Phyllis Perskie-Kesslen		

Resolutions F-1 through F-9 were approved.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS-SECOND OPPORTUNITY

President Perskie-Kesslen inquired if there were any members of the audience who wished to address the Board on any item not on the agenda.

Ernest Kollitides - Clinton Ave. - reiterated his statement earlier about what the cost is per pupil in the district.

David Schussel - Erledon Rd. - thanked the Board and administration for their hard work of putting the budget together and recognized the tough decisions made in the interest of the schools and community. He also pointed that many generous donations are made by the HSA groups, and every concerned community member has contributed in some way to help offset district expenses; and more fund raising is in the planning stage.

A motion was made by Ms. Sharon F. Strompf and seconded by Mr. Sam A. Bruno to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was approved by those present. Mr. Richard H. Press was absent from the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Louis P. Mondello
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary