

Allamuchy Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2020

The regular meeting of the Allamuchy Township Board of Education held on June 8, 2020 is called to order at 7:30 p.m. *via teleconference* by Lisa Strutin. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of the meeting was provided and, to the extent known at the time of advance publication, the agenda items to be considered. Written advance notification of the time, date and location was sent on April 15, 2020 to the New Jersey Herald and Township Clerk. Notice was posted in the school office.

I. ROLL CALL

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Stephen Bienko	X	
William Cramer	X	
Giovanni Cusmano	X	
Harriett Gaddy	X	
Craig Green	X	
Venita Prudenti	X	
Mary Renaud	X	
Lisa Strutin, President	X	

ALSO PRESENT: Joseph Flynn, Superintendent
James Schlessinger, School Business Administrator

II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Ms. Renaud and seconded by Dr. Gaddy

A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular board meeting held on May 4, 2020, be approved. (Appendix 1A)

B. BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the special board meeting held on June 3, 2020, be approved. (Appendix 1B)

CARRIED: 7-0-2 (Ms. Renaud, Mr. Bienko votes not recorded due to technical issues)

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- None

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- None

Allamuchy Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2020

VI. PRESENTATIONS

- Candidates for open Board seat: presentations and interviews
 - John Moyer
 - Lisa Moyer
 - Abby Christmann
 - Rodney Houle
- Moved by Ms. Prudenti and seconded by Mr. Green to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the candidates and appointing one to the open seat. (carried 8-0)
 - Executive session to discuss candidates
- Moved by Ms. Renaud and seconded by Mr. Bienko to exit executive session (14 minutes)
- Moved by Dr. Cusmano and seconded by Ms. Prudenti to open nominations
- Dr. Gaddy nominates Abby Christmann to the open Board seat, Mr. Cramer seconds.
- With no other nominations, the Board approves the appointment of of Ms. Christmann; 8-0 in a roll call vote.
- Ms. Christmann was sworn in as a Board Member.

VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Discussion of resolution to State legislature
- Discussion of NJSBA resolutions and authority for LS to vote on behalf of the Board

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Operations (M. Renaud)
 - Committee discussed ways to adapt to funding cuts
- B. Human Resources (M. Renaud, Chair)
 - Submitted SBA contract to county
 - Administrative and Buildings & Grounds contracts
- C. Education (C. Green, Chair)
 - Discussed uniform usage of Google classroom
 - Options for Fall 2020
 - New math series
 - Criteria for Gifted & Talented program
- D. Governance (V. Prudenti, Chair)
 - Discussed Rutherford Hall policy
- E. Town Council Liaison (S. Bienko & M. Renaud)
 - Attended meeting, discussed funding cuts
- F. Rutherford Hall Liaison (L. Strutin and M. Renaud)
 - Rejected all bathroom bids

Allamuchy Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2020

G. Hackettstown Board of Education Representative (H. Gaddy)

- Discussed funding cuts
- Discussed graduation

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. HIB - Monthly Update (if applicable, resolution to follow executive session)

Current Month: May

0 Investigations; 0 HIB

0 Out-of-School Suspensions; 0 In-School Suspensions

Previous Month: April

0 Investigations; 0 HIB

0 Out-of-School Suspensions; 0 In-School Suspensions

B. Enrollment by Grade

	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
K	25	26	26	26	26	27	27	27	27	27
1	49	50	50	49	49	50	50	50	50	50
2	57	57	57	57	57	56	57	57	57	57
3	47	48	48	49	49	50	50	50	50	50
4	54	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55
5	37	35	34	35	35	37	37	37	37	37
6	45	46	45	45	45	44	44	44	44	44
7	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57
8	44	45	44	44	45	45	45	45	45	45
PSD	9	9	9	10	10	9	9	9	9	9
Total	424	428	425	427	428	430	431	431	431	431
9	40	41	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
10	39	42	40	40	39	39	39	39	39	39
11	31	30	31	31	31	30	30	30	30	30
12	30	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
Total	140	144	144	144	143	142	142	142	142	142
GT	564	572	569	571	571	572	573	573	573	573

C. Other Items:

- Discussed updated information around 8th grade graduation and other year-end recognitions
- Update regarding pay-to-play and field trip refunds

Allamuchy Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2020

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Public comment shall be governed by the Board of Education Bylaw 0167. There are two public comment opportunities. The first public comment is reserved for Action Items only, those items on the agenda the Board is voting on this evening. The second public comment is set aside for public comment on any school or school district issue that the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the school district. The first public comment is limited to five (5) minutes per person. The second public comment length is determined by the board as per policy.

Before making a public comment, participants are to state their name, place of residence, and group affiliation if appropriate.

The Board uses the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to citizen concerns, but please be aware that not all issues brought to a board meeting will be resolved this evening; rather, the Board will, in appropriate cases, delegate the authority to investigate the matter to the Superintendent or his designee.

Please let the record reflect that the Board of Education does not endorse your comments nor will the Board of Education be held liable for comments you make about a staff member or other person which the staff member or other person may consider defamatory and/or libelous, as that individual retains all rights to pursue any legal remedies against you.

- Mr. Gavin, resident, mentioned his understanding that executive session was not required to discuss the candidates, and that the candidates could be offered to have the discussion held in open session.
- Mr. Gavin also mentioned that the attachments were not on the website prior to the meeting.
- Mr. Gavin also raised a question about the disparity in rates of pay between the substitute teachers and the clinical interns.
- Ms. Ozcan, resident, asked Ms. Strutin about the NJ Delegates Meeting on June 27.
- Ms. Ozcan also requested more information around the grants listed on the agenda
 - Jim Schlessinger, SBA, explained each of the grants

XI. BOARD COMMITTEE ACTION REPORTS

A. Operations:

Moved by Ms. Renaud and seconded by Mr. Cramer, on the recommendation of the Superintendent and School Business Administrator, to approve the following resolution(s):

1. Budget Adjustments (Appendix 2)

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the following budget adjustment(s) for April, 2020:

Expense Budget Transfers	Fund 10	\$ 67,583.65
Expense Budget Transfers	Fund 20	\$ 12,921.90

Allamuchy Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2020

2. Bills List (Appendix 3)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the general account bills list check #31275 through #31327 for a total amount of \$832,407.47 be approved for payment.

3. Student Activity (Appendix 4)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Student Activity Account in the amount of \$69,753.50 at Investors Bank as of 4/30/2020.

4. Monthly Certification of Budget (Appendix 5)

- a. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Allamuchy Board of Education accepts the Board Secretary's monthly certification, as attached, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c) 3 that as of 4/30/2020 no line item account has encumbrances and Expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 (a).
- b. BE IT RESOLVED, that Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12 (c) 4, the Allamuchy Township School District Board of Education, after review of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's monthly financial reports certify that as of 4/30/2020 and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- c. BE IT RESOLVED, that the motion to accept the financial reports from the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies for the month ending April 30, 2020 with a total Governmental Funds Account cash balance of \$652,206.43.

5. Kindergarten Countdown

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Kindergarten Countdown Camp from 8/17/20 - 8/20/20 at the Mountain Villa School, pending campus access due to the COVID health crisis.

6. Property and Facilities Usage

BE IT RESOLVED, to authorize administration to allow the resumption of certain activities on District property (including, but not limited to, summer camps, athletics, and events at Rutherford Hall), so long as all events are conducted within the guidelines set forth by the State and Local governmental agencies in force at the time the sessions are held.

7. Rutherford Hall Bathroom Bids

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Allamuchy Board of Education rejects all bids received for the Rutherford Hall Bathroom Project on May 12, 2020 and authorizes the architects to begin negotiations with contractors.

8. Business Administrator / Board Secretary Contract

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the School Business Administrator / Board Secretary Contract for the period of 7/1/20 to 6/30/21 and to include the Business Administrator Interlocal Service Agreement. (Appendix 6).

Allamuchy Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2020

9. Principal Contract (ATS)
BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the ATS Principal Contract for the period of 7/1/20 to 6/30/21. (Appendix 7)
10. Principal Contract (MVS)
BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the MVS Principal Contract for the period of 7/1/20 to 6/30/21. (Appendix 8)
11. Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Contract
BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Contract for the period of 7/1/20 to 6/30/21. (Appendix 9)
12. Shared Services Agreement for School Psychologist
BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the shared service contract with Knowlton Township Board of Education to share a School Psychologist. The agreement calls for a 50% split or a 0.5 FTE at a net cost of \$40,688 to the District from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
13. IDEA Grant
BE IT RESOLVED, to apply for the FY2021 IDEA Grant and accept the grant award funds, upon approval of the FY2021 IDEA application:
 - Basic \$ 94,762
 - Preschool \$ 5,486
14. FEMA Grant
BE IT RESOLVED, to approve to apply for the FEMA Public Assistance Grant-COVID-19 Pandemic DR-4488.
15. Alyssa's Law School Security Grant
BE IT RESOLVED, to approve to apply for the Alyssa's Law school security grant authorized by the Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act, P.L. 2018, c.119 in the amount of \$23,012 towards panic alarms for school buildings.
16. Cares Act Grant (ESSER)
BE IT RESOLVED, to approve to apply for the CARES Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund in the amount of \$23,922 to support areas impacted by the disruption and closure of schools from COVID-19.
17. REAP/SRSA Grant
BE IT RESOLVED, to approve to apply for Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) funding through the Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) in the amount of \$36,093 to support our school-wide technology upgrade for needed classroom and remote learning needs.

Allamuchy Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2020

18. Transportation Aid (Aid In Lieu)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve to pay non-public or choice parents/guardians who are eligible for Transportation Aid (Aid In Lieu) to receive the prorated amount (\$1,000 divided by 180 days= \$5.55 per day) for the number of school days prior to the start of remote learning effective on or about March 16, 2020.

19. Pandemic Plan (Appendix 11)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the District's Pandemic Plan as revised May 2020.

20. Rutherford Stuyvesant Grant

BE IT RESOLVED, to accept a grant from the Rutherford Stuyvesant Foundation in the amount of \$19,700. for the purpose of supplementing student access to District technology.

CARRIED: Items 1-18 and 20 carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Christmann abstained) in a roll call vote.

Item 19 carried 6-0-3 (Ms. Christmann, Ms. Renaud and Ms. Strutin abstained)

B. Human Resources

Dr. Cusmano made a motion to table item #1 due to the inaccuracy of the statement 'compensation as per negotiated agreement'. Mr. Cramer seconded the motion. The motion failed 4-5 (nays: Mr. Bienko, Ms. Christmann, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Green, Ms. Prudenti)

Ms. Renaud made a motion to keep item 1 but strike the sentence 'compensation as per negotiated agreement', with the intent to discuss compensation in a future meeting. Ms. Prudenti seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 (Dr. Cusmano abstained).

Moved by Ms. Renaud and seconded by Ms. Prudenti, on the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following resolution(s), with language in item 1 stricken as noted:

1. Reappointments for the 2020-2021 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the following appointments for the 2020-2021 school year:

~~Compensation as per negotiated agreement(s):~~

GROUP M: SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAL /MAINTENANCE

Ray Larsen	Owen Patterson	Gareth Patterson
Brendan Poff	Sarah Lamonaco	Lynn Quinto
Thomas Tagliareni	Jodi Eberhart	

GROUP N: SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Karyann Andrioli	Debra Capalbo	Joseph Cotignola
Jessica Ervey	Joyce Fisher	Beth Gavin
Guy Gorman	Rachael Holz	Renate LeDuc
Alison Manley	Taylor McLaughlin	Lauren Mela

Allamuchy Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2020

Jacklyn Mickelburgh	David Mitchell	Theresa Ostrom
Samantha Steinman	Jeryl Turner	Rebecca Vetro
<u>GROUP O: SUBSTITUTE NURSES</u>		
Jane Hingos	Danielle Pulver	

2. Summer Custodians

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the employment of the following as summer custodians:

- Sarah Lamonaco, 20 hours per week
- Brandon Poff, 12 hours per week
- Lynn Quinto, 12 hours per week

3. Summer ESY and Intervention Staffing

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the following appointments for the 2020 summer session.

Compensation as per negotiated agreement(s):

- Social Worker - Marilou Tshudy - up to 15 days
- Psychologist - Gretchen Stefankiewicz - up to 10 days
- LDTC - contract out - up to 10 days
- OT - Karen Ryman - up to 16 hr. per week
- PT - Nadine Klint - up to 16 hr. per week
- Speech - Lauren Boden - up to 20 hr. per week
- Resource/Intervention - Robin Samiljan - 8:30 - 12:30 (4 Weeks)
- Resource/Intervention - Vicki Patterson - 8:30 - 12:30 (4 Weeks)
- PSD - Sarah Mikaliunas - 8:30 - 12:30 (5 Weeks)
- MD - Andrea Aussems - 8:30 - 12:30 (5 Weeks)

4. Custodial Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED, to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Raymond Mauceri, effective Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

CARRIED: 9-0 in a roll call vote.

C. Education

Moved by Mr. Green and seconded by Mr. Cramer, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following resolution(s):

1. Textbook Series

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Big Ideas Math Series for grades K-5 for the 2020-21 school year.

CARRIED: 9-0 in a roll call vote.

Allamuchy Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2020

D. Governance

Moved by Ms. Prudenti and seconded by Mr. Cramer, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following resolution(s):

1. Policy Updates (Appendix 10)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the first reading of the following policies that have been reviewed, revised and recommended by the Governance Committee:

7510.01	Rutherford Hall
---------	-----------------

2. Revised State Aid Amounts, May 2020

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy's administration released the proposed State aid figures for school districts for the 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Allamuchy Public School District ("District") was projected to receive an increase in its State aid of approximately \$74,124 for the 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, despite the proposed increase, the District is underfunded according to the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 by approximately 25%; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 104, ordering all schools to be closed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which school closure was extended through the end of the 2019-2020 school year; and

WHEREAS, despite the school closure order, the District has continued to provide virtual instruction to all of its students, as well as lunches and other school services to students who need them; and

WHEREAS, the District has incurred additional, unanticipated costs related to the provision of virtual instruction, daily operation of the district; and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2020, Governor Murphy signed P.L. 2020, c. 27, which generally requires all school districts to continue to pay all employees, as approved by the Board of Education, to include but not limited to additional district assignments, all private contracted services providers during the pandemic regardless as to whether those contractors are actually providing services; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2020, c. 27, was an unfunded mandate that did not allocate any additional money to school districts; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2020, Governor Murphy signed P.L. 2020, c. 34, authorizing local municipalities to delay tax payments to school districts with certain conditions, which delays would result in dire fiscal consequences for school districts; and

Allamuchy Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2020

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2020, the State Treasurer announced that Governor Murphy is removing all of the additional State school aid to school districts that was included in the February 2020 Proposed Budget and also delaying the September State aid payments until October 2020; and

WHEREAS, the District now expects to lose \$50,568 of the additional \$74,124 in State aid that was originally allocated for the 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, initial directives from the State regarding the potential opening of schools in the Fall of 2020 indicates that schools will have to plan for social distancing, personal protective equipment for students and staff, and additional cleaning measures on a daily basis, all of which will cost additional funds not currently budgeted by the District; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Education has issued guidance indicating that schools will likely be responsible for providing additional “compensatory” education services above and beyond the normal school day to many students with special needs, which services will have to be paid for primarily by the local school districts; and

WHEREAS, reductions in State aid always result in negative impacts for students, either through the elimination of staff or programs that are designed to provide students with a quality education; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of State aid for the upcoming school year is particularly damaging given the number of unfunded State mandates and the reality of transitioning students back to in-person learning after months of virtual instruction during a pandemic;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Allamuchy Board of Education implores Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Legislature to find a different source of funds in order to balance its budget rather than, once again, placing the burden squarely on public schools.

CARRIED: Item 1 carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Christmann abstained) in a roll call vote.

Item 2 carried 8-1-0 (nay: Dr. Cusmano)

XII. OLD BUSINESS

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Ms. Moyer, resident, disapproves of the effort made by the school for the 8th grade
- Ms. Moyer also requested disclosure of the salaries of the principals.
- Ms. Ozcan, resident, requested disclosure of the salaries of the SBA and B&G supervisor.
- Ms. McGovern, resident, asked why Allamuchy did not include the parents in the graduation decision.
- Ms. Ozcan asked for more depth into the decision making process for graduation.

Allamuchy Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2020

XIV. BOARD DISCUSSION

None.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Enter Executive Session at 9:53 pm:

Moved by Dr. Gaddy and seconded by Mr.Green,

BE IT RESOLVED, WHEREAS, the Board of Education must discuss subjects concerning legal, personnel, and negation issues

- AEA contract negotiation
- Superintendent's Evaluation
- Open Board seat (as per 1st executive session)

and WHEREAS, the aforesaid subjects are not appropriate subjects to be discussed in public meeting; and WHEREAS, the aforesaid subjects to be discussed are within the exemptions pursuant to P.L.1975 Chapter 231, it is; therefore, RESOLVED, that the aforesaid subjects shall be discussed in private session by this board and administrative staff and information pertaining thereto will be made available to the public as soon thereafter as possible and once the reasons for nondisclosure no longer exists.

CARRIED: 9-0 in a roll call vote

Executive Session

Exit Executive Session at 11:44 pm:

Moved by Ms. Renaud and seconded by Dr. Gaddy,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education has been in executive session for the past 120 minutes. The matters that were discussed will be disclosed to the public as soon as possible once the reasons for nondisclosure no longer exist.

CARRIED: 6-0 in a voice vote (Mr. Cramer and Mr. Bienko exited the meeting at 11:30, Mr. Green exited at 11:40)

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Dr. Gaddy and seconded by Ms. Prudenti, to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 p.m.

CARRIED: 6-0 in a voice vote.