

Allamuchy Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2021

The regular meeting of the Allamuchy Township Board of Education held on March 15, 2021 is called to order at 7:32 p.m. *via teleconference* by Ms. 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 February 1, 2021 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	
Abigail Christmann	X	
Giovanni Cusmano	X	
Harriett Gaddy	X	
Craig Green	X	
Lisa Moyer	X	
Venita Prudenti	7:35	
Mary Renaud	X	
Lisa Strutin, President	X	

ALSO PRESENT: Melissa Sabol, Acting Superintendent
James Schlessinger, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Green and seconded by Mr. Bienko:

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular board meeting held on February 8, 2021, be approved. (Appendix 1A)
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the executive session held on February 8, 2021, be approved. (Appendix 1B)
- C. BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular sessions related to the Superintendent Search held on February 20, 22, 23 and 24, and March 1, 2 and 4, 2021, be approved. (Appendix 1C)
- D. BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the executive sessions related to the Superintendent Search held on February 20, 22, 23 and 24, and March 1, 2 and 4, 2021, be approved. (Appendix 1D)

CARRIED: 7 aye, 1 abstention (Dr. Cusmano)

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IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- None.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GRADE	NAME	AWARD
K	Marielle Kantorowicz	Caring
1	Nathaniel Mak	Responsibility and Kindness
2	Delilah Stefan	Respect
3	Fiton Dauti	Fairness
4	Logan Clerico	Respect
5	Josephine Hardy	Respect
6	Leigha Meyer	Respect
7	Owen Houle	Respect and Responsibility
8	Parker Gang	Responsibility
Staff Member of the Month: Nohemly Oliver		

VI. PRESENTATIONS

- Sarah Brelvi & Charles Finneran, Rutherford Hall Foundation Trustees
- Presentation: Tim Vrabel, T.M. Vrabel & Associates - 2019-20 Audit

VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Congratulated students and staff being acknowledged this month
- Read statement explaining Superintendent search restart due to the discovery of a conflicted Board Member
- Mentioned that she is using the Panther to publicize gongs-on at the District

Ms. Strutin asked for a motion, made by Ms. Renaud and seconded by Ms. Christman, to close the current Superintendent search effective immediately and reopen a new search, effective March 16, 2021. The motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

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VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Operations (M. Renaud)
 - Highlighted items from the agenda

- B. Human Resources (L. Moyer, Chair)
 - Highlighted items from the agenda
 - Discussed need for an additional custodian for primarily outdoor duties
 - Discussed status of the search for a new Auditor,

- C. Education (C. Green, Chair)
 - Highlighted items from the agenda
 - Investigating new reading series
 - Continued discussion on mentor/ambassador program with HS
 - Discussed reevaluation of gifted and talented criteria
 - Evaluating coding.org and outdoor classroom usage

- D. Governance (G. Cusmano, Chair)
 - Highlighted items from the agenda

- E. Town Council Liaison (M. Renaud, A.Christmann)
 - No report

- F. Rutherford Hall Liaison (M. Renaud and A.Christmann)
 - No report
 - Expressed appreciation for the presentation made by Ms. Brelvi and Mr. Finneran

- G. Hackettstown Board of Education Representative (L. Moyer)
 - HS rolled out 1:1 chromebooks with a \$20 insurance fee
 - Approved 2021-22 District calendar - year starts and ends earlier
 - K-8 is currently experiencing over 75% electing in-person instruction, HS much lower. May consider schedule adjustments to accommodate interests to get students back in.
 - Hired consultant to evaluate learning loss
 - Evaluating additional possible world language offerings

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

Current Month: March

1 Investigation(s); 1 HIB

0 Out-of-School Suspension(s); 0 In-School Suspension(s)

Previous Month: February

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0 Investigation(s); 0 HIB

0 Out-of-School Suspension(s); 0 In-School Suspension(s)

B. Enrollment by Grade

	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
K	44	43	43	42	42	42	43			
1	29	28	28	29	29	29	29			
2	46	46	45	45	45	45	45			
3	57	57	56	56	56	56	56			
4	48	48	49	49	48	48	49			
5	53	52	50	50	49	50	50			
6	34	34	33	31	30	30	30			
7	44	43	42	43	43	43	43			
8	53	53	52	52	53	53	52			
PSD	5	5	5	5	6	7	8			
Total	413	409	403	402	401	403	405			
9	37	39	38	38	38	38	38			
10	44	43	44	44	44	44	43			
11	41	43	41	41	41	41	41			
12	32	32	32	32	32	32	32			
Total	154	157	155	155	155	155	154			
GT	567	566	558	557	556	558	559			

C. Other Items:

- Moving through reopening phases; 3-5th grade combined cohorts today
- Vaccine update for staff; acknowledged Mr. Green's assistance in facilitating
- Introduced the new podcasts available on the website
- Discussion of the current lunch program
- Reemphasizing the Allamuchy Learner
- Safety and security update (cameras almost fully implemented)
- Website and communication improvements
- Fully using RealTime for alerts to families
- Update on Rutherford Hall

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.

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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.

- None

XI. BOARD COMMITTEE ACTION REPORTS

A. Operations

Moved by Ms. Renaud and seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the following resolution(s):

1. Budget Adjustments (Appendix 2)

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the following budget adjustment(s) for January & February, 2021:

Expense Budget Transfers - January	Fund 10	\$ 610,719.59
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2. Bills List (Appendix 3)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the general account bills list check #32036 through #32199 for a total amount of \$1,026,891.69 be approved for payment.

3. Student Activity (Appendix 4)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Student Activity Account balance in the amount of \$49,474.44 and \$49,924.48 as of 1/31/2021 and 2/28/2021, respectively.

4. Monthly Certification of Budget (Appendix 5A and 5B)

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 1/31/2021 and 2/28/2021 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 1/31/2021 and 2/28/2021 and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our

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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 January 31, 2021 and February 28 with a total Governmental Funds Account cash balance of \$979,351.04 and \$1,198,612.03, respectively.

5. Preliminary 2021-2022 School Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, to introduce the preliminary 2021-2022 School Budget and authorize the School Business Administrator to submit the preliminary budget to the Warren County Office of Education for compliance and approval for advertisement as follows. It is understood that the budget can be advertised prior to approval of the county office due to time constraints:

Budget Amounts:	
General Fund (11)	10,904,517
Capital Expenditures (12)	126,416
Special Revenue Fund (20)	192,500
Debt Service (40)	771,200
Taxation Amounts (School Fiscal Year)	
General Fund	9,523,406
Debt Service	708,106
Total Tax Levy	10,231,512

6. Rutherford Hall Bathroom Project (Appendix 6)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Allamuchy Board of Education award the bid to Goksu Construction, LLC, to construct bathrooms at Rutherford Hall pursuant to written approval from the Attorney, accepting "Terms of Contract."

CARRIED: 9-0 in a roll call vote

B. Human Resources

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

1. Personnel

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve/accept the following appointments / resignations / retirements as recommended by the Superintendent:

Item	Name	Action	Position	Salary	Eff. Date
a	C.Rodriguez N.Serraino	Appoint stipend	Track & Field Coaches	\$2,230 each	3/16/2021
b	Andrew Brown	Appoint	Substitute custodian	\$13/hour	2/26/2021

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CARRIED: 9-0 in a roll call vote

C. Education

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

1. Attendance at Professional Conferences

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the following requests for attendance professional conferences with mileage reimbursed at the current rate:

Staff Member	Date	Workshop Name	Costs		
			Fee	Mileage	Total
Ricci,M	3/16/2021	What's New in Young Adult Literature and How to Use It	\$ 279	\$ -	\$ 279
Patterson,V	3/16/2021	What's New in Young Adult Literature and How to Use It	\$ 279	\$ -	\$ 279
Profito,J	4/ 13-14 /2021	Penn State Youth Mental Health First Aid Training	\$ 35	\$ -	\$ 35
Schmidt,M	4/ 13-14 /2021	Penn State Youth Mental Health First Aid Training	\$ 35	\$ -	\$ 35
DeCostanza,J	4/ 13-14 /2021	Penn State Youth Mental Health First Aid Training	\$ 35	\$ -	\$ 35
DeCostanza,J	4/20/2021	Youth and the Pandemic: Mental health and Development Effects	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ 25

2. Resident Non-Student Participation in Extracurricular Activities

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve resident non-student participations:

- #1202 to join spring track for the 2020-21 season
- #0606 to join Grades 5/6 Battle of the Books

3. Archery Program

BE IT RESOLVED, to incorporate the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife Archery program into our physical education classes, after-school activities, camps, and other related activities, curricula, or events.

CARRIED: 9-0 in a roll call vote

D. Governance

Moved by Dr. Cusmano and seconded by Ms. Renaud, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following resolution(s):

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1. Policy Updates: (Appendix 7)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the second reading of the following policies at the recommendation of the Governance Committee:

0000.02	Bylaws - Introduction
0141.2	Board Member & Term - Receiving District
0152	Board Officers
0155	Board Committees
1648.02	Remote Learning Options for Families
0168	Recording Board Meetings
2415.06	Unsafe School Choice Option
4219	Commercial Driver's License Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use Testing
5517	School District Issued Student Identification Cards
5561	Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities
7243	Supervision of Construction
8210	School Year
8462	Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children

2. Policy Updates: (Appendix 8)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the first reading of the following policies at the recommendation of the Governance Committee:

2430	Co-Curricular Activities
2431	Athletic Competition
7510	Use of School Facilities
0145	Board Member Resignation and Renewal
0164.6	Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency
1643	Family Leave
2415	Every Student Succeeds Act
2415.02	Title I - Fiscal Responsibilities
2415.05	Student Surveys, Analysis, And/Or Evaluations
2415.2	Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints
4125	Employment Of Support Staff Members
5330.01	Administration Of Medical Cannabis
6360	Political Contributions
7425	Lead Testing of Water in Schools
8330	Student Records
9713	Recruitment By Special Interest Groups

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3. Regulation Update (Appendix 9)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the first reading of the following regulations at the recommendation of the Governance Committee:

1642	Earned Sick Leave Law
1643	Family Leave
2415.2	Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints
5330.01	Administration Of Medical Cannabis
7425	Lead Testing of Water in Schools

CARRIED: 9-0 in a roll call vote

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- None

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Dr. Strutin, resident, gave kudos to the Board and its committees for the time spent; mentioned ‘distractions’ created by members of the public.
- Ms. Ozcan, resident, parent, asked:
 - if there will be a 2-week virtual instruction period following Spring Break. [Dr. Sabol responded that it was not being considered at this time, but was not completely off the table yet]
 - if cancelling Spring Break and ending the school year earlier was an option [Dr. Sabol responded that it was not]
 - for information regarding the recent announcement of additional CARES Act funding [Dr. Sabol and Mr. Schlessinger explained that the formalities of the award were still pending, but it appears that there will be limits to its use; ideas are being discussed, but no decisions have been made yet]
 - asked if PARCC/NJSLA will be administered this year [Dr. Sabol responded that this is still to be determined at the State level]
- Ms. Muhlenbruch, teacher, asked what the conflict was that resulted in the restart of the Superintendent search. [Ms. Strutin was limited in what could be disclosed, but explained that it was discovered that a Member was conflicted with respect to the candidate pool]

XIV. BOARD DISCUSSION

- Mr. Green asked if we need to have counsel at every meeting; Mr. Bienko agreed. Ms. Renaud mentioned that it’s been necessary for various recent circumstances and issues. Discussion continued with other Board members expressing mixed opinions on the subject.

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XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Enter Executive Session at 9:02 pm:

Moved by Mr. Green and seconded by Mr. Bienko,

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

- HIB Case
- Attorney-client advice related to pending litigation

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 9:33 pm:

Moved by Ms. Christmann and seconded by Mr. Green,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education has been in executive session for the past 31 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: 9-0 in a voice vote

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Green and seconded by Mr. Bienko, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

CARRIED: 8-0 in a roll call vote (Ms. Renaud left the meeting after the executive session)