

Allamuchy Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2021

The regular meeting of the Allamuchy Township Board of Education held on April 26, 2021 is called to order at 7:30 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. Please be advised that this meeting is being recorded; the recording will be made available on the District website as soon as possible, but no later than one week after the meeting has concluded.

I. ROLL CALL

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Stephen Bienko	X	
Abigail Christmann	X	
Giovanni Cusmano	7:42	
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. Bienko and seconded by Ms. Renaud;

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular board meeting held on March 15, 2021, be approved. (Appendix 1A)
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the executive session held on March 15, 2021, be approved. (Appendix 1B)
- C. BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular sessions related to the Superintendent Search held on April 1, 17, and 21, 2021 be approved. (Appendix 1C)
- D. BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the executive sessions related to the Superintendent Search held on April 1, 17, and 21, 2021, be approved. (Appendix 1D)

CARRIED: 7-0 in a roll call vote

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IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- Report given by Liam Furman and Sam Cetani

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GRADE	NAME	AWARD
K	Landyn Castillo	Fairness
1	Angeli Williamson	Caring
2	Conor Jerauld	Responsibility
3	Adeline Yankoski	Respect
4	Evan Humphries	Respect and Citizenship
5	Gabriella Dinkelspiel	Responsibility
6	Joshua Moyer	Respect and Responsibility
7	Natalie D'Alessio	Respect and Responsibility
8	Emma Ricci	Respect and Responsibility
Staff Member of the Month: Mr. Serraino and Mrs. Rodriguez		

VI. PRESENTATIONS

- 2021-22 School Budget Hearing
 - Moved by Ms. Renaud and seconded by Ms. Christmann to open the public hearing; motion carried in a unanimous voice vote.
 - The proposed school budget for the 2021-22 school year was presented by Mr. Schlessinger
 - Questions/Comments:
 - Ms. Renaud, Board Member, asked about who is eligible and/or mandated to take part in the NJ Educators' Health Plan
 - Mr. Gavin, resident, asked about the increase in administrative costs per pupil (Mr. Schlessinger explained that the increase was driven by the move from a shared superintendent charged as a professional service as opposed to our prospective new hire that will be a salary).
 - Mr. Gavin, resident, asked if retroactive teacher salaries pending contract settlement have been included in the budget (answer: yes).
 - Moved by Mr. Bienko and seconded by Mr. Green to close the public hearing; motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Thanked students and staff acknowledged earlier and the operations committee for the work on the budget.
- Gave thanks to Ms. Schmiedeke for her service to the district.

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- Congrats to Ms. Renaud for being appointed to the Township's Vision Committee.
- Thanked Clare Arcaro for helping with the Rutherford Hall Community Garden.
- Superintendent evaluation near completion.
- Self evaluation should be done by each board member as well.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Operations (M. Renaud)

- Thanks to budget team
- Rutherford Hall bathroom work is starting

B. Human Resources (L. Moyer, Chair)

- Acknowledged Ms. Schmiedeke's retirement
- Part time custodian position is still open

C. Education (C. Green, Chair)

- Highlighted agenda item
- Discussion of possible Drama Club performance of last year's cancelled play
- Last day of school is now June 15, 2021
- Survey to gather information on new Reading series
- HS mentoring program update
- Gifted and Talented writing prompt has been given out
- New health and physical education curriculum
- Archery program update
- Survey to be sent to staff regarding potential changes needed to best educate our students

D. Governance (G. Cusmano, Chair)

- Agenda item highlights

E. Town Council Liaison (M. Renaud, A.Christmann)

- Town investigating feasibility of marijuana growth/sale/usage in town

F. Rutherford Hall Liaison (M. Renaud and A.Christmann)

- no report

G. Hackettstown Board of Education Representative (L. Moyer)

- HS graduation will be June 18, 2021 (rain date June 17)
- Senior Awards night June 14
- Junior and Senior class events set
- Looking into building a student center
- Radon remediation in HS

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IX. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

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

Current Month: April

0 Investigation(s); 0 HIB

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

Previous Month: March

1 Investigation(s); 1 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	43		
1	29	28	28	29	29	29	29	28		
2	46	46	45	45	45	45	45	45		
3	57	57	56	56	56	56	56	57		
4	48	48	49	49	48	48	49	47		
5	53	52	50	50	49	50	50	50		
6	34	34	33	31	30	30	30	30		
7	44	43	42	43	43	43	43	44		
8	53	53	52	52	53	53	52	51		
PSD	5	5	5	5	6	7	8	7		
Total	413	409	403	402	401	403	405	402		
9	37	39	38	38	38	38	38	38		
10	44	43	44	44	44	44	43	44		
11	41	43	41	41	41	41	41	41		
12	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32		
Total	154	157	155	155	155	155	154	155		
GT	567	566	558	557	556	558	559	557		

C. Other Items:

- P.Schmiedeke retirement - many thanks and congratulations
- Thanked Clare Arcaro and Abby Christmann for work at Rutherford Hall and donation of time and materials
- Thanked PTO for archery grant
- Congratulated Ms. Strutin for becoming a certified board member
- Rutherford Hall bathroom work beginning
- Standardized testing - NJSLA will not happen this spring, but districts will be responsible for standardized assessments to be given in the fall of 2021; DOM tests will proceed.
- Healthy U event on May 22; latest guidance will allow up to 500 participants
- Clothing Drive

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- Boating program is resuming
- J. Decostanza has been elected Vice President of the Warren County nurses association.

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.

- None

XI. BOARD COMMITTEE ACTION REPORTS

A. Operations

Moved by Ms. Renaud and seconded by Ms. Christmann, 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 - March	Fund 10	\$ 30,148.59
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2. Bills List (Appendix 3)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the general account bills list check #32200 through #32280, to include electronically-transferred funds ("N-checks") and voids of previously approved items, for a total amount of \$975,789.18 be approved for payment.

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3. Student Activity (Appendix 4)
BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Student Activity Account balance in the amount of \$53,354.50 as of 3/31/2021.

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 3/31/2021 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 3/31/2021 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 March 31, 2021 with a total Governmental Funds Account cash balance of \$1,433,786.59.

5. 2021-2022 School Budget (Appendix 6 & 6A)
BE IT RESOLVED, on the recommendation of the Operations Committee and the Chief School Administrator, that the 2021-2022 school district budget be approved as follows:

Budget Amounts:	
General Fund (11)	10,904,516
Capital Expenditures (12)	126,416
Special Revenue Fund (20)	192,500
Debt Service (40)	771,200
Total Budget Appropriations	11,994,632
Taxation Amounts (School Fiscal Year)	
General Fund	9,523,406
Debt Service	708,106
Total Tax Levy	10,231,512
Other Revenue Sources	
State Aid (General, Ex-Aid, Debt Service)	903,217
Federal, State and Local Grants (Fund 20)	192,500
All Other Sources	667,403
Total Other Sources	1,763,120
Total Budget Funding	11,994,632

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6. Tax Payment Schedule / Debt Service

BE IT RESOLVED, that the amount of District taxes needed to meet all interest and debt redemption charges for the 2021-2022 school year is:

2021 - 2022 TAX LEVY REQUEST

	Gen'l Fund Tax Levy	Debt Service Levy	Total Levy
July, 2021	793,617.00		793,617.00
August, 2021	793,617.00		793,617.00
September, 2021	793,619.00	145,600.00	939,219.00
October, 2021	793,617.00		793,617.00
November, 2021	793,617.00		793,617.00
December, 2021	793,617.00		793,617.00
January, 2022	793,617.00		793,617.00
February, 2022	793,617.00		793,617.00
March, 2022	793,617.00	562,506.00	1,356,123.00
April, 2022	793,617.00		793,617.00
May, 2022	793,617.00		793,617.00
June, 2022	793,617.00		793,617.00
	9,523,406.00	708,106.00	10,231,512.00

7. Tuition

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the following tuition rates for the 2021-22 school year. These rates apply to students received into the Allamuchy Township School District. Rates for currently-enrolled students have been held at 2020-21 levels in deference to the Pandemic. The District reserves the right to reevaluate and adjust rates in future years.

<u>Program</u>	<u>Enrolled On/After July 1, 2019</u>	<u>Enrolled Prior to July 1, 2019</u>
MD Program	22,500	22,500
Preschool disabilities	14,750	14,750
Full day Kindergarten	8,260	7,000
Elementary and Middle School	8,260	7,000
Staff dependents	8,260	1,100

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to approve the following Staff Dependents as tuition students in the 2021-22 school year:

<u>Student #</u>	<u>Tuition Amount</u>
1852	\$ 1,100.00
1591	\$ 1,100.00
1909	\$ 1,100.00

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8. Renewal of Clinical Intern Contract (Appendix 7)
BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Clinical Teacher Residency contract with Centenary University for the 2021-22 school year.
9. Before-School Fitness Program (Appendix 8)
BE IT RESOLVED, to establish a Before-School Fitness Program through Rutherford Hall for the 2021-22 school year. Job description and posting will be developed in collaboration with Rutherford Hall staff.
10. Rutherford Hall Security Cameras Planning Contract (Appendix 9)
BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the contract with Eclectic Architecture LLC to coordinate the Security Camera project and apply for state project authorization for Rutherford Hall at a cost of \$2,000.
11. Grants
BE IT RESOLVED, to submit applications by the District for the PSE&G grant in 3 categories: ATS Technology, MVS Technology, and Dock and Waterfront Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to submit applications for the following grants:
 - ANJEC Open Space
 - Warren County Cultural and Heritage Division FY2021 Art Grant
12. Auditor
BE IT RESOLVED, to appoint Nisivoccia LLC as the District's auditor for the 2021-22 school year at a cost of \$23,000.
13. Grants
BE IT RESOLVED, to approve submission of the Preservation New Jersey Historical Preservation Fund Grant with a \$122,000 grant request and a grant match of \$100,000, due April 29, 2021, giving the Superintendent authority to sign the application assurance form.

CARRIED: Items 1-10 and 12-13 carried in a unanimous roll call vote
Item 11 carried 8-0-1 (Ms. Christmann abstained) in a roll call vote

B. Human Resources

Moved by Ms. Moyer and seconded by Mr. Bienko, 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	J.Gallegly	Approve	As needed for specific projects as assigned by and at the discretion of	Per diem based on current salary	4/26/2021

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			the superintendent, not to exceed 5 days (between Apr. 26 and June 18)		
b	Tricia DeGeorge	Appoint	Intern (via Centenary)	Centenary MOA	9/1/2021
c	Collin McCabe	Appoint	Substitute custodian	\$13.00/hour	4/26/2021

2. Reappointments for the 2021-2022 School Year (Appendix 10)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the appointments for the 2021-22 school year as per Appendix 10. Compensation as per negotiated agreements.

3. Retirement (Appendix 11)

BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the retirement of Paige Schmiedeke, effective July 1, 2021.

CARRIED: 9-0 in a unanimous 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
H. Guido	4/29/2021	BER: Dyslexia	\$ 269	\$ -	\$ 269

2. PTO Grant for Archery

BE IT RESOLVED, to formally thank the PTO for their generous \$2,200 contribution in support of the establishment of the Archery Program.

3. Child Assault Prevention Program (Appendix 12)

BE IT RESOLVED, to incorporate the Child Assault Prevention Program for the 2021-22 school year.

4. District Calendar - 2021-2022 School Year (Appendix 13)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the District calendar for the 2021-22 school year.

CARRIED: 9-0 in a unanimous roll call vote.

D. Governance

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

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1. Policy Updates (Appendix 14)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the second 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

2. Regulation Update (Appendix 15)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the second 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

3. Policy and Regulation Update (Appendix 16)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the first reading of the following policies (P) and regulations (R) at the recommendation of the Governance Committee:

P.8561	Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs
P.3124	Employment Contracts
R.1240	Evaluation of Superintendent
R.5610	Suspension
R.7441	Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and on School Grounds
R.8220	School Closings
R.8462	Child Abuse and/or Neglect

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R.8600	Student Transportation
R.8630	Emergency School Bus Procedures
P.7461	District Sustainability Policy
R.7420.2	Chemical Hygiene

4. Allowable Use of Vehicle Under Policy 7650

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve bus driver 1004 to park the school vehicle at the Mine Hill Municipal Building on Baker Street, in Mine Hill, NJ, no more than two days per week between assigned morning and afternoon Paramus route. (majority of full board required)

5. Facilities Usage

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Superintendent will authorize the use of the District's indoor facility by the public pending the development of the procedures that comply with the guidelines established by the Allamuchy Township District Pandemic Committee, the CDC, and the local health office.

CARRIED: 9-0 in a roll call vote.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- None

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Mr. Gavin - expressed the importance of agreeing to a contract with the AEA
 - Ms. Strutin responded that COVID stalled negotiations for many months.
- Mr. Gavin - congratulated Ms. Schmiedeke on her retirement.

XIV. BOARD DISCUSSION

- Board retreat - looking to do it on a Saturday morning, possibly 6/5 or 6/12. Agree to tentatively set for June 5, 9:00am-12:00n

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Enter Executive Session at 8:56pm:

Moved by Ms. Renaud and seconded by Ms. Christmann,

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

- Proposed Superintendent contract
- Superintendent evaluation process
- March HIB case

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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:

Executive Session

Exit Executive Session at 9:35pm:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education has been in executive session for the past 39 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.

Action Item(s) from Executive Session Discussion:

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

1. HIB Finding

BE IT RESOLVED, to uphold the HIB finding as recommended by the Acting Superintendent.

CARRIED: 8-0-1 (Dr. Cusmano abstained) in a roll call vote.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms. Renaud and seconded by Ms. Prudenti, to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

CARRIED: 9-0 in a voice vote.