

Allamuchy Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2021

The regular meeting of the Allamuchy Township Board of Education held on February 8, 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	7:50	
Harriett Gaddy	X	
Craig Green	X	
Lisa Moyer	X	
Venita Prudenti	X	
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. Christmann:

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the board reorganization meeting held on January 4, 2021, be approved, as amended to clarify the action in part B regarding the code of ethics. (Appendix 1A)
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular board meeting held on January 4, 2021, be approved. (Appendix 1B)

CARRIED: 8-0 in a roll call vote.

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- None

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V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GRADE	NAME	AWARD
K	Victoria Rosselot	Kindness
1	Mia Clerico	Trustworthiness
2	Adesola Adeniranye	Citizenship
3	Reagan Hill	Respect
4	Damon Ramos	Respect and Responsibility
5	Allie Rucker	Responsibility
6	Jada Gordon	Respect
7	Nicole Del Valle	Respect and Responsibility
8	Jaiden Torres	Respect
Staff Member of the Month: Emily Delaney		

VI. PRESENTATIONS

- None

VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Congratulated the students and staff acknowledged in item V.
- Thanked all staff for their continued hard work throughout the Pandemic.
- Mentioned that January is Board of Education recognition month and thanked the Board members for their service.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Operations (M. Renaud)

- Budget process has begun
- Proposal to suspend pay to play fees for the 2020-21 school year
- Discussed the annual Fourth of July Fireworks event and the deposit currently due to the fireworks company

B. Human Resources (L. Moyer, Chair)

- Discussed items on the agenda, namely: stipend appointments, Supervisor of Student Support Services, assignment of technology duties, employee request for unpaid leave, and the establishment of the District's Green Team.

C. Education (C. Green, Chair)

- Acknowledged items put forth on the agenda
- Discussing status of spring sports

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- Investigating new reading series
- Discussing the establishment of a HS mentor/'buddy' program
- Looking into possibility of piloting classroom redesigns

D. Governance (G. Cusmano, Chair)

- Policy updates on the agenda

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

- Mayor had mentioned that numbers are still high and all should continue to exercise caution

F. Rutherford Hall Liaison (L. Strutin and M. Renaud)

- Entering phase 2 of the capital campaign; fundraising for air conditioning

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

- Contracted with Medlabs for COVID testing on Wednesdays from 1pm-3pm
- Discussion of 'bridge year' for current seniors and juniors
- New legislation regarding testing is leading to an increase in classified students
- Plan to return to full day school in September
- Planning for spring events (i.e. concert, play)

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

Current Month: February

0 Investigation(s); 0 HIB

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

Previous Month: January

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					
1	29	28	28	29	29					
2	46	46	45	45	45					
3	57	57	56	56	56					
4	48	48	49	49	48					
5	53	52	50	50	49					
6	34	34	33	31	30					
7	44	43	42	43	43					

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8	53	53	52	52	53					
PSD	5	5	5	5	6					
Total	413	409	403	402	401					
9	37	39	38	38	38					
10	44	43	44	44	44					
11	41	43	41	41	41					
12	32	32	32	32	32					
Total	154	157	155	155	155					
GT	567	566	558	557	556					

C. Other Items:

- No HIBs to discuss; enrollment is stable
- County has sent a letter to the State indicating that the NJSLA assessment would not be appropriate this year under the circumstances
- Also sent a letter requesting that educational staff be moved to a higher priority on the vaccination list
- Developing a survey to determine what the community would like Rutherford Hall to be
- Pandemic team has been meeting regularly and following the data - we are still 'orange' overall but trending towards the possibility of achieving 'yellow' soon, which would allow for a resumption of the expansion of in-building attendance
- HS 'buddies' - discussed plan to enact to aid transition from ATS to the HS
- Clarified information regarding the new legislation and classifications/diagnoses
- Thanked the Board in recognition of Board of Education month

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

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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.

- Jen Fernandez, resident, asked about combining the cohorts vs. expanding the school day.

XI. BOARD COMMITTEE ACTION REPORTS

A. Operations

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

1. Budget Adjustments (Appendix 2)

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

Expense Budget Transfers	Fund 10	\$ 347.97
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2. Bills List (Appendix 3)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the general account bills list check #31916 through #32067 for a total amount of \$879,887.97 be approved for payment.

3. Student Activity (Appendix 4)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Student Activity Account balance in the amount of \$55,059.39 as of 12/31/2020.

- Ms. Moyer requested a notation that there are still open items regarding the account.

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 12/31/2020 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 12/31/2020 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 December 31, 2020 with a total Governmental Funds Account cash balance of \$849,074.84.

5. Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the

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2021-2022 school year as the Allamuchy Township Board of Education would be fewer than 30 Medicaid eligible classified students..

6. Pay to Play Fees for the 2020-21 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the suspension of Pay to Play fees for extracurricular activities for the 2020-21 school year due to Pandemic-driven scheduling and content alterations.

7. Fourth of July Fireworks 2021 (Appendix 6)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the contract with Celebration Fireworks to provide the display at the 2021 event and authorize payment of the 25% deposit (\$1,840.00) as per the terms of the agreement.

8. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (Appendix 7A and 7B)

BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the Auditor's Management Report (AMR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020.

CARRIED: 9-0 in a roll call vote on all items except:

- Ms. Moyer abstained regarding check 32016
- Ms. Prudenti abstained regarding check 31997

B. Human Resources

Moved by Ms. Moyer and seconded by Mr. Green, 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.Saalfield	Appoint stipend	5/6th gr Battle of the Books	\$50/hour; not to exceed \$550	1/1/2021
b	M.Koerner	Appoint stipend	Student Council Advisor	prorated	2/8/2021
c	1. S.Greco 2. K.Stiner 3. C.Saalfield	Correct prior appointment from 2 to 3 positions	Homework Club	\$2,230 each position, prorated; not to exceed \$1,338	1/1/2021

2. Supervisor of Student Support Services (Appendix 8)

BE IT RESOLVED, to create the administrative position of Supervisor of Student Support Services, at an annual salary of 74,500 with the additional stipend of \$5,000 for additional administrative duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to appoint Julie Profito to the position of Supervisor of Student Support Services, effective February 9, 2021.

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3. Stipend Clarification

BE IT RESOLVED, to clarify the technology-related duties appointed to Louis Caruso at the meeting of January 4, 2021 as support duties for the Acting Superintendent, not the Technology Coordinator stipend position listed in the Collective Bargaining Agreement's Schedule A.

4. Request for Unpaid Leave (Appendix 9)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request by Dr. J. Gallegly for unpaid leave beginning March 1, 2021, returning on June 21, 2021.

5. District Green Team (Appendix 10)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the creation of a District Green Team to investigate and implement sustainable initiatives.

CARRIED: 9-0 in a roll call vote.

C. Education

Moved by Mr. Green and seconded by Dr. Gaddy, 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
K.Bolling	Online	Orton Gillingham Level 1 (Online)	\$ 595	\$ -	\$ 595
B.Poff	Online	Orton Gillingham Level 1 (Online)	\$ 595	\$ -	\$ 595
S.Watkins	Online	Orton Gillingham Level 1 (Online)	\$ 595	\$ -	\$ 595
M.Schmidt	05/26/2021	School Climate / Anti-Bullying Virtual Conf	\$ 99	\$ -	\$ 99
J.Profitto	05/26/2021	School Climate / Anti-Bullying Virtual Conf	\$ 99	\$ -	\$ 99
N.Serraino	Online	Yogapalooza workshop	\$ 169	\$ -	\$ 169
P.Schmiedeke	Online	NPDS Conference (virtual)	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 300

2. Resident Non-Student Participation in Extracurricular Activities

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve resident non-student #1202 to join Band for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

CARRIED: Item 1 carried 9-0 in a roll call vote; item 2 carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Green abstained)

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D. Governance

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

1. Policy Updates: (Appendix 11)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the first 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
8561	Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs

2. Policy Updates: (Appendix 12)

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

1230	Superintendent's Duties
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3. Student Activity Fund

BE IT RESOLVED, to clarify the resolution regarding 8th grade student activity funds passed during the regular meeting of July 20, 2020, confirming that if the 2020-21 eighth grade class participates in the DC trip such that the District becomes eligible for and receives the \$1,250 refund from the bus company of the 2019-20 class's deposit, then this money will be further distributed to the schools for the benefit of their HS Class of 2024 in the same manner as previously resolved.

4. Memorandum of Agreement with Law Enforcement (Appendix 13)

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials, updated in January 2021.

CARRIED: 9-0 in a roll call vote.

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XII. OLD BUSINESS

- None

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- F. Gavin, resident, asked about board & district goals, suggested a goal be to finalize contract negotiations; asked about board self-evaluation; asked about the continued lack of board reports or newsletters to inform the general public; asked what the District's administrative structure would look like with a full time superintendent.
- E. Ozcan, resident, asked about the progress of negotiations; asked about the status of the Executive County Superintendent's instructions regarding the November appointment of Ms. Strutin; asked about the status of recording meetings.
- V. Prudenti, board member, resident, parent, asked about the imbalance of in-person instruction by cohort due to the snow closures; asked about the possibility of the District being virtual for the two weeks following spring break.
- A. Wehmeyer, resident, asked what data points the District is using to make decisions vs. other local/comparable Districts.

XIV. BOARD DISCUSSION

- Discussion of meeting minutes and the potential to record meetings in the future.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Enter Executive Session at 8:43 p.m.:

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

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

- Hearing of an employee matter
- Negotiation update
- Attorney-client advice related to pending litigation
- Personnel issue

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

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Exit Executive Session at 10:23 p.m.:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education has been in executive session for the past 1 hour and 40 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: 8-0 in a voice vote (Mr. Green had left the meeting at 10:19 p.m. upon recusing himself from the negotiations conversation)

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms. Christmann and seconded by Ms. Prudenti, to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 p.m.

CARRIED: 8-0 in a roll call vote