

FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
August 7, 2023
MINUTES

The In-Person Regular Meeting of the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education was called to order in conformance with the “Sunshine Law” by the Board President at 6:00 p.m.

In accordance with the State's Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by sending a notice of the time, date, location, and to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting on July 27, 2023, to the Hunterdon County Democrat and The Courier-News.

Ms. Dawson took roll call

Members Present

Jaelyn Arce, arrived 6:03 p.m.
Valerie Bart
Lilian Colpas
Gina Criscitiello
Tiffany Jarrett, arrived 6:03 p.m.
Laurie Markowski
Susan Mitcheltree
Michelle Hurley

Members Absent

Loretta Borowsky

Attorney Present

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Ms. Criscitiello read the District Mission Statement.

As a Community of One, WE:

Foster social, emotional, and academic growth within a connected learning community
Respect, honor and embrace diverse family and community values by building collaborative partnerships
Strengthen opportunities that nurture creative and critical thinkers
Develop and inspire personal excellence.

Every Student - Every Day - Every Opportunity

Board Professional Development

1. Self-Evaluation Review
 1. Areas for Improvement
 2. Goals Workshop
2. Board Norms & Clarifying Expectations

Board members discussed the following goals:

Target Strategic Goal #1, Objective #1 by establishing a “Rigorous Learning Committee” to serve as an Ad Hoc Committee developed as a spin-off from the Strategic Planning Committee. Board Members discussed the steps necessary to accomplish this goal, a potential committee meeting schedule, defining the definition of rigorous learning and providing a report or outcome of the committee by spring of 2024

Target Strategic Goal #5 – Objective #1 by placing funds into the capital reserves account. There was a general discussion on the budget and goals for the future. Ms. Dawson explained allowable adjustments to the budget for items such as enrollment and health care; clarified what the fund balance and surplus is and the regulations surrounding the tax levy. Dr. McGann provided information about grants, noting some of the grants that have already been received and the process for applying for future grants and questions were raised regarding the possibility of hiring a grant writer and utilizing NJSBA for assistance with grant writing opportunities. Further discussion took place regarding setting a goal of 2% tax levy cap and whether or not it was achievable, increasing revenue from facility use, sponsorship opportunities for athletic fields and cost savings on technology related apps.

Target Strategic Goal #5, Objective #1 by publishing a long range facility five year plan.

Target Strategic Goal #4, Objective #1 by applying for the NJDOE Preschool Expansion Grant.

General discussion took place regarding student behavior and how to address discipline or consequences, supporting teachers and administration and the District Code of Conduct.

Board Goals were discussed regarding fostering team building, adherence to Board Norms and Operations, further training on the Board's role vs. the Superintendent's role and how to handle particular scenarios, understanding the finances of the District to be more proactively engaged in the budget process and utilizing NJSBA for more training opportunities. Further discussion continued regarding the policy audit, recognizing student achievement and inviting stakeholders from all schools, PTO's and the community to be recognized at Board meetings.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding Board Norms and Operations, the process for distribution of meeting documents and the possibility of changing meeting days from Mondays to Thursdays. The logistics involved in agenda preparation and review of the agenda by Board leadership prior to publication was reviewed. Policies on correspondence were discussed with possible revisions to be considered under attorney guidance. Board Leadership will continue to review further sections on the responsibilities of board leadership and committee chairs, orientation for new members and virtual meeting attendance for committee meetings.

Citizens Address the Board - The public is invited to respectfully share their concerns, comments, and suggestions according to the Board's policy and by-laws. Each speaker will have 3 minutes and the total session will be 30 minutes. The public is requested to sign the register and to state their name, municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable. While all comments will be considered, Board Members will not respond to speakers at this time.

Ms. Hurley set the session to 30 minutes with 3 minutes for each person.

No comment.

On the motion of Ms. Jarrett seconded by Ms. Criscitiello the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. viva voce.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Tanya Dawson
Business Administrator/Board Secretary