

FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
February 27, 2025
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 Mr. Birkenstock at 7:04 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 January 16, 2025 to the Hunterdon County Democrat and The Courier-News. Copies of the notice also have been placed in the Board Office and in each of the district schools, posted on the District website and filed with Flemington Borough Clerk and the Raritan Township Clerk.

Ms. Dawson took Roll Call.

Members Present

Jaclyn Arce
William Bentley
Warren Buckleitner
Ryan Cirillo
Gina Criscitiello
Michael Owen
Julia Whitley
Ryan Birkenstock

Members Absent

Lilian Colpas

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

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. McGann reported that current enrollment is 3,331 students. Next, Dr. McGann provided an update on the 2025-2026 State aid figures noting an increase of \$365,749, for a total of \$6,461,590. Despite the increase, State aid continues to drastically underfund the State and Federal mandates the District is required to meet. Preschool Education Aid for the 2025-2026 school year increased to \$2,721,930, this funding is based on enrollment for general education preschoolers. Dr. McGann spoke about the special election scheduled for March 11, informing the community where to find further information and past communications on the budget, the impact on taxes, and encouraged everyone to make an informed decision and to vote on March 11. Finally, Dr. McGann offered congratulations and kudos to all the J.P. Case students involved with the Wizard of Oz production, performances are scheduled for Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m.

A general discussion took place regarding unfunded State and Federal mandates, inflation exceeding the 2% tax levy cap and the State funding formula. Ms. Dawson spoke about the oversight and transparency of district finances, explaining that the Treasurer of School Monies is an individual not associated with the district that reconciles the district’s finances on a monthly basis, those reports along with the bills list are reviewed and approved by the Board of Education on a routine basis and available to the public. Ms. Dawson noted these practices are long standing and requirements of the annual audit.

Approval of Minutes – Executive Session - February 13, 2025
 Regular Meeting - February 13, 2025

Mr. Birkenstock asked for any corrections, additions or revisions to the minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Birkenstock announced that the meeting minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies for January 2025.

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education accept the monthly financial reports of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of January 2025, further certifies that no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of 6A:23A-16.10(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's known financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year 2024-2025.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of 6A:23A-16.10(a) as of January 31, 2025. As of these dates, sufficient funds are available to meet the district's known financial obligations for the remainder of the school year 2024-2025.

Motion by Dr. Bentley, seconded by Ms. Criscitiello to accept the Report of the Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies for January 2025.

Aye:	Ms. Arce	Ms. Criscitiello	Nay:	-	Abstain:	-
	Dr. Bentley	Mr. Owen				
	Dr. Buckleitner	Ms. Whitley				
	Mr. Cirillo	Mr. Birkenstock				

CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD

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. Please be aware that this portion is your opportunity to comment on items of concern regarding the agenda only. The second public comment is for comment on any issue. 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.

Mr. Birkenstock set the session to 30 minutes with 3 minutes for each person.

No comment.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL:

PERSONNEL

Chairperson Gina Criscitiello, Next Meeting – March 3, 2025

Personnel Item(s) 1-13 were approved under one motion made by Ms. Criscitiello, seconded by Dr. Bentley.

Aye:	Ms. Arce	Ms. Criscitiello	Nay:	-	Abstain:	-
	Dr. Bentley	Mr. Owen				
	Dr. Buckleitner	Ms. Whitley				
	Mr. Cirillo	Mr. Birkenstock				

Certified Staff – Appointments, Resignations & Leaves of Absence

1. Approval was given to accept the resignation of the following staff member(s) for the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position	Purpose	Last Day of Employment
1.	Errickson	Pamela	RFIS	Teacher English Language Arts & Social Studies Grade 5	Retirement	June 30, 2025
2.	McDougald	Anne	BS	Teacher Kindergarten	Retirement	June 30, 2025
3.	McKenzie	Laurie	CH	Speech and Language Pathologist	Retirement	June 30, 2025
4.	Socolich	Elizabeth	RFIS	Teacher Math Grade 6	Retirement	June 30, 2025

2. Approval was given for district staff member(s) to take a leave of absence or amend their leave during the 2024-2025 school year.
3. Approval was given to confirm the employment of the following leave replacement(s) for the 2024-2025 school year, pending certification, fingerprints, background check, and health exam, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position/Replacing	Salary/Degree/Step	Effective Dates	Certification /College
1.	Smith	Cynthia	RFIS	Teacher Social Studies / Science Grade 6	\$61,770 (prorated) / BA / 1	February 27, 2025 - March 24, 2025	Teacher of the Handicapped, English as a Second Language, Social Studies, Elementary School Teacher / Rutgers University, The College of New Jersey

4. Approval was given of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Flemington-Raritan School District (“Board of Education”) has determined to abolish certain positions and terminate the employment of impacted staff for economic and budgetary reasons prior to the 2025-2026 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is duly authorized, pursuant to N.J.S.A 18A:11-1 et seq., N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:28-9 et seq., to dismiss staff members employed in the District whenever, in the judgment of the Board of Education, it is advisable to abolish any such position for reasons of economy, because of a reduction in the number of pupils, a change in the administrative or supervisory organization of the district, or for other good cause; and

WHEREAS, for reasons of economy, efficiency, and a need to restructure staff of the district, the following existing full-time employee (“FTE”) positions are recommended for elimination:

Item	FTE	Position	End Date
1.	1.00	School Counselor	June 30, 2025
2.	1.00	School Counselor	June 30, 2025
3.	1.00	Elementary Teacher	June 30, 2025
4.	1.00	Elementary Teacher	June 30, 2025
5.	1.00	Elementary Teacher	June 30, 2025
6.	1.00	Elementary Teacher	June 30, 2025

WHEREAS, based foregoing and information provided by the Superintendent, the Board of Education finds it advisable to reduce the aforementioned positions in the District effective the end of the day on June 30, 2025;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Flemington Raritan Regional School District Board of Education as follows:

1. That upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the following positions are hereby eliminated, effective as of the end of the day June 30, 2025, as a result of a reduction in force:

Item	FTE	Position	End Date
1.	1.00	School Counselor	June 30, 2025
2.	1.00	School Counselor	June 30, 2025
3.	1.00	Elementary Teacher	June 30, 2025
4.	1.00	Elementary Teacher	June 30, 2025
5.	1.00	Elementary Teacher	June 30, 2025
6.	1.00	Elementary Teacher	June 30, 2025

2. That the affected employees will promptly receive appropriate notification of his/her employment status; and
3. That the Superintendent is authorized to provide the necessary notification to the affected employees.

Non-Certified Staff – Appointments, Resignations & Leaves of Absence

5. Approval was given to accept the resignation of the following staff member(s) for the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position	Purpose	Last Day of Employment
1.	Gaestel	Marian	FAD	Teacher Assistant	Retirement	June 30, 2025

6. Approval was given to employ the following staff member(s) for the 2024-2025 school year, pending, fingerprints, background check, and health exam, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position	Salary/Step	Effective Dates	Certification/New/Replacement
1.	Heindrichs	Craig	CH	Teacher Assistant	*\$25,554 (Prorated) / 1	February 28, 2025	Substitute

*Salary will be adjusted to include an additional \$500 (based on FTE) for holding a teaching or substitute certification.

7. Approval was given to employ the following staff member(s) to assist with extracurricular activities during the 2024-2025 school year, pending, fingerprints, background check, and health exam, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position	Max # of Hours	Rate
1.	Stine	Richard	JPC	JV Baseball Coach	108 Hours	\$36.00/hr

8. Approval was given to transfer the following staff member(s) for the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	From: Loc./Position	To: Loc./Position	Effective Dates
1.	Mcknight	Theresa	RFIS / Teacher Assistant	BS / Teacher Assistant	February 12, 2025 - June 30, 2025

9. Approval was given of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Flemington-Raritan School District (“Board of Education”) has determined to abolish certain positions and terminate the employment of impacted staff for economic and budgetary reasons prior to the 2025-2026 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is duly authorized, pursuant to N.J.S.A 18A:11-1 et seq., N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:28-9 et seq., to dismiss staff members employed in the District whenever, in the judgment of the Board of Education, it is advisable to abolish any such position for reasons of economy, because of a reduction in the number of pupils, a change in the administrative or supervisory organization of the district, or for other good cause; and

WHEREAS, for reasons of economy, efficiency, and a need to restructure staff of the district, the following existing full-time employee (“FTE”) positions are recommended for elimination:

Item	FTE	Position	End Date
1.	1.00	Facilities Manager	June 30, 2025

WHEREAS, based foregoing and information provided by the Superintendent, the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Board of Education finds it advisable to reduce the aforementioned positions in the District effective the end of the day on June 30, 2025;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Flemington Raritan Regional School District Board of Education of Education as follows:

1. That upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the following positions are hereby eliminated, effective the end of the day as listed, through a reduction in force:

Item	FTE	Position	End Date
1.	1.00	Facilities Manager	June 30, 2025

2. That the affected employees will promptly receive appropriate notification of his/her employment status; and
3. That the Superintendent is authorized to provide the necessary notification to the affected employees.

All Staff – Additional Compensation

10. Approval was given to confirm extra compensation for the following staff member(s) during the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Purpose	Max # of Hours	Rate
1.	Senneca	Nicole	RFIS	Learning Lab Advisor	300 shared hours	\$36/hr
2.	Errickson	Pamela	RFIS	Class coverage - 2/11/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
3.	Vallecilla	Amelia	RFIS	Class coverage - 2/11/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
4.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	Class Coverage - 1/31/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
5.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/3/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
6.	Geist	Marissa	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/3/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
7.	Gilmurray	Mindi	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/3/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
8.	Peterson	Kristin	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/3/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
9.	Waldron	Taylor	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/3/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
10.	Agabiti	Joseph	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
11.	Baills	Colette	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
12.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
13.	Gilmurray	Mindi	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
14.	Maguire	Anna	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
15.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
16.	Miller	Jennifer	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
17.	Miller	Robert	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
18.	Obregon	Maria	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
19.	Peterson	Kristin	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
20.	Pirog	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
21.	Schmidt	Cherylann	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
22.	Sladky	Samantha	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
23.	Soltis	Amy	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
24.	Vita	Matthew	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/4/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
25.	Boelhouwer	Peter	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/5/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr

26.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/5/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
27.	Gilmurray	Mindi	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/5/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
28.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/5/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
29.	Peterson	Kristin	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/5/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
30.	Pirog	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/5/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
31.	Soltis	Amy	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/5/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
32.	Baills	Colette	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
33.	Bianco	Julie	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
34.	Boelhouwer	Peter	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
35.	Butler	Jacquelyn	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
36.	Connelly	Kathleen	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
37.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
38.	Gilmurray	Mindi	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
39.	Hall	Bryce	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
40.	Hallock	Patrick	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
41.	Hand	Gina	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
42.	Horowitz	Steven	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
43.	Kircher	Jennifer	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
44.	Krukowski	Megan	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
45.	Lyman	Margaret	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
46.	Miller	Robert	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
47.	Peterson	Kristin	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
48.	Sewall	Cathrine	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
49.	Sladky	Samantha	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
50.	Smith	Holly	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
51.	Sorrentino	Giorgianna	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
52.	Waldron	Taylor	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/7/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
53.	Boelhouwer	Peter	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
54.	Corson	Seth	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
55.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
56.	Peterson	Kristin	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
57.	Pirog	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
58.	Smith	Holly	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
59.	Sorrentino	Giorgianna	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
60.	Waldron	Taylor	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/10/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
61.	Ellenberg	Kelley	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/11/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
62.	Genito	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/11/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
63.	Gilmurray	Mindi	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/11/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
64.	Soltis	Amy	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/11/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
65.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/13/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
66.	Gilmurray	Mindi	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/13/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
67.	Pagano	Flor	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/13/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
68.	Pirog	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/13/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
69.	Smith	Holly	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/13/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
70.	Soltis	Amy	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/13/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
71.	Gilmurray	Mindi	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/19/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
72.	Pirog	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/19/25	40 minutes	\$36/hr
73.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/21/25	30 minutes	\$36/hr
74.	Hlavsa-Suk	Dawn	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/21/25	30 minutes	\$36/hr
75.	Phillips	Regina	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/21/25	30 minutes	\$36/hr

Substitutes

11. Approval was given to confirm the employment of the following applicant(s) as substitute(s) pending fingerprints, background check, and health exam, during the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name
1.	Campion	Heather
2.	Fraser	Maleeka
3.	Hansen	Madison
4.	Volpe	Morgan
5.	Wojtowicz	Janneth

Field Placement

12. Approval was given for the following student(s) to complete their university requirements, at no cost to the District, pending fingerprints and health exam, during the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	School	Purpose	Cooperating Teacher/ Position/Loc	Effective Dates
1.	Cifelli	Isabella	The College of NJ	Practicum	Beth Paugh/Leigh Kermizian/Art/RFIS	March 14, 2025-May 9, 2025
2.	Didi	Sana	The College of NJ	Practicum	Beth Paugh/Leigh Kermizian/Art/RFIS	March 14, 2025-May 9, 2025
3.	Drew-Perna	Vivian	The College of NJ	Practicum	Marie Corfield/Art/RH	March 14, 2025-May 9, 2025
4.	Murphy	Frank	The College of NJ	Practicum	Marie Corfield/Art/RH	March 14, 2025-May 9, 2025

Miscellaneous

13. Approval was given to adopt the 2025-2026 District calendar.

INSTRUCTION AND PROGRAM

Chairperson William Bentley, Next Meeting – March 6, 2025

No Items.

OPERATIONS & TRANSPORTATION

Chairperson Ryan Birkenstock, Next Meeting – March 5, 2025

Operations and Transportation Item(s) 1-4 were approved under one motion made by Mr. Birkenstock, seconded by Ms. Criscitiello.

Aye:	Ms. Arce	Ms. Criscitiello	Nay:	-	Abstain:	-
	Dr. Bentley	Mr. Owen				
	Dr. Buckleitner	Ms. Whitley				
	Mr. Cirillo	Mr. Birkenstock				

- Approval was given of the transfer list from January 18, 2025, to February 21, 2025.
- Approval was given of the bill list for the month of February totaling \$2,161,207.66

3. Approval was given to contract with The COR Behavioral Group for behavioral therapy services, at a rate of \$780 per day, not to exceed \$30,420.00 during the 2024-2025 school year.
4. Approval was given for the following tuition student from Lopatcong Township School District to attend Flemington-Raritan Regional School District during the 2024-2025 School Year. Lopatcong Township School District to provide transportation.

Item	Student ID#	Tuition
1.	1471247389	\$62,731.50

POLICY

Chairperson, Jaclyn Arce, Next Meeting – March 3, 2025

Policy item 1 was approved under one motion made by Ms. Arce, seconded by Ms. Criscitiello.

Board members shared that they were very pleased to see so many students achieving honor roll and high honor roll.

Aye: Ms. Arce Dr. Bentley Dr. Buckleitner Mr. Cirillo	Ms. Criscitiello Mr. Owen Ms. Whitley Mr. Birkenstock	Nay: -	Abstain: -
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1. Approval was given to present the following new regulation for a 2nd reading and adoption:

1. R 5440 - Honoring Student Achievement

MISCELLANEOUS (INFORMATION-ACTION)

Miscellaneous Action Item 1 was approved under motion made by Mr. Birkenstock, seconded by Ms. Criscitiello.

Aye: Ms. Arce Dr. Bentley Dr. Buckleitner Mr. Cirillo	Ms. Criscitiello Mr. Owen Ms. Whitley Mr. Birkenstock	Nay: -	Abstain: -
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Information

1. Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Investigation(s) for the 2024-2025 school year:

School	Date of Incident	Report #	HIB (Y/N)	Additional Action Taken
-	-	-	-	-

Action Items

1. Approval was given to accept the following Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Investigation(s) presented on the February 13, 2025 Board agenda, as follows:

School	Date of Incident	Report #	HIB (Y/N)	Additional Action Taken
CH	January 13, 2025	CH#1	No	Remedial actions outlined in report.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Arce reported that correspondence was received regarding the budget and theater timing conflict with tonight's board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Birkenstock advised Board members that information pertaining to the upcoming CSA and Board evaluations would be shared in the coming weeks.

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.

Mr. Birkenstock set the session to 30 minutes with 3 minutes for each person.

No Comment.

On the motion of Mr. Birkenstock seconded by Dr. Bentley the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m. viva voce.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Tanya Dawson
Business Administrator/Board Secretary