

**Frelinghuysen Township Board of Education
Minutes of March 10, 2021**

The Frelinghuysen Township Board of Education held a virtual Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 7:03 PM. Mrs. Neuffer, President, called the meeting to order.

Please let the minutes show that the Frelinghuysen Township Board of Education has complied with the Open Public Meetings Act which requires that advance notice of this meeting be given and that the public has the right to attend such meetings. This advanced notice was published in the NJ Herald and the Express Times. Electronic notice and instructions to access the remote meeting has been advertised on the FTS website. All discussions and official actions of this meeting, unless specifically exempted, will take place in public.

The Board pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

PRESENT: Mrs. Peterson, Mrs. Neuffer, Mrs. Swistak, Mr. Forbes, Mrs. DeFilippis, Mrs. Pandiscia, Mr. Hocking, Mr. Galante, Mrs. Keesser

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Stephanie Bonaparte, CSA
Karin Laraway, Board Secretary

Hearing & Petitions of Citizens - Comment is invited on any matter relating to the agenda.
None at this time.

Request for Executive Session – None at this time.

Report of the CSA

- The school is trying to do more normal events. Love of Reading week had Zoom guest readers. Classroom activities were held for Spirit Week.
- Snow Day Fun Day was a successful Physical Education activity. The students had a good time.
- Setting up a vaccine clinic for staff is being discussed within the cluster. NW is already set up for vaccine distribution so perhaps there could be an easy transition. This is dependent on the number of vaccines available.
- Next week, March 15, in person learning time will increase and there are no longer virtual Wednesdays which are now in person instruction days.
- A classroom is quarantined.
- The district has followed the WCDOH suggested guidelines on social distancing.
- Planning for options to bring all students back daily before year end while following WCDOH guidelines.
- Thank you to the FEA for the donation for Game Night.

Personnel – None at this time.

Finance/Facilities

The 2020-21 tentative budget was presented by Mrs. Bonaparte. State aid for 2021-22 is cut by \$99,791.00. Banked cap is being used. Additional staffing is budgeted for return to full days of in person instruction beginning in September 2021 based on CDC guidelines for social distancing. Increase in Charter School tuition. The tax increase is \$2.45/month on a house assessed at \$100,000.

Motion made by Mr. Forbes, seconded by Mrs. Peterson, to approve F1-F4 as listed:

- F1. Approve and submit the tentative budget for the 2021-22 school year to Warren County Department of Education Office for approval.
- F2. Approve Travel and Expense Reimbursement as part of the School District Budget for 2021-22.
- F3. Approve the Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal in the amount of \$65,000 as part of the School District Budget for 2021-22 to be used for facility maintenance operations.
- F4. Approve the use of Banked Cap in the amount of \$37,531 as part of the School District Budget, included in the base, to be used for the hiring of additional staff for in person instruction to comply with the CDC guidelines for social distancing. This need will be completed in the 2021-22 budget year.

Motion approved on a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Mr. Forbes, seconded by Mrs. Swistak, to approve F5-F8 as listed:

- F5. Approve the bills list dated 3-10-21 in the amount of \$250,474.80 excluding check #17662.
- F6. Approve check #17662, payable to Doreen Pandisica, in the amount of \$66.05.
- F7. Approve the following workshop request:

T Smolen	Orton Gillingham Training-virtual	June 21-25,2021	\$1,175
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- F8. Accept donation from the Frelinghuysen Education Association in the amount of \$596.16 for Take Home Family Game Night.

Motions F5, F7, F8 approved on a unanimous roll call vote. Motion F6 approved on an 8-0-1 roll call vote with Mrs. Pandiscia abstaining.

Curriculum/Policy – None at this time.

Report of the Board Secretary

Motion made by Mr. Forbes, seconded by Mrs. DeFilippis, to approve R1 as listed:

R1. Approve the following minutes:
February 10, 2021 Regular Virtual Meeting

Motion approved on an 8-0-1 roll call vote with Mrs. Keesser abstaining.

Unfinished Business

New Business

BOE Mrs. Neuffer will email information that was presented at the WCSBA meeting to all members.

It was requested from the Township Committee that the school be used as a polling place for elections. The BOE has requested that perhaps the Township Community Building be used.

The district calendar for next year is being reviewed. Virtual days are now allowed during a public health emergency but information has not been received or laws have not been changed to allow for virtual days for inclement weather.

Correspondence – None at this time.

Hearing & Petitions of Citizens

Cynthia Marden asked where she could get information regarding the evening's meeting. Mrs. Bonaparte told her the agenda was on the website.

Alisha Ritz asked about the loss of Spanish and Media and if the time was going to be increased. Mrs. Bonaparte replied that Spanish and Media was offered for one trimester and none of the choices are what we want but the district is trying to get as much in person time for core classes.

Raymond Wroe-Street stated that as of April 30 all citizens of NJ will have access to the covid vaccine, so why aren't the students going to be back to school full time? The students need to be back in school. He asked Mrs. Bonaparte what she is doing to make full time instruction occur. Mrs. Bonaparte replied that she has consistently

followed CDC and WCDOH guidelines regarding social distancing and reports efforts being made in previous BOE meetings. Although NJ citizens will have access to the vaccine, it is dependent on the availability of the vaccine. The district does not have enough staff to bring back all students and there is a shortage of substitutes. Mr. Wren-Street said his wife would volunteer, Mrs. Bonaparte replied that his wife should obtain her substitute certificate.

Request for Executive Session – Personnel

No action will be taken once the BOE returns to the regular meeting.

Mrs. Neuffer read the Sunshine Law.

Motion made by Mr. Forbes, seconded by Mrs. Peterson, to adjourn to a virtual executive session for personnel discussion for approximately 30 minutes. The time was 8:08 PM.

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Mr. Forbes, seconded by Mrs. DeFilippis, to return to the regular virtual meeting. The time was 9:09 PM.

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Forbes, seconded by Mrs. Peterson, to adjourn the virtual regular meeting. The time was 9:11 PM.

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Laraway
Board Secretary

