

**Frelinghuysen Township Board of Education  
Minutes of February 8, 2023**

The Frelinghuysen Township Board of Education held a Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 7:02 PM in the media center of the Frelinghuysen School. 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. 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. Neuffer, Mr. Forbes, Mrs. DeFilippis, Mrs. Swistak, Mrs. Pandiscia, Mr. Hocking, Mrs. Peterson,

**ABSENT:** Mr. Galante, Mrs. Keesser

**ALSO PRESENT:** Stephanie Bonaparte, CSA  
Jenny Deuel, Board Secretary

**Hearing & Petitions of Citizens** – None at this time.

**Request for Executive Session** – None at this time.

**Public Hearing – 2022-23 Amended Business Administrator Contract**

**Report of the CSA – Start Strong Test Results**

**Start Strong Test Results –**

The Start Strong Assessment places students in 3 levels: 3 – Less Support Needed, 2-Some Support Needed, and 1 – Strong Support Needed. There are only 12 questions so this really provides just a snapshot of where the students are overall.

We've made gains from the last Start Strong Assessment. The majority of FTS students are on or above grade level. Teachers will review the data along with classroom performance to align current interventions and identify areas in the standards that may require more reinforcement.

**School Updates:**

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year Frelinghuysen has been named a Kindness Certified School District. This is earned through the Great Kindness Challenge. Frelinghuysen will be featured on the website [kidsforpeace.org](http://kidsforpeace.org).

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade held the annual spelling bee. The top finishers were on the Facebook page. The 1<sup>st</sup> place finishers in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade will represent Frelinghuysen in the Warren County Spelling Bee. We will also continue with Spelling Day. During Spelling Day each class has a version of a Spelling Bee.

We also have several students that will be representing Frelinghuysen at the Warren County Chess Tournament. They are excited and we hope that they all do well.

Several of our students will be participating in the Warren County 6<sup>th</sup> Grade All Star Band. Mrs. Bonaparte will be attending to watch our students perform.

We are currently working on a wide array of clubs for the year. We will be using grant money and will have several options for clubs to choose for students to choose from.

The QSAC review has been moved to Monday. We are prepared for the site visit.

Also on the agenda is the Student Safety Data System. We report twice a year on HIB cases and trainings related to anti-bullying and character development.

We are welcoming Molly Petty tonight as the Interim Business Administrator. We are happy to have her on board.

## **Personnel**

Motion made by Mrs. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Forbes to approve P1-P3 as listed and recommended by the CSA.

- P1. Approve the 2022-23 Business Administrator Contract as amended and approved by the Executive County Superintendent.
- P2. Accept the retirement of Mrs. Tracy Smolen, effective October 1, 2023.
- P3. Appoint Molly Petty of Blairstown, as Part Time Interim School Business Administrator and Board Secretary, effective February 15, 2023 through June 30, 2023, pending Criminal History Review and NJ Child Abuse Disclosure Release P.L. 2018 C.5.

Motion P1-P3 approved on a 7-0-0 roll call vote.

## **Finance/Facilities**

Motion made by Mr. Forbes, seconded by Mrs. Pandiscia to approve F1-F5 as listed.

- F1. Approve the bills list dated February 8, 2023, check # 18707-18739 in the amount of \$129,159.71.

- F2. Approve check #18741 in the amount of \$428.70.
- F3. Accept the audit for the 2021-22 school year with no recommendations submitted by Ardito & Co, LLP – as recommended by the Chief School Administrator and the School Business Administrator.
- F4. Approve the following facility use requests listed:

Girls Scouts	Thinking Day	Thursday February 23, 2023 5:00pm-8:00pm	Media Center
Frelinghuysen Panthers Softball	Softball Drills/Practice	Thursdays February 9 – April 27, 2023 5:00pm-7:00pm	Gym
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Booster Club	St. Patrick's Dance	Friday March 10, 2023 4pm – 9pm	Gym

- F5. Approve the filing of a waiver request to exempt the Frelinghuysen Township Board of Education's 2023-24 participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) based on the fact that the DOE projects an enrollment of less than 40 students.

Motion F1 approved on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Motion F2 approved on a 6-0-1 roll call vote with Mrs. Pandiscia abstaining. Motions F3-F5 approved on a 7-0-0 roll call vote.

## Curriculum/Policy

Motion made by Mr. Forbes, seconded by Mrs. Peterson to approve C1-C2 as listed.

- C1. Approve the following trips for the 2022-23 school year:

Waterloo Village	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Kalahari Water Park	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Lakota Wolf Preserve	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Warren County Chess Tournament	Chess Club
Warren County Spelling Bee	5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade (2 students)

- C2. Approve the following policies on second reading:

P 1648.14 Safety Plan for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – COVID-19 (M) (Abolished)

P 2416.01 Postnatal Accommodations for Students (M) (New)

P 1648.15	Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – COVID-19 (M) (New)
P 2417	Student Intervention and Referral Services (M) (Revised)
P 2415.04	Title I – District – Wide Parent and Family Engagement (M) (Revised)
P 2415.50	Title I – School Parent and Family Engagement (M) (New)
P 7410	Maintenance and Repair (M) (Revised)
P 3161	Examination for Cause (Revised)
P 4161	Examination for Cause (Revised)
P 8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations (M) (Revised)
P 9320	Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies (M) (Revised)
P 5512	Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (M) (Revised)

Motion C1-C2 approved on a 7-0-0 roll call vote.

### **Report of the Board Secretary**

Motion made by Mr. Forbes, seconded by Mr. Hocking to approve R1-R2 as listed.

- R1. Approve the following minutes: January 18, 2023 Regular Minutes and Executive Session.
- R2. To accept, certify and file the treasurer’s and board secretary’s financial reports for January 2023 and note that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations and that no major account has been over expended in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A:16.10.

Motion R1- R2 approved on a 7-0-0 roll call vote.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **New Business**

Motion made by Mr. Forbes, seconded by Mr. Hocking to approve NB1-NB2 as listed.

- NB1. Accept the School Safety Data Survey for Report Period 1 – July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.
- NB2. Approve submission of a request to become a member district of Sussex County Educational Services Commission for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion NB1-NB2 approved on a 7-0-0 roll call vote.

### **Correspondence**

### **Hearing & Petitions of Citizens**

Mrs. Cynthia Mardin of Frelinghuysen wants to understand more about grants. She inquired if there is a way to get grants for science programs and school safety. Mrs. Bonaparte explained that we apply for all of the grants we qualify for and we are currently trying to enhance the science program.

**Request for Executive Session – None at this time.**

### **Adjournment**

Motion was made by Mr. Hocking, seconded by Mrs. Pandiscia to adjourn the regular meeting. The time was 7:26 PM.

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted

Jenny Deuel  
Board Secretary