

**CLINTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES**

**Special Meeting May 31, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.  
Clinton Township Middle School Auditorium**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Maria Grant called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m.

**PUBLICATION OF NOTICE:**

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Laws of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was provided through public notice on May 10, 2018.

- a. Faxing to three newspapers designated by the Board -- Hunterdon County Democrat, Hunterdon Review and Express Times
- b. Posting on the District Website, the main bulletin board in the Administration Offices and in each Clinton Township School
- c. Faxing to the Clerk of Clinton Township

**ROLL CALL**

***Board Members:***

**Present:** Maria Grant, President  
Rachel McLaughlin, Vice President  
Lana Brennan  
Mary Beth Brooks  
Dr. Jeffrey Foy  
Kevin Maloy  
Alissa Olawski  
Yehara Raddalgoda

**Not Present:** Alicia Demmerle

**Present:** *District Administrators:*  
Dr. Pamela C. Fiander, Superintendent of Schools

**Not Present:** Mr. Edward F. McManus, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Vito Gagliardi, Esq., Board Attorney

**Also Present:** David Hespe, Esq.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mrs. Brennan led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Grant presented a motion to approve Michele Cone to serve as Assistant Board Secretary for the evening meeting in the absence of Edward McManus.

*Motion by, Dr. Foy Seconded by Mrs. Olawski. The Board approves Michele Cone to act as Assistant Board Secretary for the May 31, 2018 meeting on a roll call vote as follows: ayes 8; nays: 0; abstain: 0; absent: 1.*

**PROCESS GUARDIAN:** Mrs. McLaughlin was appointed Process Guardian.

### **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS/REPORT**

Dr. Fiander recognized the members of the Clinton Township School District community who are retiring this school year. They comprise 192.5 years of service to the district. They were called up one at a time and presented with a certificate of appreciation.

### **FEASIBILITY OF SCHOOL CLOSING**

**Maria Grant – Chair; Rachel McLaughlin, Jeff Foy, Mary Beth Brooks**

A presentation was provided by Ms. Grant which offered the findings of the Feasibility of School Closing Committee, and Dr. Fiander continued with a presentation on “The Study, Analyses, and Recommendation for reorganization of the Clinton Township School District facilities.

Questions from Board of Education members:

Mr. Maloy - Questioned whether the need for a science lab is due to capacity. Requested information regarding PMG bathrooms and playgrounds in regard to the recommendation. Inquired about the overall cost and if a percentage of it has already taken place. His finale question was with regard to transportation and the time change for RVS.

Mrs. McLaughlin - Questioned whether transition days have been planned for students. Inquired about garden space at CTMS. Asked Mr. Hespe about the advantage of the current model versus neighborhood schools. Inquired about the moves for staff/classroom supplies. Her final question was in regard to the advantages for programs, clubs etc.

Mrs. Raddalgoda - Questioned whether SRS would need a principal since it is only prekindergarten and preschool.

Mrs. Brennan - Questioned whether a middle school model would be implemented. Inquired about the \$100,000 savings and if it was without revenue at SRS. She voiced concern that it was to be done over a 7-8 week period.

Dr. Foy - Questioned class sizes in the new model, as well as only preschool. He questioned if

our district could handle the possibility of an increase in enrollment. He also inquired about summer expectations.

Mrs. Olawski - Questioned structural changes since 2016, transportation concerns and whether we have the proper capacity (classrooms) to hold our existing classes in the new reorganization plan.

Mr. Malloy had a followed up question with regard to pick up locations for transportation.

A discussion by the Board ensued regarding the timeline

Mrs. Brennan was concerned for the timeline

Mrs. McLaughlin commented on savings

Mrs. Brooks questioned if it was an unusually large departure for retirements

Ms. Grant mentioned a follow up that will provide a level of detail (tasks to be completed).

Dr. Fiander offered Projectmanager.com

Mr. Maloy' questioned the timing of now. Dr. Fiander replied that, "This is a moment in time" for opportunities for our students.

Mrs. McLaughlin was supportive of the change.

Follow up questions by the Board

Dr. Foy questioned if it would be the same frame of time whether it was to take place this year or next.

Mrs. Brennan questioned school supply orders and had concerns over the way the board is going about the change and that the taxpayers need time to digest what was presented.

Ms. Grant reviewed the information and how it had been provided in an ongoing process since 2014. She offered support and respect for Mrs. Brennan's decision.

Mr. Maloy supported Lana and encouraged her to vote her conscience.

**RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

**PLEASE RESPECT THE 3-MINUTE SPEAKING RULE AS PER BOARD OF EDUCATION BYLAW #0167 SO THAT THE BUSINESS OF THE BOARD MAY PROCEED IN A TIMELY MANNER.**

Penny McFadden, staff member at RVS, voiced concern over the length of time of the decision without community input.

Alison Ford, parent, had questions about the location of special education classrooms and

supportive services.

Kathy Powers, community member, questioned the proposed preschool program. She inquired about certifications, staffing and whether opening the preschool was to see if people will leave private schools.

Nicole Couselo, community member, questioned whether preschool services will remain. She had concerns over declining enrollment over the last seven years and commented that the situation is not a surprise and questioned why the staff was not involved.

Cindy Stallone, community member, questioned when SRS was built. She feels the capacity numbers are incorrect.

Faith Fuhrman, Nurse at SRS, offered concerns over the potential for no nurse at SRS.

Nicole Spagnuolo, staff member, she feels four years of study and two months to implement does not make sense. Urged the board to wait a year or two.

Jeff Smith, community member, offered disappointment in the Board taking an hour to listen. He had questions about the source for the majority of savings. Offered doubts about a for-profit preschool working.

Chuck Roberto, staff member at CTMS, offered questions about using a moving company and the moves. He also questioned teachers property and pack up process.

Alice Cree, community member, discussed affordable housing and the need for a 5-10 year forecast.

Roberta Grambor, staff member at PMG, voiced disappointment that stakeholders were not involved as in the past. Raised concerns over resource availability.

Kelly Newgarde, staff member at PMG, stated that she is not opposed to change but rather the manner in which it is thrust upon us.

Joanne Gitto, staff member at CTMS, voiced concerns over time and the move process and questioned how the board can guarantee the move. Questioned when the non-tenured staff will know if they have a position.

Kathy Riihimaki, kindergarten parent, voiced concerns that the presentation did not mention how it will impact the teachers or whether the money saved could be used to settle the contract.

Jessica Cahill, community member, urged the Board to take another year as she feels this is rushed.

Allison Lefebvre, staff member, offered her concerns that the Preschoolers would be isolated

and that staffing would require travel for OT/PT.

Sonia Damanakis, staff and community member, referred to the presentation when requesting that the board not make any decisions that would be detrimental to the students.

Two Students, Emma and Catherine, urged the board to bring back programs like French class and not think of them as specials.

Patty Calabrese, parent. Stated that she felt like the decision was already made and feels the teachers and experts have not been considered.

Dave Milefsky, parent, voiced concerns over library services and questioned how the day for a preschool student will change.

Michael Henya, parent, thanked the Ad Hoc committee and board for going through the process. Voiced concerns regarding the financials.

Amy Marks, parent, thanked the teachers and feels that the process missed some questions.

At this time the Board took a recess. 10:36 pm

10: 58 pm. The Board reconvened. Motion by Dr. Foy, and seconded by Mr. Malloy. The motion was moved by full board consent.

Those people waiting to add comment were allowed to speak.

Heather Shanklin, former staff, community member, voiced concerns over timing and encouraged involvement of staff.

Amy McIssac, parent, voiced concerns over the 24 hours notice by email and then a vote. She requested specifics for program details. She feels uninformed.

Mr. Maloy stated he will not apologize for his comments to Mrs. Brennan as they were not offensive.

Mrs. Brennan stated that Mr. Maloy was being supported of her and has no ill feelings for his comment.

**Action 18-AH-001:**

***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Clinton Township Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Ad-Hoc Feasibility Committee and the Superintendent of Schools to reorganize, for the 2018-2019 school year, the four District schools as follows:

- SRS – (Preschool – Prekindergarten)
- PMG – (K-1-2)
- RVS – (3-4-5)
- CTMS – (6-7-8)

*Motion by Mrs. Olawski, Seconded by Dr. Foy. The Board adopts resolution 18-AH-001 on a roll call vote as follows: ayes 7; nays: 1; abstain: 0; absent: 1.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

***WHEREAS***, while the Sen. Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.) requires all meetings of the Clinton Township Board of Education to be held in public, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) sets forth nine (9) types of matters that may lawfully be discussed in “Executive Session,” i.e. without the public being permitted to attend, and

***WHEREAS***, the Clinton Township Board of Education has determined that the following issues are permitted by N.J.S.A. 10: 4-12(b) to be discussed without the public in attendance and shall be discussed during an Executive Session.

***WHEREAS***, any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer. The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality reviewing hearing information before the Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13.2 et. seq., attorney-client privilege and;

***WHEREAS***, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be sixty (60) minutes after which the meeting shall reconvene and proceed with business.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Clinton Township Board of Education will go into Executive Session for only the above stated reasons;

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the Board hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject will be made public at such time as the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

*Action may be taken upon return.*

Time: 11:02 pm

*Motion by Mrs. Olawski, Seconded by Mrs. Brennan. The resolution was adopted on full board consent.*

***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Board of Education hereby approves reconvening the regular Board meeting.

Time: 11:39 pm

*Motion by the full board, Seconded by the full board. The resolution was adopted on full board consent.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Action 18-AJ-016:**

***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Board of Education hereby adjourns this meeting.

Time: 11:40 pm

*Motion by the full board, Seconded by Mrs. Olawski. The resolution was adopted on full board consent.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Michele Cone

Acting Assistant Board Secretary

Minutes Prepared: 6/04/18

Minutes remain unofficial until Board of Education approval.

Board of Education Approved:



Maria Grant, President

6/26/18  
Date