

RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE WORKSESSION MEETING OF March 2, 2015

A work session meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday evening, March 2, 2015 in the High School Library. Meeting was called to order by President Novosielski at 7:30 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On roll call the following members were present: Mrs. Ahmed, Mr. Arce, Mr. Chu, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Lanni, Mrs. Librera, Mr. McLean, Mr. Recine and Mr. Novosielski. Also present were Mr. Hurley and Mr. Kelly.

N.J. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Rutherford Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place posted on the bulletin board outside the Borough Clerk's Office, mailed to the *Herald*, *South Bergenite*, and the *Record* newspapers, and filed with the Borough Clerk.

MINUTES APPROVAL

**Worksession/Regular Meeting, February 9, 2015
Executive Sessions, Work Session/Regular Meeting, February 9, 2015**

No corrections. Minutes approved as recorded.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Hurley presented the Annual District Violence and Vandalism Report, noting that incidents were generally consistent with those in prior years.

Annual District Violence and Vandalism Report

	2014-2015 (Report Period 1)	2013-2014 (Report Periods 1&2)	2012-2013 (Report Periods 1&2)
Violence	2	10	9
Vandalism	1	1	2
Weapons	1	0	1
Substance Abuse	2	3	5
HIB	7	6	5

Mr. Hurley also reported on the following:

- With regard to the issue of bus fumes at Pierrepont, the buses have been moved off of school grounds, effective February 17, and he has assembled a committee consisting of parents, teachers, administrators and Mayor DeSalvo to discuss the issue and consider alternatives going forward. The committee is scheduled to meet on March 19.
 - Mr. McLean noted that it was his understanding that Board policy states that any ad hoc committees formed with community members needed Board approval of the committee membership. Mr. Hurley said he would look into it and address accordingly.
- With regard to PARCC testing, he noted that testing began this morning and proceeded smoothly with no technical issues noted. A total of 1,760 students sat for the tests while 65 refused to do so.
- With regard to the Middle School concept, Mr. Hurley noted that it would be discussed at the next meeting of the Board.
- With regard to the proposed Preschool program, he redistributed the analysis presented by Mr. Killian at the last Board meeting and noted that he will need the Board's decision to proceed with the program at the March 16 meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: Preliminary 2015/2016 Budget Discussion

Mr. Hurley and Mr. Kelly presented the preliminary 2015/2016 budget, emphasizing that even presuming the Board will approve a budget that increases the tax levy by 2% as well as banked cap of \$839,390, a total of almost \$500,000 in expenditures still needs to be cut from the budget to get it into balance. They noted that discussions with district administrators and other budget managers to identify potential reductions are ongoing and that the next meeting of the Finance committee is scheduled for March 9.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Novosielski noted that, due to an unforeseen conflict of interest, a new Chair of the committee for negotiations with the RAA and RSA is needed and he appointed himself.

Mr. Novosielski also noted that recent news regarding Governor Christie's roadmap for pension and benefits reform indicates that

(1) the NJEA may be asked to assist in oversight of state pensions and (2) some state financial obligations relating to retiree health benefits may be passed to the local school districts. Mr. Kelly noted that, in 2013/2014, the state's payment of retiree health benefits on behalf of the Rutherford School District totaled \$1.2 million. Gov. Christie noted that proposed structural changes to the health benefits plans would reduce costs sufficiently to not create a negative financial impact for districts.

REPORT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD – Sean Sullivan

Mr. Sean Sullivan reported on a visit from the Dean of Admissions from Franklin & Marshall College, who spoke to students about finding the best college fit.

He further noted that spring sports are scheduled to start on March 6 and the Rutherford chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America are going to the state competition.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (Agenda Items Only) 9:25 P.M.

Mrs. Carol Hsu read a statement aloud about the teaching of World Languages in the elementary grades, noting that in preparation for PARCC testing, specific instruction in Spanish was to be substituted with typing instruction, although the district's curriculum guides indicate that Spanish would be taught, as integrated into the other parts of the curriculum. It is her belief that this has not been properly communicated to the teaching staff as it does not appear to be happening.

Mr. Hurley responded that he knows the directive was communicated to the administration but that he would follow up on the implementation.

Mrs. Valkaria Duran-Naruki concurred with Mrs. Hsu's comments and asked the Board to practice forward thinking as it pertains to student program needs.

Closed at 9:35 pm

NEW BUSINESS (Action to be Taken)

PERSONNEL: Motion by Mrs. Ahmed, seconded by Mrs. Librera to move the following resignations.

Approved by Voice Vote. [9-0-0]

MAUREEN BERTONE

1A. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to accept the resignation of Maureen Bertone, lunch monitor at Union School, effective February 27, 2015.

Roll Call Vote on Personnel Item #1A:

Mrs. Ahmed – aye	Mrs. Jones – aye	Mr. McLean– aye
Mr. Arce – aye	Mrs. Lanni – aye	Mr. Recine – aye
Mr. Chu – aye	Mrs. Librera – aye	Mr. Novosielski – aye

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

Motion by Mrs. Jones, seconded by Mr. Chu to approve Curriculum and Instruction Items #1A and #2A:

HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION BULLYING DECISION 1A. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to uphold the Superintendent’s decision in HIB investigation #2014-015, (#16851) for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent’s decision to the students’ parents, and directs the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to transmit a copy of the Board’s decision to the affected students’ parents.

HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION BULLYING DECISION 2A. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to uphold the Superintendent’s decision in HIB investigation #2014-015, (#16753) for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent’s decision to the students’ parents, and directs the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to transmit a copy of the Board’s decision to the affected students’ parents.

Roll Call Vote on Curriculum and Instruction Items #1A and #2A:

Mrs. Ahmed – no	Mrs. Jones – abstained	Mr. McLean– abstained
Mr. Arce – aye	Mrs. Lanni – aye	Mr. Recine – aye
Mr. Chu – aye	Mrs. Librera – aye	Mr. Novosielski – aye

FINANCE:

Motion by Mr. McLean, seconded by Mrs. Jones to approve Finance Items #1A thru #3A:

APPROVAL OF BILLS 1A. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION that the bills listed below be approved.

Accounts Payable	382,009.24
Offline Checks	413,711.55
Food Service Checks	22,339.83
Payroll	2,579,335.08
General Activities	<u>19,849.96</u>
Total	3,417,245.66

SECY/TREAS REPORT
JANUARY 2015

2A. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION that it has received and accepts the financial reports of the Secretary and Treasurer of School Monies for the month ending January 31, 2015, and certifies that the reports indicate that no major account or fund is over expended in violation of NJAC 6:20-2.13 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the school year. Summary pages are included in the official minute book and a detailed summary is on file in the office of the Board Secretary.

BUDGET
TRANSFERS

3A. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve budget line transfers for the period January 1, 2015 through January 31, 2015 as attached.

Roll Call Vote on Finance Items #1A thru #3A:

Mrs. Ahmed – aye	Mrs. Jones – aye	Mr. McLean– aye
Mr. Arce – aye	Mrs. Lanni – aye	Mr. Recine - aye
Mr. Chu – aye	Mrs. Librera – aye	Mr. Novosielski – aye

NEW BUSINESS: (Action will not be taken)

PERSONNEL:

Chairperson Ahmed reported on the items to be acted upon at the March 16, 2015 regular meeting.

KRISTEEN CRUISE

1. Resolution by M ____, seconded by M ____.
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve a disability leave with pay for Kristeen Cruise, grade 5 teacher at Pierrepont School, effective April 13, 2015 through (20) days following the birth of her baby to be followed by a child rearing leave of absence under the Family Leave Act without pay through February 1, 2016.

On roll call all members present voted ____.

ALAYNE LAMBA

2. Resolution by M ____, seconded by M ____.
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve a disability leave with pay for Alayne Lamba, grade 5 teacher at Union School, effective June 1, 2015 through (20) days following the birth of her baby to be followed by a child rearing leave of absence under the Family Leave Act without pay through December 18, 2015.

On roll call all members present voted ____.

ERIN TIFFNER

3. Resolution by M ____, seconded by M ____.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve a disability leave with pay for Erin Tiffner, grade 5 teacher at Union School, effective May 4, 2015 through (20) days following the birth of her baby to be followed by a child rearing leave of absence under the Family Leave Act without pay through December 18, 2015.

On roll call all members present voted ____.

STEPHANIE CASTELLANO

4. Resolution by M ____, seconded by M ____.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve a disability leave with pay for Stephanie Castellano, art teacher at Rutherford High School, effective May 27, 2015 through (20) days following the birth of her baby to be followed by a child rearing leave of absence under the Family Leave Act without pay through June 23, 2015.

On roll call all members present voted ____.

CHELSEA LEARY

5. Resolution by M ____, seconded by M ____.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve Chelsea Leary as a long term substitute teacher at Rutherford High School effective March 21, 2015 through June 30, 2015 at the per diem rate of \$240 (step 1, level 1).

On roll call all members present voted ____.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

6. Resolution by M ____, seconded by M ____.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the following substitute teachers for the 2014-2015 school year effective March 17, 2015 at the per diem rate of \$80.00 and in accordance with law:

Gillian Bonner
Katherine Calabrese
Megan Cockcroft
Ellen Plumaker
Abbey Rabinovich

On roll call all members present voted ____.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANTS

7. Resolution by M ____, seconded by M ____.
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the following substitute teacher assistants for the 2014-2015 school year effective March 17, 2015 at the hourly rate of \$10.00:

Gillian Bonner
Katherine Calabrese
Megan Cockcroft
Ellen Plumaker

On roll call all members present voted ____.

SUBSTITUTE BUS ASSISTANT

8. Resolution by M ____, seconded by M ____.
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the following substitute bus assistant for the 2014-2015 school year effective March 17, 2015 at the hourly rate of \$9.00:

Meritxi Andujar

On roll call all members present voted ____.

ALEXANDER MICELI

9. Resolution by M ____, seconded by M ____.
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve Alexander Miceli, as a part-time courier for the district, effective March 17, 2015 through June 30, 2015 at the annual salary of \$17,250(.50) (step 1) (pro-rated). This is a replacement position.

On roll call all members present voted ____.

KIMBERLEE BRADLEY

10. Resolution by M ____, seconded by M ____.
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve Kimberlee Bradley, as a part-time teacher assistant at the Kindergarten Center, effective March 17, 2015 through June 30, 2015 at the hourly rate of \$19.00 (step 1) for 4.9 hours per day. This is a replacement position.

On roll call all members present voted ____.

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENTS

11. Resolution by M ____, seconded by M ____.
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the following travel reimbursements for the 2014-2015 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Name of Activity</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Trans.</u>	<u>Meals</u>	<u>Lodgings</u>	<u>Other</u>
Laurie Catalano	Teacher	Orton-Gillingham	05/4-8/15	\$975	none	none	none	none
Megan Joyce	Teacher	Orton Gillingham	05/4-9/15	\$975	none	none	none	none
Anthony Paterno	Supervisor	NJ B&G Convention	03/16-18/15	\$100	none	none	none	\$390
Maria DeTrizio	Teacher	Intro to PROMPT	04/13-14/15	\$700	none	none	none	none

On roll call all members present voted ____.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

Chairperson Jones reported on the meeting of the Curriculum Committee and items to be acted upon at the March 16, 2015 regular meeting.

HOME INSTRUCTION

1. Resolution by M ____, seconded by M ____.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve home instruction for the following student (name on file in the office of the superintendent):

Student #11388 – effective 2/20/15

On roll call all members present voted ____.

CURRICULUM GUIDES

2. Resolution by M ____, seconded by M ____.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the following revised curriculum guides:

Social Studies

Social Studies/World Geography Grade 7
World History Honors

World Languages

Spanish Grade 6
Spanish 1a Grade 7
Spanish 1B grade 8
Spanish 1
Spanish 2

On roll call all members present voted ____.

TEXTBOOK ADOPTION

3. Resolution by M ____, seconded by M ____.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the following textbooks:

Growing Your Vocabulary: Learning from Latin and Greek Roots
by Paul Moliken

- Prestwick House Publishers, Copyright 2008, latest revision 2008 Grades 4, 5, &6
Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots: A Study of Word Families by Elizabeth Osborne
- Prestwick House Publishers, Copyright 2005, latest revision 2010 Grades 7, 8, & 9

On roll call all members present voted ____.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT
PLACEMENTS

4. Resolution by M ____, seconded by M ____.
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the attached list of contracts for tuition and other services provided for out-of-district placements for the 2014-2015 school year.

On roll call all members present voted ____.

SERVICE PROVIDER

5. Resolution by M ____, seconded by M ____.
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the attached list of a Service Provider for the 2014-2015 school year.

On roll call all members present voted ____.

FINANCE:

Chairperson McLean reported on the February 25, 2015 meeting of the Finance Committee, noting that the points discussed were included in tonight's budget presentation.

POLICY:

Chairperson Chu reported on items to be acted upon at the March 16, 2015 regular meeting.

Mr. Chu noted that the committee would next meet on March 9, 2015 and he will report on that meeting on March 16, 2015.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

Chairperson Arce reported on the meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and items to be acted upon at the March 16, 2015 regular meeting.

Mr. Arce reviewed the minutes of the February 23, 2015 committee meeting, noting that much of that discussion was included in tonight's budget presentation.

OLD BUSINESS: (No action to be Taken) [None]

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE [No report given]

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 9:56 P.M. No one spoke.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Mr. McLean, seconded by Mrs. Jones that an Executive Session be held at 9:56 P.M. for the purpose of discussing Student Matters. Action will not be taken.
The Board expects to return within 10 minutes.

Approved by Voice Vote. [9-0-0]

The Board returned at 10:06 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Mrs. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Lanni that the meeting be adjourned at 10:06 P.M.

Approved by Voice Vote. [9-0-0]

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph P. Kelly
Business Administrator/Board Secretary