

BERGENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
BERGENFIELD, N.J.

Minutes for the Action Meeting – February 14, 2011

The Action Meeting of the Bergenfield Board of Education was called to order by President Amara at 7:04 p.m.

A roll call indicated the following:

Present: Joseph Amara, President
Eileen Ryder, Vice President
Mark D’Esposito, Trustee (Arrived 7:26 pm)
Ralph Messina, Trustee

Absent: Catherine Wada, Trustee

Also present: M. Kuchar, J. Dime, H. Sinatra, C. Tully

Statement of the President:

“The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of this Board, except where specifically exempted by law, at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having same advertised in the Record on June 30, 2010; also notice of this meeting has been mailed to the members of the Board, the Borough Clerk, the Public Library, all Elementary Schools, Roy W. Brown Middle School, Bergenfield High School, and the District Website on Tuesday, February 8, 2011.”

- Trustee D’Esposito moved and Vice President Ryder seconded to accept and approve the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the Board of Education of Bergenfield in the County of Bergen hereby accepts and approves the submission of the following capital renovation projects for review and approval:

- Hoover School/Lighting/ACT Flooring Upgrades:
- Roy Brown Middle School/Lighting/ACT Flooring Upgrades:
- High School Ceilings/Lighting/ACT Flooring and Lobby Upgrades:
- High School Window Replacement:
- High School Science Lab Upgrades - Rooms 213 and 227:
- High School Locker Rooms:
- Roy Brown Middle School Toilet Room Upgrades:
- Jefferson School Toilet Room Upgrades:

- Lincoln School Toilet Room Upgrades:
- Conversion of Middle School Storage Building into Central Distribution Center and Office Space

Voting YES: Trustee D'Esposito, Trustee Messina,
Vice President Ryder and President Amara

Voting NO: None

Abstaining: None

The motion was passed.

4. Vice President Ryder moved and Trustee D'Esposito seconded to accept and approve the following gift:

The Jack Fanning Memorial Foundation has donated \$20,000.00 to the Bergenfield Board of Education Tri-Valley Academy Program.

Voting YES: Trustee D'Esposito, Trustee Messina,
Vice President Ryder and President Amara

Voting NO: None

Abstaining: None

The motion was passed.

5. Trustee D'Esposito moved and Vice President Ryder seconded to accept and approve the appointment of the firm of Fogarty and Hara as School Attorney through June 30, 2011.

Voting YES: Trustee D'Esposito, Trustee Messina,
Vice President Ryder and President Amara

Voting NO: None

Abstaining: None

The motion was passed.

6. Trustee D'Esposito moved and Vice President Ryder seconded to accept and approve the appointment of the firm of Fogarty & Hara as labor negotiations representative and construction law consultant through June 30, 2011.

Voting YES: Trustee D'Esposito, Trustee Messina,
Vice President Ryder and President Amara

Voting NO: None

Abstaining: None

The motion was passed.

7. Vice President Ryder moved and Trustee Messina seconded to accept and approve the appointment of School Auditors, Lerch, Vinci & Higgins through June 30, 2011.

Voting YES: Trustee D'Esposito, Trustee Messina,
Vice President Ryder and President Amara

Voting NO: None

Abstaining: None

The motion was passed.

8. Vice President Ryder moved and Trustee Messina seconded to accept and approve Thomas P. Egan as Interim Treasurer of School Monies effective February 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011 pro rata from \$5,678.

Voting YES: Trustee D'Esposito, Trustee Messina,
Vice President Ryder and President Amara

Voting NO: None

Abstaining: None

The motion was passed.

9. Trustee D'Esposito moved and Trustee Messina seconded to accept and approve the following Out-of-State Trips:

High School Drama I class to NY on May 4th or 11, 2011 from
9:00 am – 6:00 pm. 30 students and 5 chaperones.

High School Bear Facts Club to Columbia University on
March 16-18, 2011 from 7:30 am – 3:30 pm. 20 students and
3 chaperones.

Voting YES: Trustee D'Esposito, Trustee Messina,
Vice President Ryder and President Amara

Voting NO: None

Abstaining: None

The motion was passed.

Trustee D'Esposito moved and Trustee Messina seconded to block vote motions 10 & 11.

10. Motion to accept and approve the Conferences with Registration Fees over \$150.00 for Special Education as per the attached list.
11. Motion to accept and approve the Conferences with Registration Fees over \$150.00 for NCLB as per the attached list.

Voting YES: Trustee D'Esposito, Trustee Messina,
Vice President Ryder and President Amara

Voting NO: None

Abstaining: None

The motions were passed.

12. Trustee D'Esposito moved and Vice President Ryder seconded to accept and approve the Use of Facilities as per the attached list.

Voting YES: Trustee D'Esposito, Trustee Messina,
Vice President Ryder and President Amara

Voting NO: None

Abstaining: None

The motion was passed.

13. Trustee D'Esposito moved and Trustee Messina seconded to accept and approve the Personnel Recommendations as per the attached list.

Voting YES: Trustee D'Esposito, Trustee Messina,
Vice President Ryder and President Amara

Voting NO: None

Abstaining: None

The motion was passed.

14. Trustee D'Esposito moved and Trustee Messina seconded to accept and approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, school districts across the State of New Jersey are facing an unprecedented financial crisis which has led to the loss of a significant amount of State aid funds, public defeats of school budgets, and numerous other lost revenues, resulting in reductions in student spending, reductions in force of school staff, and other drastic cost saving measures, all of which have the potential to negatively impact the quality of education in Bergenfield and other New Jersey school districts; and

WHEREAS, under current law, upon a public defeat of the proposed school budget, the budget is submitted to the municipal governing body, who then reviews the budget and makes recommendations for reduced expenditures; and

WHEREAS, Governor Chris Christie has recently signed into law a bill requiring school district budgets to contain a tax levy growth limitation of no more than two percent (2%); and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Legislature is currently considering two bills, Senate Bill S1312 and Assembly Bill A2143, which call for school district budgets that are within the statutory tax levy growth limitation to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education for approval without the need for public election and approval of said budgets; and

WHEREAS, the Bergenfield Board of Education believes that if the public were to vote on proposed school district budgets that are within the cap, (*i.e.*, less than or equal to 2%), and those budgets were to be defeated, the potential loss of District revenue after cuts by the municipal governing body could severely inhibit the District's ability to provide a thorough and efficient education for all students while at the same time severely limiting other District operations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bergenfield Board of Education hereby supports Bills S1312 and A2143 to the extent that the bills allow for school district budgets that are within the statutory tax levy growth limitation to be submitted directly to the Commissioner of Education for review and not require voter approval at the annual election; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Bergenfield Board of Education urges other New Jersey school districts and municipal governments to adopt a similar resolution in support of Senate Bill S1312 and A2143; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary shall forward a copy of this Resolution to our State Representatives and Congressional Delegation, the New Jersey School Boards Association, Governor Christie, the Commissioner of Education, as well as local municipal leaders and our County Superintendent of Schools.

Voting YES: Trustee D'Esposito, Trustee Messina,
Vice President Ryder and President Amara

Voting NO: None

Abstaining: None

The motion was passed.

15. Vice President Ryder moved and Trustee D'Esposito seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm.