

**GARWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GARWOOD, NEW JERSEY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 15, 2019**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Christine Guerriero in the all-purpose room of the Lincoln School.

**PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES**

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the Westfield Leader, the official newspaper of the Garwood Board of Education. The News Tribune, Courier Home News, Westfield Leader, Star Ledger, and Suburban News are approved for use for legal notices. Notice of this meeting was sent to the Borough Clerk, and a copy of this meeting notice is posted on the front door of Lincoln School.

**II. ROLL CALL:**

<u>  </u> P <u>  </u> Mr. A. DelConte	NP <u>  </u> Ms. L. Koenig	<u>  </u> P <u>  </u> Mrs. M. Scepkowski
<u>  </u> P* <u>  </u> Mrs. S. Groning	NP**Mr. S. Piarulli	<u>  </u> P <u>  </u> Mrs. T. Simitz
<u>  </u> P <u>  </u> Miss C. Guerriero	<u>  </u> P <u>  </u> Mrs. D. Ridente	<u>  </u> P <u>  </u> Mr. R. Trentacosta

\*Mrs. Groning arrived at 7:07

\*\*Mr. Piarulli attended via phone call beginning at 7:42 p.m.

**III. OTHERS PRESENT**

   P    Dr. Teresa Quigley, Superintendent  
   P    Mrs. Debra LeBrun, SBA/BS  
   P    Mr. John Geppert, Board Attorney

**IV. FLAG SALUTE**

**V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Be it resolved that the GBOE conducts a closed, executive session concerning the following topic(s) as permitted by the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act after which time the Board may or may not return to public session to take action:

<u>  </u> X <u>  </u> personnel matter, staff	<u>  </u> safety and protection of property
<u>  </u> personal matter, student	<u>  </u> contract negotiations
<u>  </u> litigation	<u>  </u> X <u>  </u> other permitted by law

Be it further resolved that at such time as it is legally appropriate for the substance of the closed session to be made public that same will be ordered.

**Time of vote to enter closed session: 7:02 p.m.**

**Time returning to public session: 7:40 p.m.**

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the September 17, 2019 regular and executive session meetings

**ROLL CALL:**

<u>Y</u> Mr. A. DelConte	<u>NP</u> Ms. L. Koenig	<u>S</u> Mrs. M. Scepkowski
<u>Y</u> Mrs. S. Groning	<u>Y</u> Mr. S. Piarulli	<u>Y</u> Mrs. T. Simitz
<u>Y</u> Miss C. Guerriero	<u>M</u> Mrs. D. Ridente	<u>Y</u> Mr. R. Trentacosta

**VII. PRESENTATION – NJSLA Testing Reports – Mrs. Emmons**

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Building & Grounds/Finance**

S. Groning, Chairperson  
A. DelConte  
S. Piarulli  
R. Trentacosta

Mrs. Groning reported that the meeting was held on 10/2. Discussed were installation and testing of vaping detectors; New copier contracts; Researching new elevator contract; Auditors are still working on audit.

**Education/Policy**

M. Scepkowski, Chairperson  
C. Guerriero  
D. Ridente  
T. Simitz

Mrs. Scepkowski reported that the meeting was held on 10/8. Discussed were the school budget and debt services; 2018-2019 testing results; First reading policies; Clubs for the school year; Committee of the Whole; SAC job description; Special Education opening; Mrs. Satkin’s resignation; 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip.

**IX. LIAISON REPORTS:****Clark Board of Education**

T. Simitz, Delegate

Mrs. Simitz reported that the meeting was held on 10/7. Discussed were the district goals; They kicked off the football season with a tailgate; A college fair was held on 10/7; Celebrated the Week of Respect.

**Education Foundation of Garwood**

M. Scepkowski, Delegate

There will be a wine tasting fundraiser at Rosie's on 10/24. Tickets are \$30; Discussing making the grant application shorter to entice more teachers to apply.

**Representative to the Borough Council**

A. DelConte, Delegate

BOE/Borough Council Liaison report – Miss Guerriero attended the quarterly meeting. Discussed were a portion of the Pathmark property is going to be taken over by Lidl; Construction on the previous Petro site has begun; Garwood received approximately \$11,000 for homes from FEMA; Garwood is negotiating with PSE&G for loss of power; The manufacturer of Garwood's new fire truck will be providing Professional Development for the Fire Department once the new truck is delivered; Discussed Path to Progress and the consolidation of towns. Garwood passed a resolution stating that the town would not support a consolidation and hopes that the BOE will come up with a similar resolution.

**Union County Educational Services Commission**

L. Koenig, Delegate  
 Alternates:  
 C. Guerriero  
 M. Scepkowski

No report.

**Union County School Boards Association**

S. Groning, Delegate  
 Alternate: M. Scepkowski

Mr. DelConte, Mrs. Simitz and Mrs. Scepkowski attended a meeting at the Westwood on 9/25. Discussed were NJ schools are ranked number one in the nation; The SEL and budget; Recommended watching the Buildings Foundations of Hope video.

**X. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Quigley reported that there was one HIB reported and it was deemed a conflict. Dr. Quigley thanked Mrs. Emmons, Mrs. T. Parkhill and Mr. Burke for their presentations. Mr. Burke discussed the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Stokes trip and Mrs. T. Parkhill discussed the Week of Respect; Garwood Alliance arranged for a full day of team building activities for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade; Introduced the new teachers Ms. Romano, Ms. Musella and Miss Cohen; The Professional Development day on 10/14 was about social emotional learning. It was informative and fun; Is sorry to have

Mrs. Satkin retiring and Ms. Kahriman resigning; The PTA will host a BOE Candidates night on 10/21; Looking forward to the Committee of the Whole workshops.

Resolved that the Garwood Board of Education accepts the October 2019 Superintendent's report. Moved by: S. Groning Seconded by: R. Trentacosta Motion carried: all Ayes

\*During the course of the board meeting the Garwood Board of Education offers members of the public an opportunity to address issues regarding the operation of the Garwood Public Schools. The Board reminds those individuals who take this opportunity to identify themselves by name and address and to limit their comments to items listed on the agenda and/or items directly related to the operation of the School District. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board. All comments will be considered and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate. The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged and will not be responded to by the Board. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded by the laws of New Jersey. The Board bears no responsibility nor will it be liable for any comments made by members of the public. Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments and be aware that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

## **XI. HEARING OF CITIZENS**

**The following is a summary of the Board's understanding of comments made by members of the public. This is not a verbatim transcript.**

A. Silverman, 351 Hazel Ave – Asked about the gym floor and how often it's tested.

D. Parkhill, 236 Locust Ave. – Asked about items 7 and 8 under Committee of the Whole; Activity fees only charged for sports not other school activities.

D. Peniche, 601 Center Street – Asked about a BOE member's absence.

M. Kjetsaa, 350 Hickory Ave. – Commends the BOE members attending the school board's convention.

B. Paterson, 225 Willow Ave. – Asked about the pilot money; Classroom configurations; Does tuition for special education students include transportation; Budget increase.

## **XII. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

1. Move to approve, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator and the SBA/BS, the attached list of budget transfer for the month of September 2019.
2. Move to approve, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator and the SBA/BS, the payment of the September 2019 bills in the amount of \$1,343,165.44.
3. WHEREAS, the Garwood Board of Education, as recommended by the Chief School Administrator, and pursuant to N.J.A.C. (6A:23-2.2), has received the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of September 2019; and

WHEREAS, said reports are in agreement, and it has been certified by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary that no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. (6A:23-2.12), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Garwood Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the month of September 2019 as submitted and certified.

- 4. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, in cooperation with the SBA/BS, the approval of the 5 year term copier lease with Atlantic for at a monthly cost of \$1,550.

**ROLL CALL:**

Y\* Mr. A. DelConte      NP Ms. L. Koenig      Y Mrs. M. Scepkowski  
Y Mrs. S. Groning      N Mr. S. Piarulli      S Mrs. T. Simitz  
Y Miss C. Guerriero      M Mrs. D. Ridente      Y Mr. R. Trentacosta

\*Mr. DelConte abstained from item 2 PO# 26

**XIII. BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

- 1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, in cooperation with the Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds, the use of the gym by the Garwood Lions Club for their annual Halloween Parade on October 31, 2019.

**ROLL CALL:**

Y Mr. A. DelConte      NP Ms. L. Koenig      Y Mrs. M. Scepkowski  
M Mrs. S. Groning      Y Mr. S. Piarulli      Y Mrs. T. Simitz  
Y Miss C. Guerriero      Y Mrs. D. Ridente      S Mr. R. Trentacosta

**XIV. EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- 1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, in cooperation with the Special Services Department, approval of student 3034043780 to attend Honor Ridge Academy for the 2019 - 2020 school year at an estimated tuition cost of \$76,000.00.

**ROLL CALL:**

Y Mr. A. DelConte      NP Ms. L. Koenig      M Mrs. M. Scepkowski  
Y Mrs. S. Groning      Y Mr. S. Piarulli      Y Mrs. T. Simitz  
Y Miss C. Guerriero      S Mrs. D. Ridente      Y Mr. R. Trentacosta

**XV. POLICY COMMITTEE**

- 1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the first reading of the following:

Policy 4116	Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members
Policy 4117.4	Reduction in Force/Abolish a Position
Policy 4117.41	Non-Renewal
Policy 4119.21	Conflict of Interest
Policy 4119.22	Conduct and Dress
Policy 4119.23	Employee Substance Abuse
Policy 4119.26	Electronic Communication by School Staff
Policy 4121	Substitute Teachers
Bylaw 9271.1	Board Member Use of Internet Social Networks and Other Forms Electronic Communication

**ROLL CALL:**

- |                            |                          |                             |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>Y</u> Mr. A. DelConte   | <u>NP</u> Ms. L. Koenig  | <u>S</u> Mrs. M. Scepkowski |
| <u>Y</u> Mrs. S. Groning   | <u>Y</u> Mr. S. Piarulli | <u>Y</u> Mrs. T. Simitz     |
| <u>Y</u> Miss C. Guerriero | <u>M</u> Mrs. D. Ridente | <u>Y</u> Mr. R. Trentacosta |

**XVI. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

- 1. Move to approve, with regrets, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the resignation of Sara Kahriman effective October 25, 2019.
- 2. Move to approve, with regrets, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the retirement of Eileen Satkin effective October 31, 2019.
- 3. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the appointment of Amanda Cohen as a Special Education Teacher on Step 1 + BA (\$51,012) for the 2019-2020 school year pending a satisfactory criminal history background check and mantoux results.
- 4. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the change of employment status for Sara Law from part-time to full-time with benefits paraprofessional at a rate of \$13.61 per hour for the 2019-2020 school year.
- 5. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, in Cooperation with the Lincoln School Principal, the appointment of Mireya Kolfenback as part-time security personnel without benefits at a salary of \$12.00 per hour for the 2019-2020 school year.
- 6. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, in cooperation with the Lincoln School Principal/Anti-Bullying Coordinator, the Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights that was presented at the September 17, 2019 board of education meeting.

- 7. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, in cooperation with the Lincoln School Principal, the appointment of the following to the extra-curricular position for the 2019 - 2020 school year as per the negotiated agreement. Clubs must have a minimum of 15 participants and a maximum of 20 participants:

Art Club – Rebecca Planner – October – December  
 Pep Club – Tamara Benc – December - February  
 Wellness Club – Sarina Drummond – January - March  
 Backstage Crew Club – Carol DelConte – April – May  
 Newspaper Club – Carol DelConte & Nicole Tarantino – April - June

- 8. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the appointment of the following for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade play positions pending a satisfactory criminal background check. The funding drawn from the play’s proceeds will be used as compensation for services:

Play Production – Heather Linken – Choreographer - \$600.  
 Janelle Hartz – Sound - \$450.  
 Michael Hartz – Lights - \$450.

- 9. Move to approve, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the following board member(s) to attend the annual school board’s convention in Atlantic City, NJ from October 22, 2019 to October 23, 2019 at the following cost: transportation to be reimbursed at .35 cents per mile, meals and incidentals not to exceed \$59.00 per day, lodging at a cost of \$94.00 per night (excluding taxes) not to exceed three nights, and workshop registration of \$375 each person:

A. Tina Simitz                                  B. Maureen Scepkowski

- 10. Move to approve, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, Debra LeBrun to attend the annual school board’s convention in Atlantic City, NJ from October 22, 2019 to October 24, 2019 at the following cost: transportation to be reimbursed at .35 cents per mile, meals and incidentals not to exceed \$59.00 per day and workshop registration of \$375.

- 11. Move to approve, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, aid in lieu of transportation at the 2019-2020 rate for student 7329035642.

**ROLL CALL:**

**\_Y\*\_ Mr. A. DelConte          \_NP\_ Ms. L. Koenig                      Y\*\* Mrs. M. Scepkowski**  
**\_Y\_ Mrs. S. Groning      \*\*\*\*\*NP\_ Mr. S. Piarulli                  \_Y\*\*\* Mrs. T. Simitz**  
**\_Y\_ Miss C. Guerriero      \_S\_ Mrs. D. Ridente                      Y\*\*\*\*\* Mr. R. Trentacosta**

\*Mr. DelConte abstained from item 7  
 \*\*Mrs. Scepkowski abstained from item 9B  
 \*\*\*Mrs. Simitz abstained from item 9A  
 \*\*\*\*Mr. Trentacosta voted no to item 6  
 \*\*\*\*\*Mr. Piarulli was not connected via phone during vote

12. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, Committee of the Whole workshops to be held on November 12 and December 10.

**ROLL CALL:**

<u>Y</u> Mr. A. DelConte	<u>NP</u> Ms. L. Koenig	<u>M</u> Mrs. M. Scepkowski
<u>S</u> Mrs. S. Groning	<u>N</u> Mr. S. Piarulli	<u>Y</u> Mrs. T. Simitz
<u>Y</u> Miss C. Guerriero	<u>Y</u> Mrs. D. Ridente	<u>N</u> Mr. R. Trentacosta

13. Move to approve, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, Christine Guerriero to attend the annual school board’s convention in Atlantic City, NJ any one day October 22, 2019 to October 24, 2019 at the following cost: transportation to be reimbursed at .35 cents per mile, meals and incidentals not to exceed \$59.00 per day and workshop registration of \$375.

**ROLL CALL:**

<u>Y</u> Mr. A. DelConte	<u>NP</u> Ms. L. Koenig	<u>Y</u> Mrs. M. Scepkowski
<u>S</u> Mrs. S. Groning	<u>N</u> Mr. S. Piarulli	<u>M</u> Mrs. T. Simitz
<u>AB</u> Miss C. Guerriero	<u>Y</u> Mrs. D. Ridente	<u>NP*</u> Mr. R. Trentacosta

\*Mr. Trentacosta left at 9:35

**XVII. OLD BUSINESS**

**XVIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Piarulli asked Dr. Quigley to reach out to Dr. Gambino to discuss school safety and invite him to do a presentation for the board.

**XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made at 9:36 p.m.

Moved by: S. Groning  
Seconded by: T. Simitz  
Motion carried: All Ayes

Legend: P = Present  
M = Moved motion  
S = Seconded motion  
Y = Yes Vote  
N = No Vote  
AB = Abstain

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra LeBrun, SBA/BS