

**GARWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GARWOOD, NEW JERSEY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 19, 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	<u>  </u> P* <u>  </u> Ms. L. Koenig	<u>  </u> P <u>  </u> Mrs. M. Scepkowski
<u>  </u> P <u>  </u> Mrs. S. Groning	<u>  </u> P <u>  </u> Mr. S. Piarulli	NP <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

\*Ms. Koenig arrived AT 7:33 p.m.

**III. OTHERS PRESENT**

<u>  </u> P <u>  </u> Dr. Teresa Quigley, Superintendent
<u>  </u> P <u>  </u> Mrs. Maria Cortese
<u>  </u> P <u>  </u> Ms. Hope R. Blackburn, 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> X <u>  </u> personal matter, student	<u>  </u> X <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: 7:06 p.m.**

**Time returning to public session: 7:30 p.m.**

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS OF SCHOOL ELECTION:**

3 – Three year terms: Mrs. Adrienne Barnes - 485  
Dr. Mary Ann Kjetsaa – 495  
Mr. Tim Ryan - 501

Mrs. Susan Groning- 419  
Mr. Sal Piarulli - 408  
Mrs. Tina Simitz - 410

**VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the October 15, 2019 regular and executive session meetings as amended

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**VIII. PRESENTATION** – Dr. Thomas Gambino -NJDOE  
Office of School Preparedness & Emergency Planning

**IX. LIAISON REPORTS:**

**Clark Board of Education** T. Simitz, Delegate

Miss Guerriero reported that the meeting was held on 11/4. Mr. Grande presented the NJSLA results and the 2019 Pathway to Graduation. The results will be shared with the Garwood District administration; The Board approved the agreement with Union County College for dual enrollment with ALJ for 2019-2020; The Board approved the use of Kim Marshall teacher/principal evaluations for the 2019-2020 school year; The next meeting will be on 12/2.

**Education Foundation of Garwood** M. Scepkowski, Delegate

Mrs. Scepkowski reported that there will be a fundraiser at The Station in January; There is a new shorter application for EFG grants; The next meeting is 11/26.

**Representative to the Borough Council** A. DelConte, Delegate

No report.

**Union County Educational Services Commission**

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

Miss Guerriero reported that the meeting was held on 11/6. Mr. Liebfried, Principal of Crossroads school gave an overview of their program; Mrs. Foppert, Superintendent reported that the area around Lamberts Mill Academy has been identified as a school zone with 25 mph speed limits; Attended a vaping program at UCVTS; Reported on the 2018-2019 NJSLA and DLM results; First and second reading policies were approved.

**Union County School Boards Association**

S. Groning, Delegate  
 Alternate: M. Scepkowski

Miss Guerriero and Mr. DelConte attended the meeting on 11/13, Mr. Ryan and Dr. Kjetsaa also attended. Dr. Cortellino, VP for legislation/resolution reported that the 2019 workshop has more than 9,000 registrants, more than 300 presenters and more than 1,300 student participants; The NJSBA Delegate Assembly will be held on 11/23; The NJBOE advanced a proposal eliminating the math and English exam for 10<sup>th</sup> graders beginning with the class of 2023. Additionally the proposal replaces the two tests that 11<sup>th</sup> graders currently take with one test that would include English 10, algebra 1 and geometry; There are two competing health care plans for the public school teachers; Ray Pinney, NJSBA Director of Member Engagement did a presentation on "Hints on Our Effectiveness as Board Members".

**X. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT`**

There was one reported HIB incident which was deemed a violation of our student code of conduct.

Dr. Quigley thanked Dr. Gambino for his School Safety presentation. It's important to remember that "if you see something, say something"; The 8<sup>th</sup> grade play "Beauty and the Beast" is this weekend. Ms. Cafiero used the 3D printer which was purchased with a grant from the EFG to make props for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade play. Her iSTEAM class also created Maurice's invention for the play; There were over 800 pounds of food collected during the Student Council Thanksgiving food drive; American Visitation Week is this week and parents were invited to visit their child's classrooms today; Parent/Teacher conferences are next week; Thanked the outgoing BOE members for their service; Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Resolved that the Garwood Board of Education accepts the November 2019 Superintendent's report. Moved by: S. Groning Seconded by: S. Piarulli 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.**

Bruce Paterson, 225 Willow Avenue – Asked about American Education Week; Item #3 under Committee of the Whole.

Michael Bonaccorso, Westfield Leader – Asked about the Garwood contract with Clark.

Richard McCormick, 101 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Asked about getting BOE information to senior citizens and other residents who do not have kids in the school.

Rachel Herz, 61 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Asked about the testing scores presentation.

**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 October 2019.
2. Move to approve, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator and the SBA/BS, the payment of the October 2019 bills in the amount of \$889,948.40.
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 October 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 October 2019 as submitted and certified.

**ROLL CALL:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Y* Mr. A. DelConte</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Y Ms. L. Koenig</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>M Mrs. M. Scepkowski</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Y Mrs. S. Groning</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Y Mr. S. Piarulli</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NP Mrs. T. Simitz</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Y Miss C. Guerriero</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Y Mrs. D. Ridente</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>S Mr. R. Trentacosta</b>

\*Mr. DelConte abstained from check # 013791 and 013806

**XIII. BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

1. Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, in cooperation with the SBA/BS, approves the attached three-year Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for 2018-2019 expenditures; 2019-2020 budget; 2021-2022 projected.
2. Move to approve, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, in cooperation with the Supervisor of Building and Grounds, the use of the gym by the Garwood Recreation Department from December 2, 2019 thru February 28, 2020, Monday thru Thursday and Fridays as needed between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

\*Mr. Piarulli voted no to #1 and yes to #2

**XIV. POLICY COMMITTEE**

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

Policy 4122	Student Teachers/Interns
Policy 4123	Classroom Aides (Paraprofessionals)
Policy 4131/4131.1	Staff Development, In-Service Education/Visitation/Conferences
Policy 4138	Non-school Employment
Policy 4138.2	Private Tutoring
Policy 4147	Employee Safety
Policy 4151	Attendance Patterns
Policy 4151.1	Personal Illness and Injury/Health Hardship
Policy 4222	Noninstructional Aides
Bylaw 9322	Public and Executive Sessions

**ROLL CALL:**

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

\*Ms. Koenig and Miss Guerriero voted no to Bylaw 9322

**XV. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

1. Move to approve, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the findings and decisions presented at the October 15, 2019 board meeting regarding bullying incidents I-1.

2. Move to approve, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, in cooperation with the Lincoln School Principal, the appointment of the following staff as part-time paraprofessionals not to exceed 25 hours per week without benefits for the 2019-2020 school year pending a criminal history background check and mantoux results:

- A. Angela Drake (\$13.25/hour)
- B. Jisca Morinvil (\$13.25/hour)
- C. Mireya Kolfenback (\$12.00/hour)

3. Move to approve, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, in cooperation with the Lincoln School Principal, the appointment of the following as substitute teachers for the 2019-2020 school year pending a criminal history background check and mantoux results:

- A. Jennifer Blumenstock
- B. Russ Graham

4. Move to approve, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, in cooperation with the Lincoln School Principal, approves the appointment of Courtney Capizzi as a maternity leave replacement teacher on BA + Step 1 prorated for Mrs. Zultanky in accordance with the negotiated contract pending a criminal history background check and mantoux results. (First 20 days \$90/day and Step 1 + BA prorated \$275.74/day for days 21+).

5. Move to approve, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, in cooperation with the Lincoln School Principal, the appointment of Cheryl Paolino to mentor Amanda Cohen for the 2019-2020 school year in accordance with the negotiated teachers' contract (\$550).

6. Move to approve, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, in cooperation with the Certified School Nurse the 2019-2020 Nursing Plan.

7. Move to approve, with regrets, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the resignation of Debra LeBrun effective February 1, 2020.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

\*Ms. Koenig, Mrs. Groning, Mr. Piarulli and Mrs. Ridente voted no to item #3

**XVI. OLD BUSINESS**

Miss Guerriero mentioned that it was the 156<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gettysburg Cemetary.

Mrs. Scepkowski spoke about video taping meetings.

Ms. Koenig suggested hosting an open house for the community.

**XVII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Trentacosta mentioned an article in the Westfield Leader stating that Cranford agreed to share pilot money with the BOE; Asked about the unpaid lunch bill school policy.

**XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made at 9:07 p.m.

Moved by: S. Piarulli  
Seconded by: R. Trentacosta  
Motion carried: All Ayes

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Maria Cortese