

**GARWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION
GARWOOD, NEW JERSEY
COW MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 2019**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 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	<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

III. OTHERS PRESENT

<u> </u> P <u> </u> Dr. Teresa Quigley, Superintendent
<u> </u> P <u> </u> Mr. John Geppert, Board Attorney
<u> </u> P <u> </u> Mr. Tom Spera, B&G
<u> </u> P <u> </u> Mrs. Jacqueline Grogan

IV. FLAG SALUTE

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building & Grounds– Mr. Spera

- Mr. Spera introduced Alexis Goldman from Architect Solutions who discussed and distributed handouts regarding change orders at the Washington School Project. Dr. Quigley noted these will need to be approved at the next board meeting.

- S. Groning – Noted discrepancy in numbers. Ms. Goldman re-worked the numbers and stated Balance left from Original Budget should actually be \$40,475.54.

- T. Spera – Commended YMCA as tenants and how they have spent money on taking care of the building.
 - A. DelConte – Stated that we pay for half of all expenses the YMCA incurs. It is not all absorbed by the YMCA.
 - R. Trentacosta questioned the overtime (#4 on handout) – asked if we have log in records of that. Ms. Goldman confirmed that payroll records are submitted and on file at the board office.
 - R. Trentacosta questioned Flooring Modifications (#6 on Handout) - asked if there are any safety issues with the kids being in the rooms. Ms. Goldman stated that the contractor purchased large carpets and taped them down to eliminate any tripping hazards.
 - The \$18,799.46 from Change Orders is what needs to be approved.
 - A. DelConte – asked Mr. Spera if he is comfortable with all of the change orders. Mr. Spera responded, yes.
- Clark Soccer Club facilities usage – Dr. Quigley: majority of Clark Soccer Club are Garwood girls. They work it out with Garwood Recreation to use our gym 7 or 8 Fridays throughout the year and that will be on the agenda on Tuesday. Rec has already started.
 - Mr. Spera noted that Rec will use the gym approximately 3 days a week instead of 5.
 - Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist – Every year we have to do this. Includes all safety devices, asbestos plan, water testing, etc. We have submitted it.
 - Mr. Spera – New Expense – On our main air handler, hot water valve went bad. The valve cost \$495 plus some re-piping. The total job will be \$1,200-\$1,500 area. Ms. Guerriero asked if we anticipate issues other valves that were inserted around the same time. Mr. Spera replied yes, everything only has a life expectancy of 7–10 years.

NJSBA 2020 Workshop Report – Mrs. Simitz and Mrs. Scepkowski

- Ms. Guerriero asked about Wingman Program – Student Driven, peer advisory, trains kids to self-monitor & make connections – to grow the program with other children. Working on program with NJ School Boards
 - Dr. Quigley – Maybe if Clark wants it too, we can share the cost.
- Mrs. Scepkowski spoke to a theater company about their screen, which they use as backdrops for performances.
 - Dr. Quigley asked about the cost of the screen. It is \$15,000-\$20,000.

Finance – Dr. Quigley

- Audit findings – Presentation 12/17 board meeting – Board members will receive copy of audit report on Friday. We currently do not have a BA so we cannot have a corrective action plan for the December meeting. Presentation will be pushed to January instead.
- Business Office Corrective Action Plan 2019 – 2020 – Will be discussed at January meeting. Will speak about the hiring of a new BA in executive session tonight.

- Donation from the Knights of Columbus – Will accept a generous donation from the Knights of Columbus for our pre-school disabled program – this will be on agenda for next meeting.
- Restructure paraprofessional pay scale to reflect minimum wage increase – Distributed handouts and discussed paraprofessional current pay scale & the need to revise it.
 - S. Groning questioned requirement of 60 college credits. If they don't have it, they need to take and pass the para test.
 - Mr. Piarulli – asked how we compare to surrounding towns. Dr. Quigley will get information and bring to next meeting.
 - S. Groning asked about other paras not on the list. Dr. Quigley will bring full list to the meeting next week.
 - Mrs. Scepkowski – It has to change eventually due to minimum wage increase. Dr. Quigley agreed we have to fix the scale & plan accordingly.

Policy – Miss Guerriero

First and Second Reading

Bylaw 9010.1 Board Member Attendance Policy

- Discussed adding specific language regarding board members being present for 2/3 of the meeting in order to be considered present as well as board members notifying BOE president if they will be absent & BOE president, in turn, informing members at the beginning of meeting. Dr. Quigley will tweak policy & bring to next board meeting.

Second Reading (Discussed at 11/12 COW meeting)

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	Staff Patterns
Policy 4151.1	Personal Illness and Injury/Health Hardship
Policy 4222	Noninstructional Aides
Bylaw 9322	Public and Executive Sessions

- Policy 4119.21 – Conflict of Interest – D. Ridente suggested revising the policy to include limiting the number of people we may hire who are also members of the town's governing body. Dr. Quigley asked that Mrs. Ridente forward NJ School Boards response regarding the Policy number. We will keep the policy as it is and if the board wants to revise it, we will do a second reading.

Education – Dr. Quigley

- Clark/Garwood NJSLA comparison scores – Discussed Mrs. Emmons' PowerPoint. Discussed 8th grade math/ algebra and the disadvantage of having a smaller school – we

are only able to have two levels instead of three. Mr. Trentacosta would like to see the current 6th grade (last year's 5th grade) scores compared to Clark.

- 2019 - 2020 update on school goal #4 K-5 personalized learning – Mrs. Emmons spoke about IXL Diagnostics. Confirmed that we have benchmarks & can track students' progress. Jan or Feb is the next benchmark & we will give it to the board.
- 8th Grade trip – Will be going to Boston – It was done by survey. Dr. Quigley spoke about safety.
- Staffing – Will be discussed in Executive Session
 - Business Office
 - Business Administrator
 - Accounts Payable clerk
 - Special Education
 - ABA Paraprofessionals

VI. 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.

- Rachel Herz 61 Fourth Avenue
Questioned whether students are allowed to go to the next level in IXL Diagnostics. Mrs. Emmons explained that we want students to follow the system recommendations. Once they have mastered a level, the system will take them to the next level.
- Jenn Blumenstock 315 Spruce
Spoke about BOE decision not to hire substitutes who are council members. Questioned legality of the decision. Hopes that in the future the BOE will work objectively and keep political aspect out of it.
- Jessica Siew 312 Cedar Street
Asked if parents reach out to teachers regarding IXL - Yes
- Russ Graham 12 Liberty Court
Feels that decision to deny his employment as a substitute teacher due to his role as a councilman was irresponsible and politicized. Asked BOE to reconsider.
- Bruce Patterson 225 Willow Avenue
Spoke about attendance policy
Asked in Mrs. LeBrun is still here – Yes, she gave 60 days notice
What happens to the money left over from Washington School Project – Stays in Capital Reserve
Asked for clarification of how we share expenses with YMCA – We only get a % of their profit
Asked about committee names – Dr. Quigley-we are working on it and agendas will be changed going forward.
Suggested to allow only one elected official from the town to be hired, as a compromise.

VII. 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.

<u> X </u> personnel matter, staff	<u> </u> safety and protection of property
<u> </u> personal matter, student	<u> </u> contract negotiations
<u> </u> litigation	<u> X </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: 9:30 p.m.

Time returning to public session: 10:45 p.m.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- D. Ridente - Can I ask questions when we have meeting with mayor? – Yes

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- Schedule reorganization meeting.
- A. DelConte – MS Science is collecting single use products for recycling & competing against other NJ schools. Dr. Quigley – We will add it to the school website

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made at 10:45 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,

Jacqueline Grogan