

**GARWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION
GARWOOD, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 19, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Ralph Trentacosta via Google Meets and immediately convene to executive session.

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> Mrs. A. Barnes	<u> </u> P <u> </u> Mr. A. DelConte	<u> </u> P <u> </u> Miss C. Guerriero
<u> </u> P <u> </u> Dr. M. Kjetsaa	<u> </u> P <u> </u> Ms. L. Koenig	<u> </u> P* <u> </u> Mrs. D. Ridente
<u> </u> P <u> </u> Mr. T. Ryan	<u> </u> P <u> </u> Mrs. M. Scepkowski	<u> </u> P <u> </u> Mr. R. Trentacosta

*Mrs. Ridente joined at 7:09 p.m.

III. OTHERS PRESENT

 P Dr. Teresa Quigley, Superintendent
 P* Mrs. Ana Pfalzgraf, SBA/BS (*Joined at 7:05 p.m.)
 P Mr. John Geppert, Board Attorney

IV. 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> <u> </u> safety and protection of property
<u> </u> <u> </u> personal matter, student	<u> </u> <u> </u> contract negotiations
<u> </u> <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: 7:12 p.m.

Time returning to public session: 7:29 p.m.

V. FLAG SALUTE

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the May 5, 2020 special meeting

ROLL CALL:

<u>Y</u> Mrs. A. Barnes	<u>Y</u> Mr. A. DelConte	<u>Y</u> Miss C. Guerriero
<u>S</u> Dr. M. Kjetsaa	<u>Y</u> Ms. L. Koenig	<u>Y</u> Mrs. D. Ridente
<u>M</u> Mr. T. Ryan	<u>Y</u> Mrs. M. Scepkowski	<u>Y</u> Mr. R. Trentacosta

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building & Grounds/Finance/Budget

A. DelConte
C. Guerriero
L. Koenig
R. Trentacosta

Met on 5/12. Ongoing process, next meeting will be on 6/2 or 6/4.

Education/Negotiations

M. Kjetsaa
D. Ridente
T. Ryan

Met on 5/11 and 5/18.

Strategic Planning/Policy/Superintendent Evaluation

A. Barnes
C. Guerriero
M. Kjetsaa
M. Scepkowski

Dr. Kjetsaa reported that the committee met and discussed a community survey to gather input and data regarding current and future steps for the Strategic Plan.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Quigley reported that she and Mrs. Emmons will be distributing graduation signs and caps and gowns to the graduates’ homes; Shared the end of year quarterly report illustrating the level of educational retention and student’s ability to maintain skills during remote learning due to

COVID-19. The report shows two months of emotional and academic growth despite the pandemic; A preliminary year end survey will be sent out to parents; The summer program dates have been revised. There will be a two week break between the end of the school year and the beginning of the summer program which runs Monday-Thursday; Out-of-district students will also use remote learning for the summer program.

Resolved that the Garwood Board of Education accepts the May 2020 Superintendent's report.
Moved by: C. Guerriero Seconded by: M. Kjetsaa 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.

IX. 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.

B. Paterson, 325 Willow Ave – Asked how many people were in attendance; Asked about the annual check cancellation; What is the average tax impact per resident; Asked why the BOE president voted against the budget.

S.Piarulli, 55 4th Ave – Pleaded with the board to vote no on the budget to freeze expenses. Many have lost their jobs or have not received pay increases.

T. Simitz, 345 Hemlock Ave – Asked about curriculum and Zoom classes. There is a lack of teacher accountability and student follow up. It does not meet the standards of surrounding towns.

K. Salmon, 80 4th Ave – Expressed that there is not enough budget information and that the board should have better communication with town council.

S. Groning, 549 Myrtle Ave – Asked about budget expenses versus the tax levy. Total school expenditures can not be billed to the town or the tax payers, only the 2% increase, Bank CAP debt service for a total of \$8,714,173 as per agenda.

X. FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator and the SBA/BS, the contract with Suplee, Clooney & Company for the 2020-2021 school year audit at a rate of \$20,885.

2. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator and the SBA/BS, the 2020-2021 special education tuition contract with the Union County Education Services Commission. This contract covers any and all students attending one or more schools operated by the Commission.

3. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator and the SBA/BS, the 2020-2021 coordinated transportation services agreement with the Union County Education Services Commission. This contract covers special education transportation and non-public transportation if applicable.

4. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator and the Special Services Department, the agreement between Trinitas Children’s Therapy Services and the Garwood Public Schools for occupational and/or physical therapy for the 2020-2021 school year including the extended school year.

5. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator and the SBA/BS, the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools tuition contract at a rate of \$6,000 per student for the 2020-2021 school year.

6. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator and the SBA/BS, all checks dated prior to July 1, 2019 be canceled and funds will be reentered as miscellaneous revenue.

7. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator and the SBA/BS, the following schedule of local tax levy payments from the Borough of Garwood for the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with the following schedule:

Garwood Monthly Tax Levy Payments 20-21			
	General	Debt	
Date	Fund	Service	Total
July 11, 2020	681,989.50	433,450.00	1,115,439.50
August 8, 2020	681,989.50		681,989.50
September 12, 2020	681,989.50		681,989.50
October 10, 2020	681,989.50		681,989.50

November 14, 2020	681,989.50		681,989.50
December 12, 2020	681,989.50		681,989.50
January 9, 2021	681,989.33	96,850	778,839.33
February 13, 2021	681,989.33		681,989.33
March 13, 2021	681,989.33		681,989.33
April 10, 2021	681,989.33		681,989.33
May 8, 2021	681,989.33		681,989.33
June 12, 2021	681,989.33		681,989.33
TOTALS	8,183,873.00	530,300.00	8,714,173.00

8. WHEREAS, the Garwood Board of Education adopted a tentative budget on March 17, 2020 to be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval; and WHEREAS, the tentative budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Garwood Board of Education voted on that budget at the May 5, 2020 Special Budget meeting and the total amount of the budget for General Fund Expenses remains at **\$9,362,961**.

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2020-2021 School Budget be adopted as follows:

General Fund	\$9,362,961
Restricted Special Revenue	\$99,774
Debt Service	\$530,300
Total Budget	\$9,993,035

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following General Fund and Debt Service Fund Tax Levies be approved to support the 2020-2021 budget:

General Fund	\$8,183,873
Debt Service	\$530,300
Total Budget	\$9,993,035

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, \$74,904.00 of Banked Cap will be utilized in the 2020-2021 budget;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, \$0 of Capital Reserve will be utilized in the 2020-2021 budget.

ROLL CALL:

Y Mrs. A. Barnes _Y_ Mr. A. DelConte _M_ Miss C. Guerriero
 Y Dr. M. Kjetsaa _S_ Ms. L. Koenig _Y*_ Mrs. D. Ridente
 Y Mr. T. Ryan _Y*_ Mrs. M. Scepkowski _Y*_ Mr. R. Trentacosta

*Mrs. Ridente, Mrs. Scepkowski and Mr Trentacosta voted no to item #8

XI. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the attached revised 2019-2020 school calendar.
2. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator and the Special Services Department, the revised Summer Program in Lincoln School for 2020 from July 6, 2020 through August 13, 2020 (no Fridays).
3. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the submission of the application for and subsequent receipt of the 2019-2020 Special Education Extraordinary Aid.
4. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator and the Special Services Department, the following summer 2020 out-of-district placements:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
5813376195	\$7,500.00
Aide	\$2,500.00
5693087093	\$7,500.00
7329035642	\$7,200.00
9972409490	\$8,200.00
8715104138	\$7,100.00

ROLL CALL:

<u> </u> S Mrs. A. Barnes	<u> </u> Y Mr. A. DelConte	<u> </u> Y Miss C. Guerriero
<u> </u> M Dr. M. Kjetsaa	<u> </u> Y Ms. L. Koenig	<u> </u> Y Mrs. D. Ridente
<u> </u> Y Mr. T. Ryan	<u> </u> Y Mrs. M. Scepkowski	<u> </u> Y Mr. R. Trentacosta

XII. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the appointment of the attached non-tenured certificated staff for the 2020-2021 school year.
2. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the revised District Public Health-Related School Closure Covid-19 Plans and the submission of the plans to the County Executive Superintendent for approval.
3. Move to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator and the Special Services Department, the following certified staff, as per the negotiated contract, for the special education summer programs:

Special Education Teacher – Janine Murray, Cheryl Paolino,
Elizabeth DeSante and Peggy Hak (\$30/hour)
Speech Teacher – Tara Ridente (\$30/hour)

ROLL CALL:

<u> </u> S Mrs. A. Barnes	<u> </u> Y* Mr. A. DelConte	<u> </u> Y Miss C. Guerriero
<u> </u> M Dr. M. Kjetsaa	<u> </u> Y Ms. L. Koenig	<u> </u> Y Mrs. D. Ridente
<u> </u> Y Mr. T. Ryan	<u> </u> Y Mrs. M. Scepkowski	<u> </u> Y Mr. R. Trentacosta

*Mr. DelConte abstained from item #1

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution opposing the possibility of a delayed receipt of school monies from the Borough of Garwood.

Mr. Trentacosta discussed Google Drive; Tax levy; Borough Board Resolution. Mr. Ryan will share state bill letter template.

Dr. Kjetsaa discussed the NJSBA webinar.

Mrs. Scepkowski mentioned that the Lions Club donation will be renamed in Mr. Hak’s honor.

Ms. Koenig discussed the Covid-19 implications with a \$10 million shortfall to be clarified by the state.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made at 9:15 p.m.

Moved by: C. Guerriero
Seconded by: L. Koenig
Motion carried: All Ayes

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ana Pfalzgraf, SBA/BS