

8661

**HACKETTSTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

April 6, 2017

MINUTES

The special board meeting of April 6, 2017 of the Hackettstown Board of Education was called to order at 7:01 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria by Board President, Mr. Gus Bordi. Mr. Bordi read the following statement followed by the pledge of allegiance: "In accordance with the State's Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing a notice of the time, date, location and, to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting, to the *Warren Reporter* and the *Express Times*. Copies of the notice have also been posted in each of our schools, the Board Office located at 315 Washington Street, and filed with the Municipal Clerk of the Town of Hackettstown. And further, please be advised that, meetings of the Hackettstown Board of Education are videotaped for next day posting on the District website. The Board of Education reserves the right to edit the videotaped record of its meetings in order to protect student or staff member privacy."

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mr. Gus Bordi
Mr. Shawn Burke
Mr. David Fair
Mr. Michael Herbst
Ms. Mary Beth Maciag (arrived at 7:27 p.m.)
Mr. Robert Moore
Mr. Edward O'Melia
Mr. Anthony Putignano
Ms. Michele Wehmeyer

Also present: Mr. David C. Mango, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Gail Woicekowski, Board Secretary
Mr. R. Taylor Ruilova, Board Attorney
Mrs. Kathy Gesumaria, Director of Special Services
Mrs. Nadia Romano, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Robert Redmon, Director of Technology
Mr. Douglas DeMatteo, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. Matthew Scanlon, High School Principal
Mrs. Marie Griffin, Hatchery Hill Principal
Mr. Patrick McQueeney, Williw Grove Principal
Mr. Kevin O'Leary, High School Vice-Principal
Mr. Kyle Sosnovik, High School Vice-Principal
Mr. Jonathan Beyer, Middle School Vice-Principal
Mr. Timothy Havlusch, Great Meadows Business Administrator

Members absent: Ms. Amy Cochran
Dr. Giovanni Cusmano

MOTION TO GO OUT OF ORDER

Motion: Ms. Wehmeyer Second: Mr. Burke

Be it resolved, that the Board of Education approves for the meeting to go out of Order. Carried in a voice vote – unanimous.

MOTION TO OPEN A SECTION

Motion: Ms. Wehmeyer Second: Mr. Putignano

Be it resolved, that the Board of Education approves to open A-Section. Carried in a voice vote – unanimous.

BOARD COMMENT ON A SECTION AGENDA ITEMS

- Mr. Burke had questions regarding the vestibule projects and requested to see the blueprints of the project.
- Ms. Woicekowski wants it noted that if the project does not get approved tonight that after 60 days the project will have to go out for rebid.
- A discussion was held to have a special meeting to discuss the vestibule project.

RESCIND MOTION TO OPEN A SECTION

Motion: Ms. Wehmeyer Second: Mr. Putignano

Be it resolved, that the Board of Education rescinds the motion to open A-Section. Carried in a voice vote – unanimous.

MOTION TO TABLE

Motion: Mr. Fair Second: Mr. Moore

Be it resolved, that the Board of Education tabled A-1 (Award Contract for New Interior Vestibules at Hackettstown High School and Middle School) until April 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Carried in a roll call vote – Mr. Herbst, no.

2017-2018 BUDGET AND FACILITIES PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION

- Mr. Mango presented a new facilities option to move Hackettstown 7th and 8th grade to Great Meadows. Hackettstown would have two (2) elementary school for PK - 3 (keeping community schools), 4-6 Intermediate School and 9-12 High School. Great Meadows would have one (1) elementary school for PK – 3, 4-6 Intermediate School and 7-8 Middle School.
- Mr. Fair stated that busing to Great Meadows also increases busing of other students to other schools as well.
- A member of the community asked why option # 5 wasn't presented at the last board meeting.
- Mr. Mango stated that transportation costs for approximately 350 students at \$900 per student would equal \$315,000.00.
- Mr. Herbst replied that option #5 wasn't thought about at the last meeting. St. Mary's was the upfront option until they went quiet after the last board meeting.
- A member of the community questioned costs to add Special Education programs – training, etc.
- A member of the community asked if Option 1 & 2 include the High School.
- Mr. O'Melia said he understands the concern with the option #5 being put on the table now. Great Meadows went through this when they went grade based.

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- A member of the community suggested to start the High School earlier and have buses pick up Middle School students and bring them to Great Meadows.
- A member of the community asked if Hackettstown students missed the bus and can't make it to school. Wanted to know what would be done.
- A member of the community questioned will Pre-K in Hackettstown be revenue generating or will it be like Hatchery Hill now.
- Mr. Mango replied that the board would look to replicate the model in Great Meadows which is modeled after programs in Mountain Lakes and Fairfield.
- A member of the community asked do other districts have Middle Schools that are just 7th-8th grade. They asked how it works socially. How does it work with a family with 4 students with different schedules at 4 different schools?
- Mr. Mango replied that the calendar with Great Meadows is pretty much in line with Hackettstown.
- A member of the community stated that from a financial standpoint Option 1 and 4 are about the same if you remove the High School. They also stated that Option 3 is an immediate solution.
- A member of the community questioned the total student development of life skills with the Great Meadows option. Wanted to know if students will have access to extra-curricular activities.
- A member of the community wants the last option # 5 included in another survey.
- A member of the community asked if the survey assists the Board of Education or the referendum.
- Mr. Mango replied both.
- A member of the community said there is not enough time to make a decision. No dollars associated with option 5.
- Mr. Mango replied that by June 30, 2017 that the Board of Education needs to make a decision on Hackettstown facilities.
- Mr. O'Melia stated that Option 5 is a homerun academically.
- Mr. Fair feels the board needs to narrow down options from 5.
- A member of the community said to keep all options and broaden the pool. Send letters home with students. People need to start networking with neighbors. Residents need to take responsibility.
- Mr. Mango stated that if the staff has vested interest, they should get the word out.
- Mr. Miller asked for to clarify the cost to Option #5.
- Ms. Woicekowski replied it would be staffing costs and bussing.
- Mr. Fair wants the survey questions to show with Option #4 of St. Mary's being available and one without it being available.
- Mr. Miller spoke about children in grade based and children in both during transition. The option of merging at a younger age is very beneficial. Great experience.
- A member of the community asked how does a teacher moving to Great Meadows impact pension and the union does.
- Mr. Mango replied that teachers will not have a loss of pay but will be put on the Great Meadows guide.
- A member of the community asked how many Spanish and ESL teachers will be losing or gaining jobs. Also asked if a Hackettstown employee today and then change to Great Meadows, what happens in two years if they shift back.
- Allamuchy Mayor, Mr. Keith De Tombeur stated that his understanding is Hackettstown has too many students in the Elementary Schools. He questioned how sending 7th and

8th grade to Great Meadows versus High School, how is that a wash. He wanted to know the difference in number of students? Mr. Tombeur said the public needs to understand the numbers.

- Mr. Mango replied that Great Meadow to High School has approximately 362 students and Option #5 would send approximately 279 students from Hackettstown Middle School to Great Meadows Middle School.
- Mr. Mango replied to Mr. Tombeur that since Allamuchy has the smallest of all the three schools he may want to consider sending Allamuchy grades 7-8 to Great Meadows.
- Mr. O'Melia stated that the tuition adjustments vary from year to year. If a housing boom happens in Independence, tuition goes up so you cannot base a decision on that. He also stated what it looks like today is not what it will look like tomorrow.
- Mr. Tim Havlusch, Great Meadows Business Administrator stated that with General Ed there is no revenue stream. He feels moving 200 Hackettstown students to Great Meadows will create space.
- A member of the community questioned when the Great Meadows option #5 will be presented to Great Meadows board.
- Mr. Mango replied that 1/3 of the Great Meadows Board of Education is present here at the Board Meeting, so it will be out by tomorrow. Mr. Mango also said that Great Meadows has a board meeting April 25, 2017.
- A member of the community asked for clarification regarding the facilities decision needing to be made by June 30, 2017. What is the full impact to the 17-18 budget? They wanted to know what the 5-10 year projections are.
- Mr. Mango replied that Great Meadows agreed to the demographic survey. Great Meadows School District was at its highest 502 students at one point so there is more than enough room to share Great Meadows Elementary schools with Hackettstown.
- A member of the community asked if the facilities decision is in place for the following year.
- Mr. Mango replied that both Board of Educations need to make their decision for their own communities. The Board of Education decisions should be made to cut gossip and by making them by June 30, 2017.
- Mr. Bordi stated that the Shared Services Committee between Great Meadows and Hackettstown will have a meeting shortly.
- A member of the community stated that data speaks, so the more data made available the better.
- Mr. Fair stated that construction options are 3 to 4 years out with getting permits, etc. Only options # 3 or #5 are the quickest options.
- A member of the community said focus should not be on the dollars but it should be about our kids. As parents, we want the best for our kids. If there are great schools and great teachers, this all costs money. Focus more on the education. All numbers are estimates. Costs will probably be more. Strongly like Option #5.
- Mr. Fair stated that most members of the board would like to see education improved. Better schools increase property values.
- Mr. O'Melia said there is a decline in student enrollment. Great Meadows has not discussed this at all. He also stated that Great Meadows has other options to deal with student decreases. Great Meadows School District will be have discussions to determine if they want to do this. If the options benefits both districts, then fine.

OTHER BUSINESS

- None

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8664

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Moore

Second: Mr. Herbst

Be it resolved that the Board adjourn at 8:49 p.m. Carried in a voice vote – unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Gail Woicekowski
Board Secretary



Gus Ford
Board President