

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
FOR THE PURPOSE OF A BOARD RETREAT HELD
February 24, 2022**

In accordance with the State’s Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by sending a notice of the time, date, location, and, to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting on January 10, 2022, and on February 18, 2022, to the *Home News Tribune*, and *The Times*, placed in the Board Office and in each of the district schools, and sent to Plainsboro and West Windsor Public Libraries and Plainsboro and West Windsor township clerks.

The Special Meeting of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education was called to order by Board President Juliana at 6:20 p.m. in the multipurpose room at the District Administration Building. The following Board members were present:

Ms. Pooja Bansal	Ms. Rachel Juliana	
Ms. Elizabeth George-Cheniara	Ms. Dana Krug	Ms. Shwetha Shetty
Ms. Louisa Ho	Ms. Graelynn McKeown	Ms. Robin Zovich

Ms. Loi Moliga was absent. Present also were: Dr. David Aderhold, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Christopher Russo, Assistant Superintendent for Finance/Board Secretary; Dr. Lee McDonald, Assistant Superintendent, Pupil Services/Planning; Dr. Pamela Nathan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Ms. Barbara Gould, Director of Counseling, Health, and Wellness; and Mr. Derek Mead, Comptroller. Also attending as guests were Ms. Karen Abrams and Ms. Samantha Tognela, Special Services Supervisors, Ms. Melissa Levine, Special Services Director, Ms. Jessica Cincotta, High School South Principal, Ms. Susan Totaro, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction, and Mr. Anthony Jones, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Coordinator.

Call to Order and Board President Comments

Ms. Juliana read the call to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Welcome/Review Purpose and Outcomes

Dr. Aderhold welcomed everyone to the meeting to discuss the 2022-2023 Budget and reviewed the topics for this evening’s discussion. The Superintendent shared that there would be two presentations this evening, one regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity, and one regarding Special Education.

Review of Goals

Dr. Aderhold shared information regarding the District’s goals and how they relate to daily operations and the budget. Dr. Aderhold introduced the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity team to present information regarding District Goal 4.

Equity Presentation

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity team presented information to the Board regarding the role of the team in implementing Goal 4 throughout the District. Mr. Anthony Jones, Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity Coordinator, Ms. Susan Totaro, Curriculum and Instruction Supervisor, and Ms. Jessica Cincotta, High School South Principal, explained how Goal 4 is included in Board policies and practices, curriculum, instruction, programs, and professional development. Diversity, Equity, and

Inclusion are threaded throughout all aspects of everything done in the District. The presentation team left shortly after their presentation.

Board member Loi Moliga arrived at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Special Education

Ms. Melissa Levine, Director of Special Services, Samantha Tognela, Supervisor of Special Services, and Karen Abrams, Supervisor of Special Services, gave a presentation on Special Education, Autism and MD Programming. The program has grown tremendously and the needs of the students have become much more difficult to support. The presentation team, the Board, and administration discussed special education facilities and potential changes that could consolidate District efforts and better support the programs and students. The Special Education presentation team left the meeting shortly after their presentation.

District Financial Overview

Dr. Aderhold provided information on the District financial overview and other financial concepts. He explained that a school budget is a planning tool that considers contingencies, manages risk, considers safeguards and buffers, reflects district values, and is fiscally responsible. The Superintendent shared the meaning of a fixed cost in the budget and highlighted the budget drivers. He reviewed the budget process and timelines. The Governor changed the date of his budget address, which caused a move in the release date for state aid to March 8. Due to the delay, the preliminary budget is scheduled for adoption on March 15. The public hearing on the budget is scheduled for April 26.

Budget Considerations & Parameters

Dr. Aderhold shared information regarding the 2022-2023 budget considerations. The budget stressors for this budget are typical as in years past and include special services, facilities, health care, staffing, transportation and salary increases. Unknown budget contributors include state aid amounts, prescription and health care increases, and increases in special education services. Current economic inflation is adversely affecting the daily operational costs. In addition, the pandemic has created staffing and supply chain issues and created an additional need for technology and software resources. The Board discussed the budget parameters and working within an increase of 2% plus banked cap.

There is \$392,265 remaining in banked cap, which is prior year taxing authority that has not been used but not budgeting to the tax levy cap. Due to this banked cap, the proposed tax levy increase would be 2.23%. All were in support of using the banked cap to build the 2022-2023 budget.

Referendum and Construction

Dr. Aderhold reviewed the referendum projects. He reviewed the need for a Capital Reserve transfer to complete the projects in the referendum. Due to inflationary factors, the cost of completing the referendum projects will require a capital reserve transfer to the capital projects fund in the amount of \$12,500,000 for the completion of the library renovations in multiple schools, second phase of the Wicoff expansion, fire alarm and HVAC projects, as well as the HSN culinary arts renovations.

Recess into Closed Session

Board President Juliana expressed the need for the Board to go into executive session and read the following statement:

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act authorizes Boards of Education to meet in executive session under certain circumstances;

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting to go into private session;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District Board of Education that it is necessary to meet in executive session to discuss the following:

Matters involving the purchase of real property and/or the investment of public funds, and specifically:	Potential Facility Lease
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any discussion held by the Board, which need not remain confidential, will be made public as soon as feasible. The minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will not return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session.

At approximately 11:05 p.m., upon motion by Ms. Ho, seconded by Ms. Krug, with a voice vote of all Board members present voting yes, the Board of Education adjourned into closed executive session.

Closing

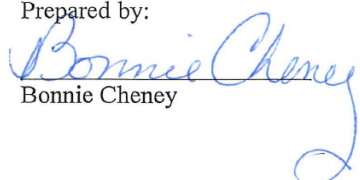
At approximately 11:21 p.m., the Board returned to public session. The Superintendent reviewed the topics discussed and the preliminary budget to be presented at the March 15 Board meeting. Dr. Aderhold and Ms. Juliana thanked everyone for their participation.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Krug and seconded by Ms. George-Cheniara. All Board members that were present voted in favor of adjourning the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:31 p.m.



Dr. Christopher Russo, Board Secretary

Prepared by:

Bonnie Cheney

WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATE: February 24, 2022
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