

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
FOR THE PURPOSE OF A BOARD RETREAT HELD
March 2, 2023**

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 20, 2023, and February 24, 2023 to the *Home News Tribune* and *The Times*, posted on the district website, 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 6:23 p.m. in the multipurpose room at the District Administration Building. The following Board members were present:

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

Board member Robin Zovich 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; Ms. Susan Totaro, Special Assistant for Strategic Initiatives; and Mr. Derek Mead, Assistant Business Administrator.

Call to Order and Board President Comments

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

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Welcome/Budget Introduction

Dr. Aderhold welcomed everyone to the meeting to discuss the 2023-2024 Budget. The Superintendent shared information regarding the District’s goals and how they relate to daily operations and the budget. Dr. Aderhold, Dr. Russo, and Mr. Mead shared budget information with the Board. They 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. They highlighted the budget drivers, reviewed the budget process and timelines, and reported that the Governor’s budget address occurred on Tuesday, February 28, and state aid notices were released earlier today. They reminded the Board that the preliminary budget is scheduled for adoption on March 14, and the public hearing on the budget is scheduled for April 25.

Budget Considerations & Parameters

Administration shared information regarding the 2023-2024 budget. They reported that 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. The Board discussed the budget parameters and working within an increase of 2% plus the healthcare spending growth limitation adjustment (SGLA). The healthcare SGLA generated by inflationary health care costs is \$2,230,434.

Administration recommended using \$743,478 of the allowable healthcare SGLA for this budget and 'banking' the remaining amount (\$1,486,956) for future years (banked cap). The 2% increase plus this budget's portion of the healthcare SGLA will net a tax levy increase of 2.42%. There was a \$1,533,188 increase in state aid, originally projected to be approximately \$800,000. The amount the district received over the originally anticipated \$800,000 will be used to decrease excess fund balance utilized to pay for fixed costs.

Full Day Kindergarten

Dr. Aderhold shared the proposed program change from half-day kindergarten to full-day kindergarten. He explained that district residents have requested full-day kindergarten for some time and the district is now in a position to offer the program with a minimal increase in costs. Due to a decrease in enrollment, there would have been a reduction in staff for the upcoming year. If the District kept those positions, it would only need to add two growth positions to implement full-day kindergarten. The Board discussed proposing a full-day kindergarten program.

Closing

Dr. Aderhold and Ms. Juliana thanked everyone for their participation.

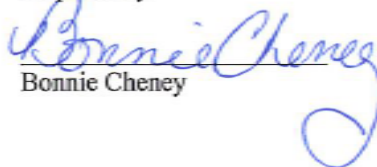
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Ho and seconded by Ms. Krug. All Board members that were present voted in favor of adjourning the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:23 p.m.



Dr. Christopher Russo, Board Secretary

Prepared by:


Bonnie Cheney

WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATE: March 2, 2023
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