

READINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Holland Brook School - Board of Education Meeting Room
Special Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
May 1, 2013

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Open Public Meetings Act – Roll Call – Flag Salute

President David Livingston called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act and was open to the media and public. Notices were duly posted, and the meeting was advertised in the Hunterdon Democrat. Formal action may be taken.

The following Board members were present:

Barbara Dobozyński	Wayne Doran	William Goodwin	Vincent Panico
Laura Simon	Eric Zwerling	Cheryl Filler	David Livingston

Also present:

Barbara Sargent, Superintendent
Steffi-Jo DeCasas, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

2. Report from Communications Committee – Dress Code

Mrs. Simon introduced a statement developed by the Communications Committee as follows:

Concerns for the dress code for the upcoming 8th grade dance were brought to the Board's attention at the April 23 public meeting. The Superintendent and the Principal are responsible for enforcement. The Board supports that position and relies on the school administrators to apply these policies in a fair and equitable manner.

Our current policy states "Pupils may not wear clothing or engage in grooming practices that present a health or safety hazard to the individual pupil or to others".

Our primary concern is the overall protection of our students. It is the Board's position that the risk of a wardrobe mishap either, intentional or un-intentional, and the possibility of dissemination of such an occurrence through social media should be mitigated. Wardrobe malfunctions have been documented in other districts. The distress this may cause any student(s) is not a risk that this Board is willing to take.

The Board agrees with the compromise outlined by Mrs. Moffat that includes the addition of clear or spaghetti straps to reduce the risk of wardrobe malfunction.

The Board has carefully reviewed communications from the community. The Board recommends the formation of a committee to include students, parents, administrators and

motion be tabled and decision be delayed for a year. The questions were addressed by Dr. Sargent.

Motion to affirm the Superintendent's School Choice applicationsubmission to the State of NewJersey

Motion: Panico Second: Doran

Vote: 4 yes (Dobozynski, Doran, Livingston, Panico)

4 no (Filler, Goodwin, Simon, Zwerling)

Motion failed to carry.

Motion to affirm the Superintendent's School Choice application submission to the State of New Jersey provided the application is non-binding and can float the number of available seats and adequate parent communication before implementation as to the numbers included in the program

Move: Doran Second: Panico

Vote: 8 no

Motion failed to carry.

8. Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session 9:53 pm - 10:15 pm

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes in accordance with the Sunshine Law, Ch. 321, P.L. 1975, to receive an update regarding the status of the police investigation pursuant to bylaw 1066. The matter discussed will be made public if and when the circumstances requiring confidentiality no longer exist; however, it is not presently known when such circumstances exist.

Motion: Panico

Second: Goodwin

Vote: Carried

9. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 10:15 p.m.

Motion: Goodwin

Second: Simon

Vote: Carried

Respectfully submitted,

**Steffi-Jo DeCasas
Business Administrator/Board Secretary**