HOPE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

TUESDAY **FEBRUARY 21, 2023** **6:30 PM**

Mrs. Ritchie called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Ritchie read the Sunshine Statement and noted that adequate notice of this meeting was provided by sending notice of the time, date, and location, to the NJ Herald and Express Times and posted same in the Hope Township School, Municipal Building, and Post Office. Mrs. Beatty read the Mission Statement and led the pledge of allegiance. Board members present at the roll call were Mrs. Ritchie, Board President, Mrs. Beatty, Vice President, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Ciccarelli, Mr. Tighe, Mrs. Chamberlain and Mrs. Skow. Mr. Newman, Chief School Administrator, Mr. Italiano, Business Administrator and Curtis De Costa of Comegno Law were also in attendance as well as 30 members of the public.

PANTHER PAWSITIVITY AWARDS
Mr. Newman recognized students and presented them with Panther Pawsitivity awards.

CSA REPORT
Mr. Newman provided the Board with an update on current events at the school such as the upcoming read across America weekly event.

PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

Candice Kruk, Hope Township: Ms. Kruk inquired if parents can be part of the field trip planning process in the future.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES
A motion was made by Mr. Ciccarelli and seconded by Mr. Tighe to approve the minutes as submitted from the January 24, 2023 Regular Session Meeting. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 7, Nays – 0.

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS
None

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS / TRANSPORTATION
No items in this section

COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS
No items in this section

CURRICULUM / INSTRUCTION / TECHNOLOGY

Block Motion – Curriculum/Instruction/Technology
A motion was made by Mr. Ciccarelli and seconded by Mr. Tighe to approve the following agenda items #1 and #2. Motion carried as follows: Mrs. Ritchie – yes, Mrs. Beatty – yes, Mr. Lucas – yes, Mr. Ciccarelli – yes, Mr. Tighe – yes, Mrs. Chamberlain – yes and Mrs. Skow – yes.

1. Approve an Affiliation Agreement
To approve a clinical affiliation agreement between the Hope Township School District and Kean University for the purpose of clinical nursing experience for Cynthia Conklin's NJDOE nurse certification in accordance with all laws of the State of New Jersey effective retroactively from February 1, 2023 for a period of three years and will expire on August 1, 2026.

2. Approve the Health Curriculum
To approve the Health curriculum aligned to the New Jersey 2020 Health and Physical Education Standards (NJSLS).

FINANCE

Block Motion –Finance
A motion was made by Mr. Ciccarelli and seconded by Mr. Tighe to approve the following agenda items #1 though #9. Motion carried as follows: Mrs. Ritchie – yes, Mrs. Beatty – yes, Mr. Lucas – yes, Mr. Ciccarelli – yes, Mr. Tighe – yes, Mrs. Chamberlain – yes and Mrs. Skow – yes.

1. Approve January 2023 Board Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report
To approve, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the acceptance of the monthly financial reports of the Board Secretary for the month of January 2023 and further that, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16-10(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of January 31, 2023, after review of the secretary's monthly financial reports and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16-10(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. As required by N.J.A.C 6A:23A-16-10(c) 3, I, Andrew Italiano, Board Secretary, hereby certify that no line account has been over expended as of January 31, 2023.

2. Approve February 2023 Bills & Claims List
To approve the February 2023 Bills & Claims List in the total amount of $105,336.83 for all funds.

3. Approve Budget Transfers for January 2023
To approve budget transfers for January 2023.

Block Motion –Finance - Continued

4. Accept the Annual Audit
WHEREAS, the Hope Township Board of Education in accordance with NJSA 18A:23-1 must have a certified External Audit of the district's account and financial transactions; and
WHEREAS, the Hope Township Board of Education received the audit performed by Ardito & Co., LLP and discussed said audit at its public meeting held in September 27, 2022; now
BE IT RESOLVED that the Hope Township Board of Education accepts the audit for the 2022-2023 school year, fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. It is noted there are no CAFR and AMR recommendations.

5. Approve Staff Travel
To approve the following staff travel:
- Jessica Catania to attend a virtual workshop "Science Notebooks: Student of Teacher Thinking?" on February 22, 2023. There is no cost to the district for this workshop.

6. Approve Staff Travel
To approve the following staff travel:
- Meghan Gecek to attend a virtual workshop "Elevate" that runs for the month of June 2023. The cost of the workshop is $40.

7. Approve Staff Travel
To approve the following staff travel:
- Kevin Newman to attend a workshop "Global Leadership" at Phillipsburg High School on March 24, 2023. There is no cost to the district for this workshop.

8. Approve Resolution for Waiver of Requirements in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program
WHEREAS, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3, provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2023-2024 school year, and
WHEREAS, the Hope Township Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hope Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Business Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Warren an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2023-2024 school year.

Block Motion –Finance - Continued

9. Approve an Agreement for Competitive Energy Services
A RESOLUTION BINDING THE Hope Township School District TO PURCHASE ELECTRIC

GENERATION SERVICES THROUGH THE ALLIANCE FOR COMPETITIVE ENERGY

SERVICES ("ACES") Bid Cooperative Pricing System ID#E8801-ACESCPS

WHEREAS, the Alliance For Competitive Energy Services (hereinafter referred to as "ACES"), an alliance composed of the New Jersey School Boards Association (hereinafter referred to as "NJSBA"), the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, will from time to time during the Effective Period as defined below solicit bids from electric power suppliers for electric generation services through an energy aggregation program in which NJSBA will act as Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS in accordance with the "Public School Contracts Law", N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 *et seq.,* and the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 *et seq.* ("EDECA") and the regulations promulgated thereunder; and

WHEREAS, the Hope Township School District is a Participating member of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System and is eligible thereby to obtain electric generation services for its own use through one or more contracts to be awarded to electric power suppliers following said bids for electric generation services pursuant to the aggregation program; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will from time to time during the Effective Period (from date of adoption through May, 2028 hereinafter referred to as "Effective Period") issue one or more Requests for Bids for electric generation services on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law and EDECA; and

WHEREAS, due to significant volatility and the potential for price increases in the wholesale electric market, Participating Members will preauthorize the Lead Agency to award contracts for Electric Generation Service in each service territory to one or more electric power suppliers that submit bids which are reasonably forecasted to provide estimated savings to the Participating Member based upon its previous electric usage and utility provided Basic Generation Service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will only award contracts for said electric generation services to electric power suppliers that submit bids with pricing reasonably estimated to be lower than the utility-provided basic generation service; and

WHEREAS, the District agrees to purchase all electric power needed for its own use (exclusive of on-site electric generation sources) during the Effective Period through any electric power supplier(s) awarded a contract, it being understood that the term of any one contract shall be subject to the provisions of Public School Contracts Law;

Block Motion –Finance - Continued

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will notify the Department of Community Affairs' Division of Local Government Services by mail prior to the issuance a Request for Bids for electric generation services,

with the understanding that if the Division of Local Government Services does not respond within 10 business days, it will be deemed to have approved the issuance of the Request for Bids or the Request for Rebids.

NOW, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the District binds itself to the ACES Cooperative Pricing System ##E8801-ACESCPS to purchase all electric power needed for its own use (exclusive of on-site electric generation sources) during the Effective Period from the electric power supplier or suppliers awarded a contract for electric generation services by the Lead Agency; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System is hereby authorized to execute a master performance agreement that obligates the district to purchase electricity at the terms and conditions stated therein with a third-party supplier or suppliers who have been awarded the contract or contracts by the Lead Agency on behalf of the participating members of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS (or any CPS number to be assigned in the future), and provided further that all such contracts shall be at prices reasonably forecast and estimated by the Lead Agency to provide savings to the Districts relative to the price charged for basic generation service by the electric public utility that would otherwise provide such service; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that ACES is authorized to continue to bid to obtain electric generation services at any time during the Effective Period on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System including, for example, a rebid if energy market conditions do not initially lead to a successful bid, on additional dates to be determined by the Lead Agency; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. The authorization provided to the NJSBA pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Laws (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)), and the Local Public and Public School Contracts Laws Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq.) shall be valid until May, 2028 (the Effective Period) at which time the Cooperative Pricing System will be subject to renewal. Any rescission or expiration of this resolution shall not affect any Agreements entered into prior to such rescission or expiration.

PERSONNEL

Block Motion – Personnel
A motion was made by Mr. Ciccarelli and seconded by Mr. Tighe to approve the following agenda items #1 though #3. Motion carried as follows: Mrs. Ritchie – yes, Mrs. Beatty – yes, Mr. Lucas – yes, Mr. Ciccarelli – yes, Mr. Tighe – yes, Mrs. Chamberlain – yes and Mrs. Skow – yes.

1. Approve an Additional Substitute Nurse
To approve Christina (Mason) Kuriakose - Substitute Nurse, as an additional substitute nurse for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year pending receipt of criminal history and Chapter 5 paperwork.

2. Approve a Volunteer
To approve Breanna Faulkner as a volunteer for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year pending receipt of criminal history and Chapter 5 paperwork.

3. Approve an Additional Substitute Custodian
To approve Alexandra Smith as an additional substitute custodian for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year pending receipt of criminal history and Chapter 5 paperwork.

POLICY

Block Motion – Policy
A motion was made by Mr. Ciccarelli and seconded by Mr. Tighe to approve the following agenda items #1 though #12. Motion carried as follows: Mrs. Ritchie – yes, Mrs. Beatty – yes, Mr. Lucas – yes, Mr. Ciccarelli – yes, Mr. Tighe – yes, Mrs. Chamberlain – yes and Mrs. Skow – yes.

1. Approve a Second Reading of Policy & Regulation #P-0161 – Call Adjournment-Cancellation
To approve a second reading of policy & regulation #P0161 – Call Adjournment-Cancellation

2. Approve a Second Reading of Policy & Regulation #P-8140 – Student Enrollments
To approve a second reading of policy & regulation #P8140 – Student Enrollments

3. Approve a Second Reading of Policy & Regulation #P-0152 – Board Officers
To approve a second reading of policy & regulation #P0152 – Board Officers

4. Approve a Second Reading of Policy & Regulation #P-0162 – Notice of Board Meetings
To approve a second reading of policy & regulation #P0162 – Notice of Board Meetings

5. Approve a Second Reading of Policy & Regulation #P-R-2425 – Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program
To approve a second reading of policy & regulation #P-R2425 – Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program

Block Motion – Policy - Continued

6. Approve a Second Reading of Policy & Regulation #P-R2423 – Bilingual and ESL Education
To approve a second reading of policy & regulation #P-R2423 – Bilingual and ESL Education

7. Approve a Second Reading of Policy & Regulation #R8140 – Enrollment Accounting
To approve a second reading of policy & regulation #R8140 – Enrollment Accounting

8. Approve a Second Reading of Policy & Regulation #R8420.2 – Bomb Threats
To approve a second reading of policy & regulation #R8420.2 – Bomb Threats

9. Approve a Second Reading of Policy & Regulation #P-R Attendance
To approve a second reading of policy & regulation #P-R Attendance

10. Approve a Second Reading of Policy & Regulation #R8420.7 – Lockdown Procedures
To approve a second reading of policy & regulation #R8420.7 – Lockdown Procedures

11. Approve a Second Reading of Policy & Regulation #P-R8330 – Student Records
To approve a second reading of policy & regulation #P-R8330 – Student Records

12. Approve a Second Reading of Policy & Regulation #R-8420.10 – Active Shooter
To approve a second reading of policy & regulation #R8420.10 – Active Shooter

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
No updates.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS
A motion was made by Mr. Lucas and seconded by Mrs. Skow to acknowledge receipt of no HIB investigations deemed HIB incidents, since last meeting. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 7, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

BELVIDERE UPDATE
Mr. Tighe provided an update on current events at BHS which included exploring potential capital improvements and athletic field upgrades in the future.

OLD BUSINESS

GOOD OF THE ORDER

NEW BUSINESS
None

PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION
Mrs. Green – Hope Township School: Mrs. Green stated the students did a great job during kindness week and also thanked the Belvidere Seniors for remembering their teachers at Hope Township at a recent event.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
A motion was made by Mr. Ciccarelli and seconded by Mr. Lucas to convene to Executive Session at 7:07 p.m.
Be it resolved by the Hope Township Board of Education that it shall meet in closed session this evening.
The board will publicly disclose information pertaining to the topics discussed as soon thereafter and once the reasons for non-disclosure no longer exist.
The topics to be discussed are within the exemptions that are permitted to be discussed in private session pursuant to P.L. 1975c chapter 321.
A motion was made by Mr. Ciccarelli and seconded by Mr. Lucas to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:22 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made by Mr. Tighe and seconded by Mr. Ciccarelli to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m.
Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 7, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Italiano
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary