HOPE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

TUESDAY **SEPTEMBER 27, 2022** **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, President, Mrs. Beatty, Vice President, Mr. Ciccarelli and Mrs. Chamberlain. Mr. Newman, Chief School Administrator and Mrs. Huff, Business Administrator were also in attendance as well as 36 members of the public. Mr. Lucas, Mr. Tighe and Mrs. Skow were unable to attend the meeting.

MONTHLY STUDENT RECOGNITION

Mr. Newman recognized students and presented them with Panther Pride awards.

PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE 2021-2022 AUDIT FINDINGS

Anthony Ardito, Ardito & Co., LLP reviewed the Board's financial report for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Ardito provided an overview of the 2021-2022 expenditures, sources of revenue, and provided an analysis of excess general fund balances and reserve accounts. Mr. Ardito noted that Mrs. Huff does a wonderful job managing the district's finances and there are no audit recommendations.

CSA REPORT

Mr. Newman noted the school year is off to a great start, new staff is acclimating very well, and students are enjoying classroom activities and exceling at afterschool clubs and recreational activities. Mr. Newman provided an update on the upcoming staff in-service in October, no school for students, the Book Fair, the 7th and 8th grade soccer game, and preparation for NJQSAC. Mr. Newman congratulated Mrs. Huff on her upcoming retirement and thanked her for her support and service to the Hope Township school community.

PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

Mr. Panetta, Board President of White Township Board of Education, thanked Mrs. Huff for her service to both districts over the years.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Ciccarelli and Mrs. Beatty to approve the minutes as submitted from the August 23, 2022 Board Retreat and Regular Session Meeting. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 4, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Huff applauded the efforts of Mrs. Watters for her work on the insurance fund's Safety Incentive Program. Our district has qualified for a $2,500 award which will be credited to our 2022-2023 insurance premium.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS / TRANSPORTATION

Block Motion – Buildings & Grounds/Transportation

A motion was made by Mrs. Chamberlain and seconded by Mrs. Beatty to approve the following agenda items #1 through #4. Motion carried as follows: Mr. Ciccarelli – yes, Mrs. Beatty – yes, Mrs. Ritchie – yes, and Mrs. Chamberlain – yes.

Block Motion – Buildings & Grounds/Transportation
1. Approve a Use of Facility Request
To approve a request from Hope Township Recreation – Basketball for use of the gymnasium and lower parking lot October 1, 2022 – April 15, 2023 for basketball games and practices.

2. Approve a Use of Facility Request
To approve a request from Hope Township PTA for use of the gymnasium for the Scholastic Book Fair and Book Bingo October 12-14, 2022.

3. Approve a Use of Facility Request
To approve a request from Hope Township PTA for use of a classroom for meetings: November 15, 2022, January 17, March 14, and May 16, 2023.

4. Approve a Use of Facility Request
To approve a request from Hope Township PTA for use of the gymnasium for Adult Gift Card Bingo November 18, 2022.

COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS
No updates.

CURRICULUM / INSTRUCTION / TECHNOLOGY

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

1. Approve a Field Trip for Grades 5&6
To approve a field trip for approximately 30 grade 5&6 students to Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, NJ on March 30, 2023. The cost of the bus transportation is $325.

2. Approve a Field Trip for Grade 8
To approve a field trip for approximately 15 grade 8 students to Hershey Park & Gettysburg, PA on June 1-2, 2023. The tentative cost of the trip per student is $350 which includes the cost of the bus transportation.

FINANCE

Block Motion –Finance
A motion was made by Mrs. Beatty and seconded by Mrs. Ritchie to approve the following agenda items #1 through #4. Motion carried as follows: Mr. Ciccarelli – yes, Mrs. Beatty – yes, Mrs. Ritchie – yes, and Mrs. Chamberlain – yes.

1. Approve August 2022 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 August 2022 and further that, in compliance with N.J.A.C.

Block Motion –Finance - continued
6A:23A-16-10(c) 4, the Board of Education certifies that as of August 31, 2022, 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, Dawn Huff, Board Secretary, hereby certify that no line account has been over expended as of August 31, 2022.

2. Approve September 2022 Bills & Claims List
To approve the September 2022 Bills & Claims List in the total amount of $443,471.68 for all funds.

3. Approve Budget Transfers for August 2022
To approve budget transfers for August 2022 in the amount of $80,086.58.

4. Approve CPR/AED Training
To approve approximately 7 staff members to attend the CPR/AED certification and recertification training provided by the American Red Cross at Allamuchy School on October 10, 2022.

PERSONNEL

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

1. Approve a Service Agreement with Best Choice NJ Licensed Registered Nurse
To approve a service agreement with Best Choice Home Care, LLC for supplemental nursing services at the cost of $68/hour for the 2022-2023 school year.

2. Accept a Resignation
To accept the resignation of Michael Barone effective October 9, 2022.

3. Accept a Resignation
To accept the resignation of Joe Carlson effective November 14, 2022.

POLICY
No updates.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
No updates.

BELVIDERE UPDATE
Mrs. Ritchie noted that Belvidere will be using grant funds to upgrade their current Auditorium. Mrs. Ritchie further noted that fall sports are underway at the High School and that parents are responding well to the new discipline policy that has been instituted this year.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS
A motion was made by Mr. Ciccarelli and seconded by Mrs. Beatty to acknowledge receipt of no HIB investigations deemed HIB incidents, since last meeting. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 4, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

APPROVE THE HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL SELF ASSESSMENT GRADES UNDER THE ANTI-BULLYING BILL OF RIGHTS ACT
A motion was made by Mrs. Beatty and seconded by Mr. Ciccarelli to approve the Hope Township School Self-Assessment Grades Under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 4, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

APPROVE THE UNIFORM MOA
A motion was made by Mr. Ciccarelli and seconded by Mrs. Beatty to approve the Uniform Memorandum of Agreement between the Hope Township School District and Law Enforcement. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 4, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

OLD BUSINESS
Mrs. Ritchie asked if any headway has been made with modifications to the current lunch menu to include more hot lunch offerings and snacks to students. Mr. Newman noted that we are working to get families set up with the point of sale system for payments, and will further assess menu offerings in the next few weeks.

GOOD OF THE ORDER
The Board thanked Mr. Newman for the recent email blasts and noted they've been very informative.

NEW BUSINESS
None

PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION
Mrs. Maza noted she's sad to see that Mr. Carlson will be leaving, as her son is very fond of him. Mrs. Maza further noted she's also sad to see that Mrs. Huff is leaving but wished her well in retirement. Mrs. Maza wondered if we could possibly use volunteers to expand the services in the cafeteria.
Mrs. Green congratulated Mrs. Huff on a well-deserved retirement.

ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made by Mr. Ciccarelli and seconded by Mrs. Beatty to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 4, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Huff
Business Administrator
Board Secretary