

**CLINTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES**

**Special Meeting March 15, 2016 at 7:30 PM  
Clinton Township Middle School Auditorium**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Maria Grant called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

**PUBLICATION OF NOTICE:**

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Laws of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was provided through public notice on March 10, 2016.

- a. Faxing to three newspapers designated by the Board – Hunterdon County Democrat, Hunterdon Review and Express Times
- b. Posting on the District Website, the main bulletin board in the Administration Office and in each Clinton Township School
- c. Faxing to the Clerk of Clinton Township

**ROLL CALL**

*Board Members:*

**Present:** Maria Grant, President  
Rachel McLaughlin, Vice President  
Gina Hand  
Alissa Olawski  
John Patuto                      Kevin Sturges  
Yehara Raddalgoda      Susan Vanderoef

**Not Present:** Maria McHugh

*District Administrators:*

**Present:** Mr. Anthony Juskiewicz, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Dr. Drucilla W. Clark, Superintendent of Schools

**Also Present:** Vito Gagliardi, Esq., Board Attorney  
William Colantano, Board Auditor, CPA

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Alissa Olawski led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROCESS GUARDIAN:** Kevin Sturges was appointed Process Guardian.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS/REPORT**

None

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**Action Item 16-SU-012**

Dr. Clark will present the following to the Board of Education:

1. HIB Reports - A total of 5 incidents
  - o One founded and four unfounded incidents

**Action 16-SU-012:**

*BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby accepts the HIB reports of the Superintendent as presented.*

*Motion by S. Vanderoef, Seconded by G. Hand. The resolution was adopted on a roll call vote as follows: ayes 8; abstain 0; nays 0; absent 1.*

**Presentation from the Feasibility of School Closing Ad Hoc Committee**

Mrs. Grant, Chair, narrated the presentation along with Mrs. McLaughlin. Mr. Colantano presented the review of revenues and expenditures.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

**PLEASE RESPECT THE 3-MINUTE SPEAKING RULE AS PER BOARD OF EDUCATION BYLAW #0167 SO THAT THE BUSINESS OF THE BOARD MAY PROCEED IN A TIMELY MANNER.**

**Sonya Damanakis** spoke about enrollment declining at Lebanon Borough and possible merger of all grades.

**Keith Breidt** spoke to the accuracy of the demographic study, vacancy rates, foreclosures. For debt services going forward he spoke of debt being retired or remaining flat.

**Kathy West** Thanked the Board for the presentation and talked about the possibility of uses for the building from sale to a possible revenue source.

**Paul Marks** commented on missing information such as average class size for all grades and the need to gather for cost benefit analysis. He did not see any dollar values in the presentation or number of classes and administrator reduction. In addition he noted there was no mention of millennials that may be coming to the suburbs.

**Amy Marks** thanked all of the teachers. Felt there was not enough statistical information in the presentation to make a decision. Commented that the enrollment projection is not accurate and should be re-evaluated. Commented that the presentation was too anecdotal.

**Andrea Weaver** looked at the pros and cons of the presentation and commented that the school should not be closed. She commented that she did not want to see trailers at the schools for any miscalculations and was concerned that this would be a viable option for the future.

**Thor Harris** commented that there was a lack of detail in the audit with the budget numbers.

**Jessica Cahill** spoke to the economic climate. She noted that older residents may not move out until property values go up. She said there could be an influx of younger couples. She noted that she moved to the district because of the schools in the district are excellent. She felt this increases property values.

**Sabrina Henneman** commented on the demographic study of ten years ago as opposed to today. She was concerned about room at each school and class sizes going forward. She felt that flexibility for each building is needed. She is a proponent of the pre-school program and increase the revenue by expanding the program to reach everyone in the community.

**Marlene Chynoweth**, a teacher at the middle school, spoke about the meeting in 2002 where discussions surrounded the building of the middle school. During the time, the middle school model has always been the model in Clinton. She noted there were planning and study rooms that were taken away many years ago. The Round Valley Middle School always kept the 6th grade from the 7th and 8th grades during the time. She noted there were not enough science labs.

**Amy Marks** spoke of the lack of criteria in making decisions of closing a school. She felt there were no metrics made in the presentation.

**Paul Marks** spoke to the budget for maintenance and custodial staff and cost.

**Kathy West** acknowledged the teachers of the district. She thought the presentation was informative. She spoke to the process over the next 24 months and the criteria and deciding factor to close a school.

**Keith Breidt** spoke about class size with regard to the current and state averages. He also spoke to the expected costs to do the studies.

**Lana Brennan** spoke about the future of her daughter and the class sizes for the 6th grade and the number of sections each grade will have.

**Faith Fuhrman** commented that she has been in the district for 22 years and still believes that four schools are needed in the district. She feels that open space is needed in the middle school to interact and asked the board to remember the reason it was built.

**Thor Harris** spoke to the process and timeline for the criteria as well as a possible projection or estimation for closing a school.

#### ADJOURNMENT

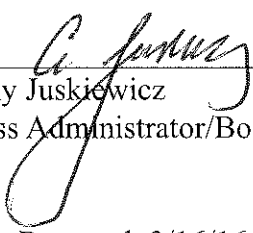
#### Action 16-AJ-013:

*BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby adjourns this meeting.*

Time: 9:39

*Motion by S. Vanderoef, Seconded by Y. Raddalgoda. The resolution was adopted on a roll call vote as follows: ayes 8; abstain 0; nays 0; absent 1.*

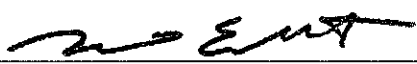
Respectfully Submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Juskiwicz  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Minutes Prepared: 3/16/16

Minutes remain unofficial until Board of Education approval.

Board of Education Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Maria Grant, President

3-21-16  
Date