

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
of the
NETCONG SCHOOL DISTRICT
26 College Road
Netcong, NJ 07857
September 7, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Popelka at 7:00 PM. The meeting was held in the Netcong Public School Library as publicly advertised.

A. FLAG SALUTE - All of those present participated in the salute to the flag.

B. OPEN PUBLIC MEET ACT PROCLAMATION – The following is made part of the minutes:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Board of Education of the Netcong School in the County of Morris has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted. The notice was mailed/faxed to the Daily Record, New Jersey Herald and those persons or entities requesting notification, and filed with the Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Netcong.

C. MISSION STATEMENT – The following is made part of the minutes:

Netcong School District, a small caring community, is committed to providing a quality, well-rounded education achieved through the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards which inspires students to ultimately become fulfilled, contributing and productive citizens.

D. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Mr. Arbolino, Mrs. Callahan, Mrs. Dalesandro, Mr. Olivo, and Mrs. Popelka, President.

Absent: Mr. Morton (entered the meeting at 7:10 pm), Mr. Still and Mr. Tranor (entered the meeting at 7:10 pm)

Also Present: Mrs. Melissa Flach-Bammer, Acting Superintendent/Principal/CST Coordinator
Christine M. Werner, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Consultant
Twenty six (26) members of the public.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE PUBLIC ~ AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Mrs. Dalesandro moved, seconded by Mr. Olivo, to open the public session at 7:04 p.m. and was approved by a unanimous voice vote by all members present. President Popelka opened the meeting to the public at 7:04 pm.

Karen Koster (38 Dell Avenue) inquired regarding the current status of the Superintendent Search matter. President Popelka stated that had had several intermittent meetings with LVRHS to discuss a potential purchased services agreement and moving forward pertaining to the Superintendent vacancy. President Popelka noted that the Board of Education had had discussions in

committee forum with LVRHS, had reached out to the Morris County Executive Superintendent, Dr. Kathleen Serafino pertaining to the same and **new** legal/regulation considerations that may invoke a \$5,000 yearly payment limitation for purchased services for this purpose. President Popelka noted that this regulation had not yet been enacted but that it might hinder the current consideration and that, as a result, the Board of Education will review other options as may be appropriate at this time. President Popelka stated that anyone may email the Board of Education with questions or concerns regarding the Superintendent vacancy or the purchased services/shared services consideration at boe@netcongschool.org.

There being no items for discussion at this time, Mrs. Dalesandro moved, seconded by Mr. Olivo to close the public session at 7:07 pm. This was approved by a unanimous voice vote by all members present.

II. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

President Popelka discussed the following matters:

1. **Shared Services discussion.** President Popelka stated that her status report on this matter has been discussed as noted.
2. **NJSBA Team Building Workshop.** President Popelka noted that Mrs. Borin, NJSBA Senior Field Services Representative, had indicated that she would be available to provide a Team Building Workshop on several dates during November 2010. President Popelka requested that Mrs. Werner email the BOE members with regard to their availability on these potential dates, confer with Ms. Borin regarding the same and schedule said Workshop accordingly.
3. **Meeting Change** – September 28, 2010 rescheduled to September 27, 2010 – September 27, 2010 is conflicted due to previously scheduled NJSBA Board member training workshop commitments for four (4) BOE trustees. A straw poll was taken and the consensus was to reschedule the meeting on September 29, 2010.

Motion by Mrs. Dalesandro, seconded by Mr. Olivo that the following resolution be adopted as presented:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Netcong Board of Education, approves and directs the Business Administrator/Board Secretary Consultant, in accordance with the NJ Public Meetings Act, to reschedule and advertise the change of the Regular Business Meeting of the Netcong Board of Education to be held on Wednesday, September 29, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

All in favor.

4. **Netcong Education Foundation – Referendum Signs.** President Popelka stated that the Netcong Education Foundation has purchased signs pertaining to the support of the referendum election and that these signs would be made available to the public for display on their personal property. President Popelka stated that all requests for these signs should be made to the Netcong Education Foundation.

Mr. Morton and Mr. Tranor entered the meeting at 7:10 pm.

III. ACTING SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS

Mrs. Flach-Bammer discussed the following matters:

1. **Netcong School Opening Day.** Mrs. Flach-Bammer briefly discussed the excitement of the children with the opening of the 2010-11 school year, noting that the first 3 days of school had gone very well. Mrs. Flach-Bammer stated that there were very few “criers” this year and that both the students and staff were adjusting well.
2. **Referendum Presentation Schedule.** Mrs. Flach-Bammer discussed the referendum presentation schedule during September. A brief discussion ensued.
3. **EWaste Day** - Mrs. Flach-Bammer stated that EWaste day will be held on Saturday, September 25, 2010 in concert with the Borough.
4. **Netcong Education Foundation Fundraiser Consideration.** Mrs. Flach-Bammer briefly discussed a fundraiser consideration for the NEF pertaining to the hanging of banners in the school gymnasium. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Dalesandro commented that she felt that this might be prohibitive and indicated that she did not like the idea. President Popelka stated that the purpose of the Netcong Education Foundation was solely to raise funds for the Netcong Elementary School. Mrs. Flach-Bammer noted that she would check Board Policy in reference to this matter and that Mrs. Werner has agreed to contact NJSBA Legal Department pertaining to the same.

V. SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR CONSULTANT’S COMMENTS

Mrs. Werner had no comment at this time.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Morton moved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, the communications mentioned be listed in the minutes and action be taken as noted.

| Sender | Subject | Referred to |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Maria Patamia (Via Email) | Inquiry District Policy Re: Class Size | Mrs. Melissa Flach-Bammer, Acting Superintendent |

* A brief discussion ensued. Mrs. Flach-Bammer stated that the district policy #2312 – Class Size does not specify particulars (#’s) pertaining to class size and noted that there are currently 27 children in the 3rd grade which, in her estimation, is not excessively large. President Popelka stated that the district’s old policy book did delineate minimum and maximum class size and requested that Administration might look at that. Mr. Tranor inquired if there is a larger classroom in the school to accommodate the 3rd grade class. Mrs. Flach-Bammer stated that all of the classrooms are of like size. Mrs. Callahan commented that she did not like the idea of a class size being this large and suggested that a full-time instructional aid should be hired. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Flach-Bammer stated that the 3rd grade teacher was quite capable of handling the class but that she would recommend that the Board of Education consider and authorize the hiring of an additional P/T instructional to assist Mrs. Arbolino at this time. The general consensus of the Board was to authorize Mrs. Flach-Bammer to post/advertise the position on NJHIRE and the district website.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dalesandro and was approved by a unanimous voice vote by all members present.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

The Board briefly discussed the “lock-down” drill that was recently conducted. It was noted that a round of applause should be given to Mrs. Flach-Bammer for a job well done. Mrs. Callahan stated that her child had said “we had so much fun in Ms. Jensen’s class during the drill” and that she would like to take this opportunity to compliment Ms. Jensen for a job well done as well. Mrs. Flach-Bammer stated that she would certainly speak with Ms. Jensen as noted. Mrs. Dalesandro stated that she would like to echo Mrs. Callahan’s comments.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. FINANCE/FACILITIES - Frank Tranor, Chairperson

There were no motions presented for consideration at this time.

B. PERSONNEL James Still, Chairperson

There were no motions presented for consideration at this time.

C. EDUCATION Todd Morton, Chairperson

There were no motions presented for consideration at this time.

VII. NEW BUSINESS – None at this time.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

- ✚ Mr. Morton inquired as to the status in terms of the preparation/management of the BOE “Referendum Information” table at Netcong Day. A brief discussion ensued.
- ✚ Mrs. Dalesandro stated that she would like to recommend that the Board review and consider rental charges pertaining to “Use of Facility” requests in addition to custodial reimbursement, including an energy surcharge of sorts (electricity fee), as well as a rental fee (\$250) for multiple day/evening usage, in an effort to reduce some of the financial burden to the local taxpayer for the district’s energy costs. Discussion ensued.
- ✚ Mr. Olivo provided a brief overview of the scheduled E-Waste day event. He noted that the Borough will utilize the grass area in the back of the school for the purpose of providing a “drop-off” area for electronics, etc. that will be recycled.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Dalesandro moved, seconded by Mr. Morton, to open the public session at 7:30 p.m. and was approved by a unanimous voice vote by all members present. President Popelka opened the meeting to the public at 7:30 pm.

Karen Koster (38 Dell Avenue) referred to Mrs. Dalesandro’s suggestion regarding energy surcharges and rental fees to be charged for “Use of Facilities” and inquired if said charges would affect all groups who request to use the district’s facilities – including those who had already received approval and when these groups will be informed of and charged these new fees, as well as groups that may or may not use the lights or incur other electricity fees. Mrs. Dalesandro stated that this suggestion had only been made this evening and that it is a work in progress. President Popelka commented that in speaking with the custodians, the gymnasium lights are usually the last thing that is turned off in the evening. Mrs. Koster stated that this was just a thought. A brief discussion ensued.

Mrs. Koster, Mrs. Moros and Mrs. Renegar requested that President Popelka would provide them with “Referendum” signs so that they may place them on their respective yards. President Popelka made note of the request and stated she would advise the Netcong Education Foundation accordingly.

There being no items for discussion at this time, Mr. Morton moved, seconded by Mrs. Dalesandro to close the public session at 7:35 pm. This was approved by a unanimous voice vote by all members present.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Olivo, seconded by Mr. Morton, that RESOLVED, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 and 10:4-12 that the Netcong Board of Education hold a closed Executive Session regarding pending or anticipated litigation, contract negotiation, personnel, and/or matters pertaining to attorney/client privilege. It is expected that the discussion undertaken in this closed session can be made public at the time official action is taken.

The motion was made at 7:36 pm and was approved by a unanimous voice vote by all members present.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION – A motion is requested to come out of executive session.

Motion by Mrs. Dalesandro, seconded by Mr. Morton, to close executive session at 9:42 pm. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote by all members present.

The Board reconvened in Public Session at 9:42 pm with the following members present:

Present: Mr. Arbolino, Mrs. Callahan, Mrs. Dalesandro, Mr. Morton, Mr. Olivo, Mr. Tranor and Mrs. Popelka, President.

XI. POSSIBLE MOTIONS FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

B. PERSONNEL James Still, Chairperson

Motion by Mrs. Dalesandro, seconded by Mr. Morton that resolution numbers 1-2 be adopted as presented:

1. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, offers Ms. Beth Barnhill-DeSantis employment as Interim Vice-Principal on an emergent hire basis, four (4) days per week at a salary of \$250.00 per diem (no benefits) for the period of September 9, 2010 – September 30, 2010.
2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, sets forth the annual salary of Mrs. Christine M. Werner, as Business Administrator/ Board Secretary Consultant at \$50,000 for the period July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| VOTE: | PERSONNEL AGENDA ITEMS #1-#2 AS PRESENTED. |
| AYES: | Mr. Arbolino, Mrs. Callahan, Mrs. Dalesandro, Mr. Morton, Mr. Olivo, Mr. Tranor and Mrs. Popelka, President. |
| NAYS: | None |
| ABSTENTIONS: | None |

Mr. Arbolino left the meeting at 9:49 p.m.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Olivo, seconded by Mr. Morton, that **RESOLVED**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 and 10:4-12 that the Netcong Board of Education hold a closed Executive Session regarding pending or anticipated litigation, contract negotiation, personnel, and/or matters pertaining to attorney/client privilege. It is expected that the discussion undertaken in this closed session can be made public at the time official action is taken.

The motion was made at 9:50 pm and was approved by a unanimous voice vote by all members present.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – A motion is requested to come out of executive session.

Motion by Mrs. Dalesandro, seconded by Mr. Morton, to close executive session at 10:21 pm. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote by all members present.

The Board reconvened in Public Session at 10:21 pm with the following members present:

Present: Mrs. Callahan, Mrs. Dalesandro, Mr. Morton, Mr. Olivo, Mr. Tranor and Mrs. Popelka, President.

XIV. POSSIBLE MOTIONS FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION – None at this time.

XV. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the board, Mr. Olivo made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tranor and carried by Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the September 7, 2010 Special Meeting of the Netcong Board of Education at 10:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Werner

Christine M. Werner
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Consultant