



Our Children  
Our School  
Our Future

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

of the  
**NETCONG SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
26 College Road  
Netcong, New Jersey 07857

February 24, 2015  
7:00 PM

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Dalesandro at 7:00 p.m.

**A. FLAG SALUTE**

**B. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT PROCLAMATION**

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting 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 the Act the Board of Education of the Netcong School District 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 to the Daily Record and those persons or entities requesting notification, and filed with the municipal clerk of the Borough of Netcong.

**C. MISSION STATEMENT**

Netcong, a tradition to nurture, inspire, empower, and achieve by all, for all.

**D. BOARD GOALS for 2014-2015**

- Comprehensive review and update of the district policy manual.
- Continue to monitor and approve curriculum updates and systems of assessment.
- Review Board operations to improve Board performance.

**E. DISTRICT GOALS for 2014-2015**

- Implement the action plans identified in the Netcong School District's Strategic Plan with a 2014/15 timeline under the goal areas of Student Achievement & Technology, School and Community, and Finance and Facilities.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**The following members were present:** Mrs. Callahan, Mr. McQueeney, Mr. Morton, Mrs. Popelka, Mrs. Santana, Mr. Stevens, Ms. Sufly and Mrs. Dalesandro, President.

**Not Present:** Mr. Coladarci- Military Duty

**Also Present:** Mr. Pio Pennisi, Interim Superintendent  
Mrs. Nicole Sylvester, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Ms. Gina Cinotti, Principal  
Five (5) Members of the public present

### **III. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MINUTES**

#### **Correspondence**

Board Trustee Todd Morton moved the following resolutions:

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

| Sender                                | Subject  | Referred to  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Bridget Wisher<br>Lake Hopatcong Elks | Leap in the Lake Donation to<br>Special Education Department | Amy Henry, CST Coordinator   |
| Diane Yaeger                          | Sick days  | Netcong Board of Education<br>Gina Cinotti, Principal<br>Kate Walsh, Elementary Supervisor |

The motion was seconded by Board Trustee Lynn Popelka and was approved by Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present.

#### **Approval of Board Minutes**

Board Trustee Todd Morton moved the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the following meeting(s) be approved as submitted:

|                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| January 20, 2015  | Work Session Minutes      |
| January 20, 2015  | Executive Session Minutes |
| January 27, 2015  | Regular Minutes           |
| January 27, 2015  | Executive Session Minutes |
| February 17, 2015 | Work Session Minutes      |
| February 17, 2015 | Executive Session Minutes |

The motion was seconded by Board Trustee Lynn Popelka.

#### **VOTE: APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

**AYES:** Mrs. Callahan, Mr. McQueeney, Mr. Morton, Mrs. Popelka, Mrs. Santana, Mr. Stevens, Ms. Sufly and Mrs. Dalesandro, President.

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENTATIONS:** Mr. McQueeney on all January 20, 2015 Minutes  
Mr. Morton on all January 27, 2015 Minutes  
Mrs. Popelka on all January 27, 2015 Minutes  
Mrs. Callahan on all January 27, 2015 Minutes  
Ms. Sufly on all February 17, 2015 Minutes

### **IV. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

President Dalesandro introduced Brendan Abiskaroon, from the student council who gave a report on the upcoming and current student activities. She thanked him for his time and a great report.

**V. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

**1. Fire Drill/Security Report:**

|                       |                    |         |           |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| Netcong Public School | Fire               | 1/16/15 | 2 minutes |
|                       | Security, Lockdown | 1/29/15 | 7 minutes |
|                       | Fire               | 2/11/15 | 2 minutes |

**2. Suspensions: NONE**

**3. HIB: NONE**

**VI. SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS**

Mrs. Sylvester informed the Board that Able Security began installation and replacement of our security camera and two-way intercom system for the main entrance area. Upon completion she will inform the Board.

**VII. PETITIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

**Board Trustee Todd Morton moved, seconded by Board Trustee Lynn Popelka, to open the public session at 7:05 p.m. and was approved by a Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present. President Dalesandro opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.**

Public is invited to address the Board with any questions, comments or concerns. The Board requests that the individual address the Board, giving name and address, and asks that all remarks be directed to the Chair. The public portion shall be limited to thirty minutes with a five-minute time limit on each participant.

The Board wishes to remind all attendees at its meeting that while it subscribed without reservation to the principle of keeping the public completely informed, by policy it cannot allow public discussion of personnel matters. If a matter concerning the staff of the Netcong Public School is of interest or concern, the matter would be referred to the Interim Superintendent or the Board of Education, either by telephone or letter.

**There being no further items for discussion, Board Trustee Lynn Popelka moved, seconded by Board Trustee Todd Morton, to close the public session at 7:05 p.m. and was approved by a Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present. President Dalesandro closed the meeting to the public at 7:05 p.m.**

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. GOVERNANCE/POLICY/FINANCE -** Bernadette Dalesandro, Chairperson  
Marianne Callahan, Member  
Jennifer Santana, Member  
Colleen Suflay, Member

**Board Trustee Lynn Popelka, seconded by Board Trustee Todd Morton moved the following resolutions to be approved as submitted:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that resolution numbers 1-11 be adopted as presented:

1. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves the January 31, 2015 payroll in the amount of \$153,434.50.
2. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves the February 15, 2015 payroll in the amount of \$151,367.64.
3. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves the bills list for January 17, 2015 to February 13, 2015 in the amount of \$439,488.86.
4. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves the transfers of the attached list for January 2015.
5. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby accepts the following January 2015 Financial Reports:

The Board Secretary's monthly certification, as attached, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(d) that as of January 31, 2015 no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.S.A. 18A-22-8 and 18A-22-8.1.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 the Netcong Board of Education, after review of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's monthly financial reports certify that as of January 31, 2014 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:23-2.2 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

6. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves the **second reading** of the following Policy and Regulation Revisions:

***\*P&R = Policy and Regulation***

| *   | NUMBER | TITLE            |
|-----|--------|------------------|
| P&R | 9181   | Volunteer Policy |

7. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves the **first reading** of the following Policy and Regulation Revisions:

***\*P&R = Policy and Regulation***

| *   | NUMBER | TITLE                              |
|-----|--------|------------------------------------|
| P&R | 5117   | Interdistrict Public School Choice |

8. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby authorizes the submission of the IDEA application for Fiscal Year 2015, and accepts the grant award of the funds upon subsequent approval of the FY 2015 IDEA application.
9. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves the resolution to address the capital project needs of New Jersey School Districts,

**Whereas**, the Netcong Board of Education, County of Morris has determined the need exists to address certain school facility projects in the Netcong School District that require immediate and/or near term consideration for renovation, upgrade, or maintenance and attached hereto, and

**Whereas**, prior to current New Jersey school budget restrictions, projects of this nature were addressed through a school district's annual operating budget and included within the capital outlay portion of its annual budget, and

**Whereas**, prior to current law, these smaller Capital Outlay projects were always considered authorized adjustments to any tax levy or budgetary caps in place at that time, and  
**Whereas**, projects of this nature were generally of such size and scope that the annual cost of these projects did not substantially impact the local taxpayer, and

**Whereas**, Chapter 44 of the Laws of 2010 amended 18A:7F-38 and placed more restrictive limits on school district annual budget increases by providing that no school district shall adopt an annual budget with an increase in its adjusted tax levy of more than 2% after adjustments for enrollment, health care costs, and certain accrued liability pension contributions, and  
**Whereas**, Chapter 44 effectively eliminated any authorized adjustments heretofore in place that addressed the capital needs of school districts, and

**Whereas**, a *tax levy cap* of 2% often results in an annual school operating budget limit of less than 1% which must accommodate all increases relative to salaries, benefits, supplies, and operational services, and

**Whereas**, school districts around the state are experiencing great difficulty in meeting the educational needs of their district within the constraints of the 2% tax levy cap; and accordingly, must set aside, if not delay, addressing important capital projects that if go unaddressed will certainly result in much higher costs to the state and local taxpayer in the future.

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the Netcong Board of Education calls upon its district legislators, the Commissioner of Education, and the Governor of New Jersey to consider amendments to current law to provide that school capital costs again be recognized as authorized adjustments to school tax levy increases, and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the NJ Commissioner of Education, local legislators, the New Jersey School Board's Association, and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials.

10. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves auctioneering services of GovDeals.com to dispose of surplus equipment as necessary.
11. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves Able Security to install and replace a security camera and two-way intercom system at the main entrance way at a cost not to exceed \$1,692.

**VOTE: GOVERNANCE/POLICY/FINANCE RESOLUTIONS #1 – #11 AS PRESENTED.**

**AYES:** Mrs. Callahan, Mr. McQueeney, Mr. Morton, Mrs. Popelka, Mrs. Santana, Mr. Stevens, Ms. Sufly and Mrs. Dalesandro, President.

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENTATIONS:** None

**B. PERSONNEL-** Marianne Callahan, Chairperson  
Bill Stevens, Member  
Jennifer Santana, Member  
Bernadette Dalesandro, Member

**Board Trustee Marianne Callahan, seconded by Board Trustee Lynn Popelka moved the following resolutions to be approved as submitted:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that resolution numbers 1-5 be adopted as presented:

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves the termination of Larry Bliss, substitute custodian retroactive to February 13, 2015.
2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves Emily Crispino as a substitute nurse at \$150 per day pending fingerprinting and background check effective February 25, 2015.
3. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves the return of Ray Hopler, Head Groundskeeper, effective February 26, 2015, at full salary and benefits.
4. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves the transfer of Todd LeBlanc from the night time shift (1:00 pm to 9:30 pm) to the day time shift (6:30 am to 3:00 pm) and Ray Hopler to night time shift (1:00 pm to 9:30 pm).
5. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves the voluntary transfer of MaryAnne Collins, District Secretary to the Business Office as Administrative Assistant to the Business Administrator effective March 1, 2015.

**VOTE: PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS #1 – #5 AS PRESENTED.**

**AYES:** Mrs. Callahan, Mr. McQueeney, Mr. Morton, Mrs. Popelka, Mrs. Santana, Mr. Stevens, Ms. Suflay and Mrs. Dalesandro, President.

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENTATIONS:** None

**C.FACILITIES/OPERATIONS -** Todd Morton, Chairperson  
Lynn Popelka, Member  
Patrick McQueeney, Member

**Bernadette Dalesandro, Member**

None at this time.

**D. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION- Colleen Suflay, Chairperson  
Joe Coladarci, Member  
Patrick McQueeney, Member  
Bernadette Dalesandro, Member**

**Board Trustee Colleen Suflay, seconded by Board Trustee Todd Morton moved the following resolutions to be approved as submitted:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that resolution numbers 1-2 be adopted as presented:

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves the following trips:

| <b>TEACHER</b>  | <b>GRADE</b> | <b>LOCATION</b>                           | <b>DATE</b>                          | <b>COST</b>                                |
|---|--------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Kate Walsh  | 8            | LVRHS Freshman for a Day Program          | April 22, 2015                       | Previously approved- Date changed          |
| Kim Arbolino<br>Katherine Threlkeld                             | 4            | Liberty Science Center<br>Jersey City, NJ | May 20, 2015                         | No cost to BOE                             |
| Gina Cinotti<br>Jane Morin<br>Cathy DeVito<br>Robert Chiappelli | 8            | Washington D.C.                           | March 31<br>through<br>April 2, 2015 | \$313.71 each<br>Excluding Gina<br>Cinotti |

2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves the 2015-2016 school calendar, Attachment #02-24-01.

**VOTE: CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION RESOLUTIONS #1 – #2 AS PRESENTED.**

**AYES:** Mrs. Callahan, Mr. McQueeney, Mr. Morton, Mrs. Popelka, Mrs. Santana, Mr. Stevens, Ms. Suflay and Mrs. Dalesandro, President.

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENTATIONS:** None

## **XI. MISCELLANEOUS**

Board Trustee Lynn Popelka requested that Principal, Gina Cinotti contact our police department to request a donation of magnetic lock strips for our classroom doors to upgrade security.

## **XII. PETITIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE PUBLIC**

**Board Trustee Patrick McQueeney moved, seconded by Board Trustee Todd Morton, to open the public session at 7:10 p.m. and was approved by a Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present. President Dalesandro opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.**

The Public is invited to address the Board with any questions, comments or concerns. The Board requests that the individual address the Board, giving name and address, and asks that all remarks be directed to the Chair. The public portion shall be limited to thirty minutes with a five-minute time limit on each participant.

The Board wishes to remind all attendees at its meeting that while it subscribes without reservation to the principle of keeping the public completely informed, by policy it cannot allow public discussion of personnel matters. If a matter concerning the staff of the Netcong Public School is of interest or concern, the matter should be referred to the Interim Superintendent or the Board of Education, either by telephone or letter.

**There being no further items for discussion, Board Trustee Todd Morton moved, seconded by Board Trustee Colleen Sufly, to close the public session at 7:11 p.m. and was approved by a Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present. President Dalesandro closed the meeting to the public at 7:11 p.m.**

## **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Board Trustee Colleen Sufly, seconded by Board Trustee Todd 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 personnel issues, negotiations and legal matters. 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 7:12 p.m. and was approved by a Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present. President Dalesandro closed the meeting to the public at 7:12 p.m. President Dalesandro stated that action will not be taken after executive session and it is anticipated the board will be in executive session for approximately 60 (sixty) minutes.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT**

Board Trustee Lynn Popelka made a motion to come out of executive session. It was seconded by Board Trustee Jennifer Santana and carried by Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present at 8:08 p.m.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT** There being no further business to come before the board, Board Trustee Colleen Sufly made a motion, seconded by Board Trustee Lynn Popelka and carried by Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the February 24, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Netcong Board of Education at 8:08 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Nicole Sylvester  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary**