



## **MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING**

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

April 14, 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. Coladarci, Mr. McQueeney, Mrs. Popelka, Mr. Morton, Mrs. Santana, Mr. Stevens, Ms. Sufloy and Mrs. Dalesandro, President.

**Not Present:** None

**Also Present:** Mr. Pio Pennisi, Interim Superintendent  
Mrs. Nicole Sylvester, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Dr. Gina Cinotti, Principal  
Mrs. Carolyn Chaudry, Board Attorney  
Eleven (11) Members of the public present

**III. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MINUTES**

Board Trustee Todd Morton moved the following resolution and it was seconded by Board Trustee Patrick McQueeney:

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

March 24, 2015	Regular Minutes
March 24, 2015	Executive Session Minutes

**VOTE: BOARD MINUTES**

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

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENTATIONS:** Mrs. Callahan, Mrs. Popelka

**IV. PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS**

President Dalesandro introduced and welcomed Carolyn Chaudry, Board Attorney to tonight’s meeting.

President Dalesandro informed the public that the reason for the change in the Board meeting date from the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Work Session meeting to tonight’s meeting was due to the discussion and timing of the ballot question(s). She explained that Mrs. Sylvester has spoken with the county Business Administrator and was advised that due to timing constraints it would be in the best interest of the Board to move the date to have all budget documents ready in a timely manner.

President Dalesandro stated that the Board would be going into Executive Session later on in the meeting to conduct the interview process for the CSA position.

At this time President Dalesandro turned the meeting over to Mr. Pennisi.

**V. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS**

Mr. Pennisi stated that since there was interest from Board members for a possible ballot question, he put two options together for the Board to review. He stated that one question was to restore the teachers from the part time (.75) position to full time and the other to bring back two Elementary school teachers to reduce class size. Mr. Pennisi also stated that his recommendation is to go with one ballot question that way everyone can have an interest in the overall investment.

Board Trustee Joe Coladarci expressed his concern on what the tax impact would be on each household. Mr. Pennisi informed everyone that the tax impact for the one combined question would be an annual increase of \$176 whereas if it was broken into two separate questions the tax impact would be \$35 annually to bring the part-time teachers (.75) to full time and \$141 annually to bring back two elementary teachers.

Board Trustee Marianne Callahan expressed that she wants to make sure that we are transparent and would like to put more detail into the question. Mr. Pennisi advised her that the way the question was written would be sufficient as well as it has had approval of the county Superintendent.

Board Trustee Colleen Sufly was concerned about why we are being so specific as to what we are using the money for. Mrs. Carolyn Chaudry replied letting her know what you need to let the public know what specifically you need the money for. Discussion ensued.

Board Trustee Lynn Popelka said she would like to hear what the public would prefer when it comes to one or two questions on the ballot.

Discussion ensued and Board members expressed their concerns as to which way they would vote. Board Trustee Todd Morton stated that anyone who is voting for two questions would be going against the recommendation of our paid administrator and expressed that he is concerned with this since this was previously one of the reasons we are in our current situation we are now.

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

None at this time.

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

**Board Trustee Lynn Popelka moved, seconded by Board Trustee Joe Coladarci, to open the public session at 7:50 p.m. and was approved by a Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present. President Dalesandro opened the meeting at 7:50 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.

**Karin Bond asked the Board if the potential budget for next year would include the repair for the back steps. President Dalesandro informed her that the stairs would soon be fixed now that we have warmer weather.**

**Kerri Santalucia responded to Board Trustee Lynn Popelka expressing that as a taxpayer she would prefer to have one question on the ballot as she would not like to see us in a deficit next year. President Dalesandro informed her that we are not going to be in a deficit next year.**

**Kathy Renegar inquired about next year's schedule with the new budget for G&T and Basic Skills. She also asked if the budget included the money for a new music teacher who would possibly be paid less in salary. Lastly, she asked if Spanish next year would include only the upper class. President Dalesandro responded stating that G&T and Basic Skills would both be in next year's budget. She also explained that the salary for the music teacher was accounted for and that Spanish would not just include the upper classes.**

There being no further items for discussion, Board Trustee Todd Morton moved, seconded by Board Trustee Colleen Sufly, to close the public session at 8:00 p.m. and was approved by a Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present. President Dalesandro closed the meeting to the public at 8:00 p.m.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

Board Trustee Patrick McQueeney proposed that the Board hold a discussion about amending the 2015-2016 calendar to adjust for spring break and add four days to the end of the year. Discussion ensued.

Board Trustee Patrick McQueeney made a motion to amend the 2015-2016 school calendar. The motion was seconded by Board Trustee Lynn Popelka. Board Attorney, Carolyn Chaudry explained to the Board that they should wait to amend the calendar until the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting so they can review and see how everyone voted before they took action. All Board Members agreed and discussion will take place at the April 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

## **IV. PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. GOVERNANCE/POLICY/FINANCE - Bernadette Dalesandro, Chairperson  
Joe Coladarci, Member  
Patrick McQueeney, Member  
Colleen Suflay, Member**

**President Dalesandro stated that the G/P/F Committee met earlier this evening to review purchase orders and the bills list.**

**Board Trustee Lynn Popelka, seconded by Board Trustee Joe Coladarci moved the following resolution to be approved as submitted:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that resolution number 1 be adopted as presented:

- 1. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves the November ballot question to be advertised and submitted to the Executive County Superintendent as follows:

In addition to the regular advertised budget, the Netcong Board of Education will seek approval from the district's legal voters to raise an additional \$200,000 for General Funds in the same school year (2015-16). These taxes will be used exclusively for the hiring of two elementary teachers for the purpose of reducing class size and to increase Art, Music, and Spanish from part-time (.75) to full-time. Approval of these taxes will result in a permanent increase in the district's tax levy. The proposed additional expenditures are in addition to those necessary for thorough and efficient (T&E).

**VOTE: GOVERNANCE/POLICY/FINANCE RESOLUTION #1 AS PRESENTED.**

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

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENTATIONS:** None

**B. PERSONNEL**

None at this time.

**C. FACILITIES**

None at this time.

**D. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION-** Marianne Callahan, Chairperson  
Bill Stevens, Member  
Jennifer Santana, Member  
Bernadette Dalesandro, Member

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

**BE IT RESOLVED** that resolution number 1 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:

TEACHER	GRADE	LOCATION	DATE	COST
Gina Szarejko Darrell Sandrue Shawn Cryan	7	Stokes State Forest	April 22, 2015 through April 24, 2015	\$313.71 each

**VOTE: PERSONNEL RESOLUTION #1 AS PRESENTED.**

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

**NAYES:** None

**ABSENTATIONS:** None

**X. MISCELLANEOUS**

The Board reviewed and discussed the April 28<sup>th</sup> agenda and motions.

Board Trustee Lynn Popelka asked Mrs. Sylvester if we received a letter from the town. Mrs. Sylvester responded stating that to date we have not received any letters from the town.

**XI. PETITIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE PUBLIC**

**Board Trustee Joe Coladarci moved, seconded by Board Trustee Patrick McQueeney, to open the public session at 8:24 p.m. and was approved by a Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present. President Dalesandro opened the meeting at 8:24 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 Colleen Suflay moved, seconded by Board Trustee Bill Stevens, to close the public session at 8:25 p.m. and was approved by a Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present. President Dalesandro closed the meeting to the public at 8:25 p.m.**

## **XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Board Trustee Todd Morton, seconded by Board Trustee Patrick McQueeney 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 to include the CSA Interview process, negotiations and matters which are attorney-client privileged. 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 8:25 p.m. and was approved by a Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present. President Dalesandro closed the meeting to the public at 8:25 p.m. and stated that no action will be taken after executive session and it is anticipated the Board will be in executive session for approximately two hours.

**Mrs. Carolyn Chaudry exited the room at 9:05 pm.**

**Mr. Pio Pennisi exited the room at 9:15 pm.**

**Dr. Cinotti exited the room at 9:55 pm.**

**Board Trustee Lynn Popelka exited the room at 10:00 pm.**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNMENT**

Board Trustee Todd Morton made a motion to come out of executive session. It was seconded by Board Trustee Colleen Suflay and carried by Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present at 10:17 p.m.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT** There being no further business to come before the board, Board Trustee Joe Coladarci made a motion, seconded by Board Trustee Colleen Suflay and carried by Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the April 14, 2015 Work Session Meeting of the Netcong Board of Education at 10:17 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Nicole Sylvester  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary**