

WORK/SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
November 12, 2007

The Board of Education of Hillsborough Township in the county of Somerset, convened in public session on Monday, November 12, 2007 at 6:45 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Auten Road Intermediate School in the School District.

In accordance with the State's Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided in the Board's annual meeting notice. This notice was also provided to the Hillsborough Beacon, Somerset Messenger Gazette, and Courier News newspapers on November 5, 2007. The notice is also posted in the Board of Education office and a copy has been sent to the Township Clerk and Township Public Library.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Donnadio, Gregory Gillette, Neil Hudes, David Kanaby, Steven D. Paget, Marc J. Rosenberg, and Wolfgang Schneider

Frank A. Blandino arrived at 7:04 p.m.

MEMBERS ABSENT: David T. Lin

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Edward Forsthoffer, III, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. James Dwyer, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Jeffrey R. Scott, Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Mr. Scott Rocco, Director of Human Resources

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Kanaby and seconded by Mr. Rosenberg that the board adopt a resolution to go into executive session at 6:47 p.m.

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 provides that a public body may exclude the public from that portion of a meeting of which the public body discusses certain matters for which confidentiality is required as permitted in Section 7B of the act.

RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Township of Hillsborough in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The following matters to be discussed are a request from an employee and the employment of administrative personnel
2. The matters discussed in executive session shall be disclosed to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

Mr. Blandino arrived at 7:04 p.m.

The board reconvened in public session at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Forsthoffer introduced Mr. Matthew Chernoff and Mr. Dave Dragani, Hillsborough Robo-Raider advisors. Mr. Chernoff introduced the team captains, Andrew Douglas, Rohith Surampudi, and Katie Bianchini, who then gave a presentation on the birth of the Robo-Raiders, where they are heading, and what it takes to run the team.

Mr. Blandino recognized Mr. Schneider as the original founder of the Hillsborough Robo-Raiders.

President Hudes congratulated all involved on their success and for a fine job in representing the district. He gave special mention to Johnson & Johnson for all of their support and involvement.

Dr. Forsthoffer then introduced Mr. Bianchini, father of Katie and executive sponsor for Johnson & Johnson.

Mr. Bianchini asked for the boards endorsement in supporting science and technology in an effort to help the program continue to grow and flourish especially in the area of teacher stipends, transportation to and from events/competitions, and funding the registration of the program.

Dr. Forsthoffer noted that today is Veteran's Day and spoke about his visit to various schools in the district who had programs whereby veterans were invited to come to the schools and speak. Flowers were distributed to all of the veterans in attendance.

President Hudes introduced Michelle Horowitz, as student representative to the board.

Action Agenda

Public Comments

None

Personnel

A motion was made by Mr. Gillette and seconded by Mr. Rosenberg that the board of education approve the personnel agenda as follows:

Resignations

Beth Godett, principal, Triangle Elementary, effective December 30, 2007.

Appointments for 2007-2008

Principal

Jodi Howe, principal, Woods Road School, effective January 2, 2008, replacing Scott Rocco (in-district transfer).

SALARY: \$105,000

PRO-RATED

Lynn Popelka, supervisor of transportation, district, effective November 19, 2007 through June 30, 2008, replacing Robyn Friedlander (resigned).

SALARY: \$63,000

PRO-RATED

Dr. Forsthoffer took a minute to congratulate Dr. Godett, Triangle School principal, on her appointment as Superintendent of Springfield Township Public Schools and wished her well. He then introduced Ms. Jodi Howe, newly appointed Woods Road School principal. Ms. Howe thanked the board for the opportunity to work in Hillsborough and stated that she is looking forward to a smooth transition.

#### Public Input on the 2008-09 Budget

President Hudes noted that the previous request, made by Mr. Bianchini, for support for Robo-Raiders should be recorded as public input on the 2008-09 budget.

There were no other comments from the public.

#### Committee Reports

##### Facilities Committee

Mr. Blandino, chairperson of the facilities committee, noted that the committee had not met since the last meeting.

##### Curriculum Committee

Mr. Schneider, chairperson of the curriculum committee, stated that the committee had not met since the last meeting but are scheduled to meet this Thursday at 8:00 a.m.

##### Special Projects Committee

Mr. Donnadio, chairperson of the special projects committee, stated that the committee did not meet; however, he noted that a special public meeting took place on November 1, facilitated by Gwen Thorton of the New Jersey School Boards Association, whereby the board discussed annual goals and objectives for the district. The following four priorities were identified:

- Curriculum & Instruction
- Finance
- Personnel
- Safety & Security

The board will continue to develop these goals for final presentation at a future meeting.

##### Personnel Committee

Mr. Paget, speaking on behalf of Mr. Lin, chairperson of the personnel committee, stated that on November 1, the personnel committee met with the

two finalists for the position of school business administrator. They were very impressed with the quality of both candidates and will make their final recommendation for approval at the November 19 meeting.

Mr. Paget also noted that the committee met and interviewed Ms. Jodi Howe, who was appointed this evening as principal of Woods Road School and that the process has already started for replacement of Dr. Beth Godett, Triangle School principal, due to her resignation.

#### Negotiations Committee

Mr. Paget, negotiations committee chairperson, stated that the committee met on November 8 and discussed the parameters and proposals that will be brought forward for negotiations with the Hillsborough Education Association. He noted that they also met with administration to discuss goals they would like to achieve and ways to improve the contract. They expect to finalize their proposals in a future session.

#### Finance Committee

Mr. Gillette noted that the committee had not met since the last meeting.

#### Municipal Alliance

Mr. Gillette, municipal alliance liaison, noted that they met and discussed the success of Red Ribbon Week. He stated that members of the alliance are looking for clarification on the number of positive drug tests that were reported in the papers recently.

#### Policy Committee

Mr. Kanaby, policy committee chairperson, stated that the committee met on November 1 and further discussed the random drug testing policy and regulations. They will be meeting again at the end of the month and expect to present the policy for first reading at the December work meeting.

Time was allowed for questions and comments from the board and public on committee reports.

Mr. Blandino questioned the necessity of the random drug testing policy and expressed his feeling that it was a waste of financial resources.

Mr. Donnadio expressed similar concerns and suggested that the board check with Mr. Fogarty, board attorney, on the legal ramifications of such a policy. He also requested that a cost analysis be done on what the research into this policy has cost the district to date.

Dr. Forsthoffer stated that he spoke with Mr. Fogarty and only minor tweaking of the policy is necessary and that future costs should not exceed \$500.

Additional discussion took place at length on the history leading up to the development of the random drug policy.

In an effort to provide the board with the full history, President Hudes directed Mr. Kanaby to provide a presentation on how the district got to this point prior to the first reading at the December meeting.

#### Review of October Board Meeting Minutes

The board reviewed the public minutes of the meeting held on October 8 and October 15 and the executive session minutes of the meeting held on October 15.

There were no changes or modifications made to these minutes and the board will act on the approval of these minutes at the November 19 regular meeting.

#### Other Business from the Public

Beth Baldwin spoke about the local fundraising team, Hillsborough Hope, for the national organization, Autism Speaks, and thanked Dr. Forsthoffer for his support in helping to reach their goals. She noted that over 75 Hillsborough families participated in the "Walk Now for Autism" on November 21 and that the Hillsborough team was the number one team in central New Jersey raising over \$19,000.

She then stated that there will be a basket auction fundraiser soon and asked everyone to watch for the informational flyers that will be forthcoming. She thanked all of the staff, parents, and community members for their support.

#### Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Paget and seconded by Mr. Gillette to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Upon call of the question, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Scott  
Interim School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary