

WEST MILFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
46 Highlander Drive
West Milford, NJ 07480
(973) 697-1700
www.wmtps.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023

Ms. Barbara Francisco, Board Secretary, called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:01 p.m., in the Westbrook School Media Center. She asked for a moment of silence, led the flag salute, read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement, and reminded everyone in attendance to silence or turn off their cell phones and note the locations of the emergency exits.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, a public notice of this meeting has been sent to Board Members, all district Schools, the Herald News, the Suburban Trends, the Record, the Messenger, West Milford Town Hall, the County Superintendent's Office, the Board Attorney, Cablevision of Warwick and West Milford TV77; and posted in the Administration Building. Copies of the Board Meeting Calendar Resolution were provided to all local media, Town Hall, Township Library, and all district schools.

MS. BARBARA FRANCISCO, BOARD SECRETARY, CALLED THE ROLL:

TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE
Mrs. Racano	Absent	Mrs. Dwyer	Present	Mrs. Lockwood	Present
Mr. Cytowicz	Absent	Mr. Guarino	Absent/Arr. 7:04 p.m.	Mrs. Van Dyk	Present
Mr. Lippe	Absent	Mrs. O'Brien	Present	Mrs. Romeo	Present

Ms. Barbara Francisco, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, was in attendance.
Dr. Alex Anemone, Superintendent of Schools, was in attendance.
Mr. Daniel Novak, Director of Education, was in attendance.
Mr. John Geppart, Esq., Board Attorney was in attendance.

There were 25 members of the public in attendance.

VI. PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of the meeting was to immediately go into Executive Session to discuss student matters and personnel matters.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS (PLEASE SIGN IN)

All speakers will have five (5) minutes to speak until a period of thirty (30) minutes transpires. Before speaking, please state your name, group affiliation and address for the record.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS - Continued

Members of the public who have requested to speak prior to the meeting will be recognized by the chair first. After speaking, all speakers are asked to sign the register provided and give their full name, group affiliation, and their address.

All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer. No participant may address or question Board members individually.

All speakers are expected to have read the statement within the agenda regarding the regulations concerning public comments.

Members of the public are reminded that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

Lori Eckhert, 35 Hopler Place, Newfoundland. Ms. Eckert spoke in support of the Class of 2023, and the students that participated in the "senior prank." She feels there was no disrespect, nothing was destroyed, and there was no malicious intent. There are rumors that some students will not be able to walk at Graduation, and if that is so, it should be all students or none.

Eileen Van Kirk, Graduate of West Milford High School. She spoke in support of the Class of 2023 and her sister, who is a Senior. Losing Graduation is not the answer. As a member of the Class of 2020, they missed events due to the COVID emergency. They should not miss a milestone. There are other ways to discipline students.

Scott Reilly, 25 Grove Street, Oak Ridge. Mr. Reilly echoed Mrs. Eckhert. He spoke about the community projects these students were involved with over the weekend. He feels that although they participated in the prank, they then cleaned up the residual.

Motion by Mrs. O'Brien, seconded by Mrs. Van Dyk, to close Public Comment.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

VIII. MOTION BY MRS. O'BRIEN, SECONDED BY MRS. VAN DYK, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mrs. O'Brien, seconded by Mrs. Van Dyk, to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Van Dyk, seconded by Mr. Guarino, to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 p.m., from Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Francisco
Board Secretary