

**WEST MILFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023**

Mr. William Scholts, Assistant Board Secretary, called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:31 p.m., in the Westbrook School Media Center. He 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.

**MR. WILLIAM SCHOLTS, ASSISTANT BOARD SECRETARY, CALLED THE ROLL:**

<b>TRUSTEE</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>TRUSTEE</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>TRUSTEE</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
Mrs. Racano	Absent	Mrs. Dwyer	Present	Mrs. Lockwood	Present
Mr. Cytowicz	Present	Mr. Guarino	Present	Mrs. Van Dyk	Present
Mr. Lippe	Present	Mrs. O'Brien	Present	Mrs. Romeo	Present

<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
Dr. Alex Anemone	Superintendent of Schools	Absent
Ms. Barbara Francisco	Board Secretary/Business Administrator	Absent
Mr. William Scholts	Assistant Board Secretary/Assistant Business Administrator	Present
Mr. Daniel Novak	Director of Education	Present
Dr. Karen D'Avino	Interim Director of Special Services	Present
Andrew Brown, Esq.	Board of Education Attorney	Present

There were approximately 36 members of the public in attendance.

**Minutes for the Special Meeting of June 26, 2023**

**VI. PURPOSE OF MEETING**

The purpose of the meeting is to appoint an Acting Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2023, through July 31, 2023, and take action on items including personnel, and any other additional action item, as necessary.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGULATIONS**

At all regular meetings, two opportunities are provided for citizens to make comments. The public comment period will be scheduled after the President's Report. The second comment period will be scheduled after New Business. During the first opportunity for public comment, citizens are invited to comment on subjects on the agenda items only. During the second opportunity for public comment, citizens may comment on all other general topics. At the discretion of the presiding officer, public comments may be permitted at other times.

Please remember this is a public meeting. Anything you say will be a public record. As a result, pursuant to law, the Board of Education cannot respond to you publicly concerning certain matters, such as those regarding an individual student or personnel. If there is a matter that you wish to remain private concerning personnel or students, please contact the Superintendent's Office. Public comment periods shall also be governed by the following rules:

1. Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise, sign in, and state their names and addresses.
2. Each speaker shall be limited to five minutes. The Board Secretary will note the time. A speaker who has not finished in the allotted time will be directed by the presiding officer to summarize quickly and relinquish the floor within 30 seconds (Bylaw 0167).
3. Comments shall be limited to issues. If personal remarks or discourteous statements are made, the presiding officer shall require the speaker to stop.
4. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer. No participant may address or questions Board members individually.
5. Questions requiring investigation shall be referred by the Board to the Superintendent's Office for consideration and later response. A participant may be asked to submit such questions in written format.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT - 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. 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.

**Minutes for the Special Meeting of June 26, 2023**

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS - Continued**

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.

Lauren Frey, a Senior at West Milford High School. She is one of the captains on the Girls Cross Country Team. She spoke about Fall sports coaches not being approved at the June 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. She explained how important approving the coaches is to the student athletes of West Milford High School. She stated that without coaches, student athlete training would be put on pause, and feels this training is so vital to a successful Cross Country season, and to all of the other Fall sports. She stated that to her and her teammates, the Cross Country team is family. The foundation of this family is built in the Summer, where they set goals as a team and work together without the stresses of academics. They can also see other sports training around them, including Field Hockey, Soccer and other Fall sports, knowing they are building their families as well. The practices are never mandatory, but everyone comes to them. She feels it is vital that the athletes have the knowledge and skills of our coaches there to guide the team for a successful season. She appreciates the Board considering the approval of all Fall sports coaches tonight.

Jessica Sprague, 1 Burma Court, West Milford. She is a lifelong resident of West Milford and the parent of a current Freshman at West Milford High School, coming in on the Football team. She was very disappointed that the Board did not put through coaches at the June 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. She stated this is their team building opportunity, and asked why the Board would jeopardize these student athletes by failing to approve and put through their coaches. She feels it is fiscally irresponsible and the Board is opening themselves up to liability through lawsuits. She also feels we will be losing more students to PCTI and private schools who will offer better opportunities for our students. She stated that every student that we lose, we lose money. She also stated that we want our school district to be successful, and coaches should be approved by the Board at this meeting without any further delay.

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

**VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.**

**IX. MOTION BY MR. GUARINO, SECONDED BY MRS. O'BRIEN, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA, AS PRESENTED, AND AMENDED.**

**VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.**

**X. PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS - Mrs. Lynda Van Dyk, Chairperson**

NOTE: All appointees recommended for employment will meet the New Jersey State law requirements for the criminal history review prior to their start date.

Motion by Mrs. Van Dyk, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to approve the following agenda items #1 through #3:

**DISCUSSION:** Mrs. Romeo thanked the community for the countless number of emails that she and the Board and the Administration have received about our sports teams. She explained that this was not meant to hold them back, and she feels there may be some miscommunication. She stated that all of our coaches are covered under our insurance policy, and practices could have started. She explained the Board would never hold our sports teams back for practicing in the Summer. Her statement was made on behalf of the Board, and wants the community to know it is important to the Board that student athletes have what they need and what is important to them. She thanked everyone who attended the meeting to support our students.

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the West Milford Board of Education appoints **BARBARA FRANCISCO**, as Acting Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2023, through July 31, 2023, pursuant to the terms of the addendum to the employment contract approved by the Interim Executive County Superintendent.
2. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following **SUMMER CUSTODIAL WORKERS**, effective July 5, 2023, through August 23, 2023, at the hourly rate of \$14.13 - Account 11-000-262-110-10-10-103

**MEADOW BABCOCK  
LOGAN PASSARIELLO-DALY  
JOSEPH FRESCHI  
THOMAS PEREKSTA\***

\*Pending fingerprint clearance.

3. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ACTIVITIES ASSIGNMENTS AND STIPENDS** for the **FALL 2023 ATHLETIC SEASON**, per Board of Education/WMEA Agreement - Account: 11-402-100-110-10-10-000:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
<b>STEPHEN MASLANEK</b>	Head Football	C	\$13,716.00
<b>KENNETH QUAZZA</b>	Asst. Football	A	\$ 7,671.00
<b>TYLER MAURER</b>	Asst. Football	C	\$ 9,423.00
<b>MATTHEW KEYZER</b>	Asst. Football	C	\$ 9,423.00
<b>JOSEPH IMBASCIANI</b>	Asst. Football	B	\$ 8,448.00
<b>PATRICK KEYZER</b>	Asst. Football	A	\$ 7,671.00
<b>CHRISTOPHER JONES</b>	Head Cross Country(Boys)	B	\$ 6,325.00
<b>ANDREA JONES</b>	Head Cross Country(Girls)	C+Longevity	\$ 7,848.00
<b>NICOLE GRIMSHAW</b>	Head Tennis(Girls)	C	\$ 7,183.00
<b>KENNETH CANALI</b>	Asst. Tennis(Girls)	C	\$ 5,454.00
<b>RAYMOND FERRIOLA</b>	Head Soccer(Boys)	C	\$10,014.00
<b>MATTHEW KANE</b>	Asst. Soccer(Boys)	A	\$ 5,338.00
<b>ROBERTO ZUBAN</b>	Asst. Soccer(Boys)	C+Longevity	\$ 7,719.00

**X. PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS - Mrs. Van Dyk, Chairperson - Continued**

3. (Continued)

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
<b>NICOLE GWINNETT</b>	Head Soccer(Girls)	C	\$10,014.00
<b>GREGG VETTER</b>	Asst. Soccer(Girls)	C	\$ 7,371.00
<b>LAUREN REMBRANDT</b>	Head Gymnastics	C+Longevity	\$10,214.00
<b>DENISE FLOOD</b>	Asst. Gymnastics	C	\$ 7,519.00
<b>KRISTA TRIPODI</b>	Head Cheerleading	C+Longevity	\$ 7,848.00
<b>KRISTA PROVOST</b>	Head Field Hockey	C+Longevity	\$10,214.00
<b>TAYLOR MESSLER</b>	Asst. Field Hockey	A	\$ 5,338.00
<b>MICHELLE PALUZZI</b>	Asst. Field Hockey	C+Longevity	\$ 7,719.00
<b>JASON D'esVERNEY</b>	Head Girls Volleyball	B	\$ 7,752.00
<b>JESSICA BULLOCK</b>	Asst. Girls Volleyball	A	\$ 5,338.00

**ROLL CALL FOR ITEMS #1 THROUGH #3:**

<b>TRUSTEE</b>	<b>VOTE</b>	<b>TRUSTEE</b>	<b>VOTE</b>	<b>TRUSTEE</b>	<b>VOTE</b>
Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes*	Mrs. Racano	Absent	Mrs. Dwyer	Yes
Mr. Cytowicz	Yes	Mrs. Lockwood	Yes	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes
Mr. Lippe	Yes	Mr. Guarino	Yes**	Mrs. Romeo	Yes**

\*Mrs. Van Dyk "Abstained" on item #1 and item #2.

\*\*Mr. Guarino and Mrs. Romeo "Abstained" on item #1.

The **MOTION PASSED**.

**XI. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS (PLEASE SIGN IN)**

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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.

Rebecca Zecca, 129 Wesley Drive, West Milford. She is a parent and spoke about School Choice and the letter she received denying her request with no explanation. She explained that she went through the criteria for the amendment that was made, and her son qualifies for more than half of them. She asked the Board if they could please step in and try to help parents. She does not know a single parent that got accepted and they are heartbroken.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS - Continued

Motion by Mrs. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Lippe, to close Public Comment.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

The Board determined there was no need to go into Executive Session.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Cytowicz, seconded by Mr. Lippe, to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

William Scholts  
Assistant Board Secretary