

WEST MILFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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**BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
WORKSHOP/REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2023**

DISTRICT GOALS - 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

- *Continue our initiative to enhance the District Math program in order to provide students with the skills necessary to prepare for future success, as measured by the planning and implementation of a rigorous, standards-based curriculum, supported by the allocation of resources, use of formative assessments, and continued professional development.*
- *Stabilize District finances in light of the challenges of S2 reduction in State aid and declining enrollment, as measured by the identification of cost-effective solutions, and potential means of revenue generation.*
- *Continue to foster a culture that supports the mental and physical well-being of our students and staff, as measured by the identification and implementation of appropriate resources, professional development, and communication about available supports.*
- *Increase a sense of unity across all schools in the District as measured by the implementation of revised communication and branding strategies, and appropriate consistency of program implementation.*

Mrs. Kate Romeo, Board President, called to order the Workshop/Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m., in the Macopin School Auditorium. She asked for a moment of silence and to remember our staff and students, those in the community who have lost loved ones recently, and those that may struggle through the holiday season. She 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, BOARD SECRETARY, CALLED THE ROLL:

TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE
Mrs. Racano	Present	Mrs. Dwyer	Present	Mrs. Lockwood	Present
Mr. Cytowicz	Absent/Arr. 7:07 p.m.	Mr. Guarino	Present	Mrs. Van Dyk	Present
Mr. Lippe	Present	Mrs. O'Brien	Present	Mrs. Romeo	Present

Minutes for the Workshop/Regular Meeting of December 19, 2023

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

ADMINISTRATION	POSITION	ATTENDANCE
Dr. Lydia Furnari	Interim Superintendent of Schools	Present
Mr. William Scholts	Board Secretary/Business Administrator	Present
Mr. Daniel Novak	Director of Education	Present
Dr. Derek Ressa	Director of Special Services	Present
Andrew Brown, Esq.	Board of Education Attorney	Present
Marina Petrosillo	Student Representative	Present

There were approximately 9 members of the public in attendance.

VI. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Dr. Lydia Furnari

- Dr. Furnari shared information with the Board and the community about the 28th anniversary of On-Site Decision Day, which took place on December 7th at the High School, held in the Upper Media Center. Representatives from 24 colleges and universities met with 88 Senior students, and a total of 270 appointments were scheduled. The day enabled our students to meet with representatives who evaluated their academic and other accomplishments, and many students received instant decisions about their acceptance. There was a photo area set up, so that students could take a commemorative photo regarding their participation in this event. She thanked the High School administration for their support, and the High School Guidance and Counseling Department for organizing the day and preparing our students for this process. She also thanked the students in PALs and Heroes and Cool Kids for setting up and running the photo area. She then thanked the parents of these very accomplished Senior students, and expressed her congratulations and best wishes for a successful post-secondary experience to all of our Seniors.
- Student Representative, Marina Petrosillo, Secretary of the Student Council, filled in for Mia Harrison who was unable to attend. Marina reported on High School events, including The Giving Closet and items located there, Highlander Spirit week which started on December 18th, West Milford Student Council hosting a Toy Drive and donating toys to the Pediatric Unit of Hackensack Medical Center, and On-Site Decision Day. She stated that Highlanders will also be showing their holiday spirit in other ways by decorating classroom doors, and administrators will go door-to-door judging the decorations on December 22nd. She spoke about the High School Choir and Band holding their annual concerts, and spoke about Winter sports and the Athletics calendar. Marina wished everyone a great Holiday Season!

VII. DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION'S REPORT - Mr. Daniel Novak

- Mr. Novak spoke about Highlander Hometown Pride Day. He thanked all of the staff and the community members who participated in and visited the Hometown Pride event that was held on November 30th. There were well over 100 families registered to participate in the event, and demonstrations and opportunities for people to see our High School programs in action. It was a great community event to show the things that are done, and have conversations about what the future of the event could look like.

VII. DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION'S REPORT - Mr. Novak - Continued

- Mr. Novak also spoke about item #24 under Personnel on tonight's Agenda, and the approval of NJSLA after school clubs to support those standards in preparation for the State assessment. Mr. Novak indicated he was able to use a couple of different grant opportunities to provide these sessions. He explained that if we begin in January, we can have about ten weeks, 2 hours per week, for as many students who participate in Grades 3-5. He also anticipates that in January, we hope to approve a Macopin group for NJSLA preparation, as well as an approach to our middle school Algebra I readiness. They will be open to all students, and our principals are in the process of getting invitations ready to go. He feels this is very exciting, and can have a good impact with significant gains.

**VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE - Mr. William Scholts, Board Secretary/
Business Administrator**

Motion by Mrs. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Guarino, to approve the following Board of Education meeting minutes:

- November 21, 2023 Workshop/Regular Meeting
- November 21, 2023 Executive Session
- December 7, 2023 Special Meeting
- December 7, 2023 Executive Session

VOICE VOTE: Mr. Cytowicz "Abstained" on the November 21, 2023 Workshop/Regular Meeting minutes, and the December 7, 2023 Special Meeting and Executive Session minutes; Mr. Dwyer "Abstained" on the November 21, 2023 Workshop/Regular and Executive Session minutes, and the December 7, 2023 Special Meeting and Executive Session minutes; Mrs. Van Dyk and Mrs. O'Brien "Abstained" on the November 21, 2023 Workshop/Regular Meeting and Executive Session minutes.

All Others in Favor.

MOTION PASSED.

IX. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mrs. Kate Romeo

Mrs. Romeo spoke about the Winter concerts that she attended. She also congratulated all of the District musicians and their educators for some outstanding performances this season. She invited the community to tune in on December 21st at 8:35 a.m. to 102.3FM or use the iHeart Radio App, to hear our 8th Grade Chorus and Band on the radio. She extended her congratulations to them. She also stated she is happy that The Giving Closet was mentioned by our Student Representative, Marina Petrosillo, this evening. She thanked the Santa Secret Elves that are out in the District, and spoke about how The Giving closet is also helping with gifts and if there is a need, to please stop by. The community can drop off items to the front steps of the High School.

Mrs. Romeo stated this is her last report of the 2023 year, as the Board President. She is really excited for new beginnings as we enter into the new year, and expressed her thanks.

X. 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.

XI. 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.

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.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS - Continued

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

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

XII. MOTION BY MRS. O'BRIEN, SECONDED BY MRS. VAN DYK, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND AMENDED, INCLUDING HAND CARRYS.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

XIII. EDUCATION - Mrs. Claire Lockwood, Chairperson

Motion by Mrs. Lockwood, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to approve the following agenda items #1 through #5, and #7 (item #6 was **TABLED** to be voted on after Executive Session):

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Van Dyk inquired about #7, and asked why it is a hand carry motion. Dr. Furnari explained the paperwork for these trips were received after the Agenda was published. Mrs. Romeo also indicated that the Committee meeting was held earlier this month, due to concert conflicts.

1. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a **SUMMER EXPLORERS STEM CAMP**, to be held at Hands In 4 Youth Camp Vacamas, from July 1, 2024, through July 11, 2024.
2. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a **SUMMER READING and LITERACY PROGRAM**, from July 15, 2024, through August 8, 2024.
3. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **CHANGES TO SECONDARY PROGRAMS**, for the 2024-2025 school year:

DEPARTMENT

TYPE OF PROGRAM CHANGE

English

Course Name Change:

From: Diverse Perspectives in Literature
To: Be the Change: Understanding Social Issues through Perspectives in Literature

English

Course Name Change:

From: Introduction to Philosophy
To: Wisdom, Happiness, and the Meaning of Life: Introduction to Philosophy

4. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve **ADDITIONS to the GENERAL EDUCATION/SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT CONSULTANTS, PHYSICIANS, HOSPITALS/MEDICAL CENTERS, CLINICS, and AGENCIES**, for the 2023-2024 school year:
 - Advancing Opportunities, Inc., Willingboro, New Jersey
 - Access Communication and Therapy, Rochelle Park, New Jersey

XIII. EDUCATION - Mrs. Lockwood, Chairperson - Continued

5. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve **TRAINING AND TRAVEL RELATED EXPENDITURES** for Instructional and School Support Staff at the mileage rate established by the Board. (Documentation provided electronically.)

ITEM #6 WAS TABLED TO BE VOTED ON AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

- (7.) The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS** for the 2023-2024 school year:

SEVENTH GRADE - PHILADELPHIA, PA

Purpose of Trip: This trip is a culminating experience that combines United States history topics, which are included in the 7th grade curriculum, current events and is also an exceptional social experience.

Location:	Philadelphia, PA
Dates of Trip:	March 21-22, 2024
Number of Students:	Approximately 185
Cost of Trip to Students:	\$407.00
Name of Advisor(s):	Oliver Pruksarnukul
Number of Chaperone(s):	Approximately 18
Number of School Days Missed:	2
Cost to District:	\$0.00

NOTE: All student and chaperone fees are included in the total cost of the trip.

EIGHTH GRADE - WASHINGTON, D.C.

Purpose of Trip: This trip is a culminating experience that combines United States history topics, which are included in the 8th grade curriculum, current events and is also an exceptional social experience.

Location:	Washington, D.C.
Dates of Trip:	May 29-31, 2024
Number of Students:	Approximately 175
Cost of Trip to Students:	\$614.00
Name of Advisor(s):	Oliver Pruksarnukul
Number of Chaperone(s):	Approximately 18
Number of School Days Missed:	3
Cost to District:	\$0.00

NOTE: All student and chaperone fees are included in the total cost of the trip.

XIII. EDUCATION - Mrs. Lockwood, Chairperson - Continued

ROLL CALL FOR ITEMS #1 THROUGH #5, AND ITEM #7:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mrs. Lockwood	Yes	Mr. Cytowicz	Yes	Mr. Lippe	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes	Mrs. Dwyer	Yes*	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Racano	Yes	Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes	Mrs. Romeo	Yes

Mrs. Dwyer voted "No" to item #3.

The **MOTION PASSED.**

XIV. 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 #33:

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Van Dyk spoke about item #3. She stated that Mr. Bunk has been with our District for a very long time. He is wonderful and well loved by staff and students alike, and he will be missed. She is very happy for him in his new employment, but very sad to see him go. She wished him well and extended her congratulations to him.

Mrs. Dwyer also spoke about item #3. She stated Mr. Bunk has been an asset to this District, and he is well loved by the children, the staff, and the parents. She congratulated him on his new position.

Mrs. Romeo made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guarino, to **TABLE** item #3 to be voted on after Executive Session.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

1. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to accept, with regret, the resignation of **LINDA CONNOLLY**, Special Class Aide, Macopin School, effective February 1, 2024, for the purpose of retirement.
2. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to accept, with regret, the resignation of **MARK NOWACKI**, Special Class Aide, High School, effective February 1, 2024, for the purpose of retirement.

ITEM #3 WAS TABLED TO BE VOTED ON AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

4. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the appointment of **DOUGLAS GLENN**, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, Districtwide (PC#13.17.P3.AYW), at the annual salary of \$105,000.00 (prorated), with health benefits, effective February 19, 2024, or upon release from present employer, through June 30, 2024, per Board of Education Agreement. (Replaces Kelly) Account: 11-000-262-110-10-10-000

NOTE: Pending medical and fingerprint clearance.

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

5. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the appointment of **RANEY MENNONNA**, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Special Services, Board Office (PC#70.10.S1.BVV), at the annual salary of \$56,000.00 (prorated), with health benefits, effective January 15, 2024, through June 30, 2024, per Board of Education/Unaffiliated Board Office Unit Agreement. (Replaces Franke) Account: 11-000-219-105-10-10-142

NOTE: Pending medical and fingerprint clearance.

6. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the appointment of **VICTORIA SCHRECKENSTEIN**, Special Class Aide, Paradise Knoll School (PC#60.05.S5.CJC), at the annual salary of \$24,920.00 (Step 2) (prorated), with health benefits, effective January 2, 2024, through June 30, 2024, per Board of Education/WMTAA Agreement. (Replaces Teleschow) Account: 11-214-100-106-10-10-000

NOTE: Pending medical and fingerprint clearance.

7. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the appointment of **TRACEY LOMBARDI**, Replacement Grade 3 Teacher, Paradise Knoll School (PC#90.05.00.BIV), at the per diem rate of \$250.00, with health benefits, effective January 22, 2024, through May 3, 2024, per Board of Education Agreement. (Replaces Employee #0136) Account: 11-120-100-101-10-10-103

NOTE: The duration of this position is based on the date of the employee's return to work.

8. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the appointment of **CRAIG JORGENSEN**, Long Term Substitute Science Teacher, Macopin School (PC#99.08.00.CHA) at the per diem rate of \$130.00, retroactive from November 27, 2023, through December 22, 2023, then at the per diem rate of \$250.00, effective January 2, 2024, through January 30, 2024, per Board of Education Agreement. (Replaces Employee #3285) Account: 11-130-100-101-10-10-103

NOTE: The duration of this position is based on the date of the employee's return to work.

9. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a leave of absence for Employee #3440, with pay using sick days, retroactive from November 20, 2023, through December 29, 2023. (Medical)

NOTE: The employee may return prior to the above date pending medical certification.

10. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a leave of absence for Employee #3350, with pay using sick days, effective January 12, 2024, through February 2, 2024. (Medical/Caregiver)

NOTE: The employee may return prior to the above date.

11. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a leave of absence for Employee #3674, with pay using sick days, retroactive from December 15, 2023, through January 19, 2024 (half day), then without pay, effective January 19, 2024 (half day), through February 15, 2024. (Medical)

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

11. (Continued)

NOTE: Employee may return prior to the above date pending medical certification.

12. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a leave of absence for Employee #3121, without pay under the Family Medical Leave Act, retroactive from December 4, 2023, through January 26, 2024. (Medical)

NOTE: The employee may return prior to the above date pending medical certification.

13. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following additions to the certified personnel list of **SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS/COACHES/NURSES/SPECIAL PROJECTS** for the 2023-2024 school year, effective December 20, 2023, through June 30, 2024:

- AMANDA FRUIT*** (Nurse)
- AMY KLYPKA** (Teacher)
- ELLENA SANTORO*** (Teacher)
- JUDITH BRAUBURGER** (Teacher)
- MEGAN WALSH** (Teacher)
- DIANA SEUGLING** (Teacher)
- SUZANNE BRYJAK** (Nurse)
- PAIGE ROBERTS*** (Nurse)

*Pending fingerprint clearance

14. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following additions to the non-certified personnel list of **SUBSTITUTE SECRETARIES/BUILDING AIDES/CAFETERIA AIDES/SPECIAL CLASS AIDES/SACC AIDES/OPERATIONS/SCHOOL BUS/VAN/SPECIAL USE VEHICLE DRIVERS & VEHICLE AIDES** for the 2023-2024 school year, effective December 20, 2023, through June 30, 2024:

- JILL SCHULTZ** (SACC)
- KERRIE NEWTON** (Special Class Aide)
- MEAGAN WALSH** (Secretary, Building Aide, SACC)
- RANEY MENNONNA** (Secretary)
- RILEY BABBITT*** (Cafeteria Aide, Building Aide)

*Pending fingerprint clearance.

15. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT/SICK DAY PAYMENTS**, for payment January 15, 2024, in accordance with the provisions of the Board of Education negotiated agreement - Account: 11-000-291-290-10-13-000:

<u>Employee/Agreement</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Unit Rate</u>	<u>Payment</u>
<u>Administration</u>			
BARBARA FRANCISCO	Capped	\$370.17	\$15,000.00

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

15. (Continued)

<u>Employee/Agreement</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Unit Rate</u>	<u>Payment</u>
<u>WMEA Agreement</u>			
LAURA DESENA	105.5	\$125.00	\$13,187.50
CYNTHIA D'ANTONIO	Capped	\$125.00	\$16,250.00
DOUGLAS HEYBURN	Capped	\$125.00	\$16,250.00
JOHN HOLLAND	8.5	\$125.00	\$ 1,062.50
ALICE SUSKA	Capped	\$125.00	\$16,250.00
JUDY THOMAS	Capped	\$125.00	\$16,250.00
<u>WMESA Agreement</u>			
KAREN GRILL	125.0	\$76.00	\$ 9,500.00
DIANNA HAGGETT	124.0	\$76.00	\$ 9,424.00
ALFONSINA KULAK	125.0	\$76.00	\$ 9,500.00
<u>WMCMA Agreement</u>			
HENRY COX	224.0	\$60.00	\$13,440.00
THOMAS STAPLETON	83.0	\$60.00	\$ 4,980.00
TIMOTHY STRUBLE	5.0	\$60.00	\$ 300.00
KEITH WAUCHEK	75.5	\$60.00	\$ 4,530.00

16. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **UNAFFILIATED PERSONNEL CONTRACTS** for the 2023-2024 school year, effective January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Salary</u>
KELLY ROCKEY Account: 11-000-266-110-10-10-000	Door Attendant	\$9,585.00
DIANA SINCAGLIA Account: 11-000-266-110-10-10-000	Door Attendant	\$9,585.00

NOTE: Due to the increase in minimum wage.

17. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve an **INCREASE OF ASSIGNMENT** for **LORI KANE**, from 0.5 Encore Teacher, Apshawa School, to 1.0 Encore Teacher, Apshawa School at the annual salary of \$63,200.00 (MA/5) (prorated), with health benefits, retroactive from December 6, 2023, through June 30, 2024, per Board of Education/WMEA Agreement. Account: 20-487-100-101-10-50-000 - ARP ESSER III Grant

NOTE: Funded through the ARP ESSER III Grant.

18. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve an **INCREASE OF ASSIGNMENT** for **TRACEY CHIMILESKI**, Building Aide, Macopin School, for 3.5 hours per day, not to exceed eight (8) days, at her present hourly rate, for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

19. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a **TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF ASSIGNMENT** for **MICHAEL CHESKI**, from In-School Suspension Monitor, High School, to Long Term Substitute Graphic Arts Teacher, High School, retroactive from November 29, 2023, through February 1, 2024. (Replaces Murray)
20. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a **TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF ASSIGNMENT** for **DAVID GEROLD**, from Special Class Aide, High School, to Long Term Substitute In-School Suspension Monitor, High School, at the per diem rate of \$250.00, retroactive from November 29, 2023, through February 1, 2024, per Board of Education Agreement. (Replaces Cheski) Account: 11-140-100-101-10-10-103

NOTE: The duration of this position is based on the date of the employee's return.

21. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve an **EXTENSION** to a **TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF ASSIGNMENT** for **KELLY ROCKEY**, from Door Monitor, High School, to Substitute Special Class Aide, High School, at the per diem rate of \$110.00, with health benefits, retroactive from November 27, 2023, through February 1, 2024, per Board of Education Agreement. (Replaces Gerold) Account: 11-190-100-106-10-10-000

NOTE: The duration of this position is based on the date of the employee's return.

22. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve an **EXTENSION** to a **TEMPORARY INCREASE OF ASSIGNMENT** for **DIANA SINCAGLIA**, Door Monitor, High School, from 3.5 hours per day to 5.0 hours per day, at the hourly rate of \$15.00, retroactive from November 27, 2023, through December 22, 2023, then at the hourly rate of \$15.13, effective January 2, 2024, through February 1, 2024, per Board of Education Agreement. (Replaces Rockey) Account: 11-000-226-110-10-10-000

NOTE: The duration of this position is based on the date of the employee's return.

23. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a **TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF ASSIGNMENT** for **TIFFANY CAIOLA**, from Special Class Aide, Maple Road School, to Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher, Maple Road School, at the per diem rate of \$250.00, with health benefits, effective January 2, 2024, through January 30, 2024, per Board of Education Agreement. (Replaces Employee #5183)

NOTE: The duration of this position is based on the date of the employee's return to work.

24. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **ELEMENTARY STUDENT ACTIVITY AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS and HOURS** for the 2023-2024 school year, at the hourly rate of \$37.00, per Board of Education/WMEA Agreement - *Account: 20-231-100-101-10-50-103 - ESEA Title I Grant; **Account: 20-490-100-10-10-50-103 - ARP ESSER III Grant:

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

24. (Continued)

<u>School</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Number of Teachers</u>	<u>Hours per Teacher</u>
Apshawa**	NJSLA: Jumpstart to Success	4	20
Maple Road*	NJSLA: Jumpstart to Success	6	20
Marshall Hill*	NJSLA: Jumpstart to Success	6	20
Paradise Knoll*	NJSLA: Jumpstart to Success	6	20
Upper Greenwood Lake*	NJSLA: Jumpstart to Success	6	20

NOTE: Funded through the ESEA Title I and ARP ESSER III Grants.

25. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **FAMILY MATH NIGHT, ADVISORS, and HOURS** for the 2023-2024 school year, at the hourly rate of \$37.00, per Board of Education/WMEA Agreement - Account: 20-280-200-101-10-50-XXX - ESEA Title IV Grant:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Payment</u>
MELISSA ALBRO	Maple Road	3.5	\$129.50
THOMAS ANTONUCCI	Maple Road	3.5	\$129.50
CATHERINE CLINTON	Maple Road	3.5	\$129.50
TRICIA GRANEY	Maple Road	3.5	\$129.50
JENNIFER HIGGINS	Maple Road	3.5	\$129.50
JAMIE HOLLICK	Maple Road	3.5	\$129.50
KRISTEN ROSIMINI	Maple Road	3.5	\$129.50

NOTE: Funded through the ESEA Title IV Grant.

26. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **MARSHALL HILL STUDENT ACTIVITY AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS, ADVISORS, and HOURS** for the 2023-2024 school year, at the hourly rate of \$37.00, per Board of Education/WMEA Agreement - Account: 11-401-100-110-10-10-000:

<u>Advisor</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Payment</u>
DANIELLE QUIGLEY	Rewind Club	8	\$296.00
CHRISTOPHER JONES	Scooter Football	10	\$370.00

NOTE: Funded through the PTA.

27. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **ADDITION** to the **MACOPIN SCHOOL STUDENT ACTIVITY AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS, ADVISORS, and HOURS** for the 2023-2024 school year, at the hourly rate of \$37.00, per Board of Education/WMEA Agreement - Account: 20-231-100-101-10-50-XXX - ESEA Title I Grant:

<u>Advisor</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Payment</u>
LAURIE SESAK	AIM	72	\$2,664.00

NOTE: Funded through the ESEA Title I Grant. Replaces McGowan.

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

28. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **ADDITIONS** to the **MACOPIN SCHOOL STUDENT ACTIVITY AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS, ADVISORS, and HOURS** for the 2023-2024 school year, at the hourly rate of \$37.00, per Board of Education/WMEA Agreement - Account: 11-401-100-110-10-10-000:

<u>Advisor</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Payment</u>
JAKE MATHEWS	Historical Film	30	\$1,110.00
JOSEPH SMOLINSKI	Historical Film	30	\$1,110.00

29. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **ADDITIONS** to the **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ACTIVITY CLUBS, ADVISORS, and HOURS** for the 2023-2024 school year, at the hourly rate of \$37.00, not to exceed the following hours, per Board of Education/WMEA Agreement - Account: 11-401-100-110-10-10-000:

<u>Advisor</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Hours</u>
THOMAS SANTORO	Highlander Intramural Athletics	15
JAKE MATHEWS	Highlander Intramural Athletics	15

30. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve **an amendment to a previously approved resolution (June 2023)** for the following **HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY ASSIGNMENTS and STIPENDS** for the **FALL 2023-2024** school year, per Board of Education/WMEA Agreement - Account: 11-401-100-110-10-10-000:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
SARAH CHIMILESKI	Indoor Percussion Tech. Bass	\$1,500.00
SAM LAURITANO	Indoor Percussion Tech. Snare	\$1,500.00

NOTE: Replaces Keefe and D'Andrea.

- (31.) The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a leave of absence for Employee #3676, with pay using sick, personal, and family illness days, effective January 2, 2024, through January 26, 2024, then without pay under the Family Medical Leave Act, effective January 29, 2024, through March 1, 2024. (Medical/Caregiver)

NOTE: The employee may return prior to the above date.

- (32.) The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve an **EXTENSION** to a leave of absence for Employee #1897, with pay using sick days, effective January 2, 2024, through January 11, 2024. (Medical)

NOTE: The employee may return prior to the above date pending medical certification.

- (33.) The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a **TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF ASSIGNMENT** for **PATRICIA MONTANO**, from Special Class Aide, Highlander Academy, to Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher, Highlander Academy/Prep, at the per diem rate of \$250.00, with health benefits, effective January 2, 2024, through January 30, 2024, per Board of Education Agreement. (Replaces Balletto) Account: 11-209-100-101-10-10-105

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

ROLL CALL FOR ITEMS #1, #2, AND ITEMS #4 THROUGH #33:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes*	Mrs. Racano	Yes	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 #33.

**Mrs. Dwyer "Abstained" on item #17.

The **MOTION PASSED**.

Mrs. Romeo asked Mr. Douglas Glenn, the new Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, if he would like to speak. Mr. Glenn addressed the Board and the community. He thanked the Board for this opportunity and expressed that he is honored, and will work very hard for our District.

XV. OPERATIONS & FINANCE - Mr. Raymond Guarino, Chairperson

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

1. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION** for the 2023-2024 school year, retroactive from October 18, 2023:

RESOLVED, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3(a), the Board designates William Scholts, Board Secretary/Business Administrator as the Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) pursuant under N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.1 for the Board of Education and authorizes him to award contracts that do not exceed in the aggregate in a contract year the total sum of \$44,000 (bid threshold) as provided in N.J.S.A. 18A:8A-3 and 18A:8A-4.3 without public advertising for bids.

Furthermore, purchasing agent is authorized to solicit competitive quotations for purchases in excess of 15% of the bid threshold, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37(a) and to award contracts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37(c).

Preparation of Bid Advertisements

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2(b), the purchasing agent is designated to have the power to prepare advertisements, to advertise for and receive bids.

Purchase Order System Authorized Purchases

All purchases made by the Board of Education shall be done through the purchase order system. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2(V), a purchase order is a document issued by the purchasing agent authorizing a purchase transaction with a vendor to provide goods or to perform services.

XV. OPERATIONS & FINANCE – Mr. Guarino, Chairperson – Continued

1. (Continued)

Unauthorized Purchases

Any Board of Education employee who orders and/or receives any goods and services without going through the approved purchase order process has made an unauthorized purchase. Unauthorized purchases are a violation of State Law N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2(v) and 18A:18A-3(a). Board employees making unauthorized purchases are subject to disciplinary action as outlined by the Superintendent.

Inspection of Goods and Services

Pursuant to 18A:18A-44, all goods and services provided or performed under any contract with the Board shall be inspected and reviewed by the purchasing agent and/or by the appropriate officer (administrator; supervisor) of the School District who initially recommended the award of contract.

Trade-in of Personal Property

The purchasing agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-45(g) may include the sale of personal property no longer needed for school purposes as part of the specifications to offset the price of a new purchase.

2. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve an agreement with **KNOWBE4**, Clearwater, Florida, for security awareness training and phishing training, in the amount of \$47,367.00, to be paid in three (3) equal installments over a three (3) year period (2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026), with the first payment in the amount of \$15,789.00, for the 2023-2024 school year. (Documentation provided electronically.)
3. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve an agreement with **RIVALRY SPORTS MEDICINE**, Highland Lakes, New Jersey, for athletic training services for West Milford High School, at the per diem rates of \$65.00/hour and \$70.00/hour, per substitute athletic trainer, effective January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024.

ROLL CALL FOR ITEMS #1 THROUGH #3:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mr. Guarino	Yes	Mrs. Dwyer	Yes	Mr. Lippe	Yes
Mrs. Racano	Yes	Mr. Cytowicz	Yes	Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes
Mrs. Lockwood	Yes	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mrs. Romeo	Yes

The **MOTION PASSED.**

Motion by Mr. Guarino, seconded by Mr. Cytowicz, to approve the following agenda item #4:

4. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the **PAYROLL** of November 30, 2023, and December 15, 2023, in the amount of \$3,015,030.59. (Documentation provided electronically.)

XV. OPERATIONS & FINANCE – Mr. Guarino, Chairperson – Continued

4. (Continued)

ROLL CALL FOR ITEM #4:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mr. Guarino	Abstain	Mrs. Dwyer	Yes	Mr. Lippe	Yes
Mrs. Racano	Yes	Mr. Cytowicz	Yes	Mrs. Van Dyk	Abstain
Mrs. Lockwood	Yes	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mrs. Romeo	Abstain

The **MOTION PASSED.**

Motion by Mr. Guarino, seconded by Mrs. Van Dyk, to approve the following agenda items #5 through #8:

5. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **TRANSFER OF FUNDS RESOLUTION** for the period ending **December 19, 2023:**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Township of West Milford that the following transfers made on the financial records of the Board affecting the **2023-2024** budget be affirmed and approved. (See folder insert.)

Total transfers in the amount of \$79,192.56.

6. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the **LIST OF BILLS/VENDORS** for the period ending **December 19, 2023**, in the amount of \$3,992,069.86. (Documentation provided electronically.)
7. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Agenda file of **December 19, 2023** Regular Meeting of the Board contains the A148 Report of the Secretary and the Treasurer's Monthly Report; and

WHEREAS, both the A148 and A149 are in agreement with the cash balance in the Governmental Funds of:

\$17,481,719.03 as of October 31, 2023; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Report of the Secretary and the Treasurer's Monthly Report be accepted. (Documentation provided electronically.)

8. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board certify as of October 31, 2023, after review of the Secretary's Monthly (A-148) Report and Treasurer's Monthly Report (A-149), and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3 and 6A:23A-16.10, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

XV. OPERATIONS & FINANCE - Mr. Guarino, Chairperson - Continued

ROLL CALL FOR ITEMS #5 THROUGH #8:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mr. Guarino	Yes	Mrs. Dwyer	Yes	Mr. Lippe	Yes
Mrs. Racano	Yes	Mr. Cytowicz	Yes	Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes
Mrs. Lockwood	Yes	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mrs. Romeo	Yes

The **MOTION PASSED.**

XVI. COMMITTEE REPORTS/LIAISONS

Parks & Recreation - Mrs. Racano/Mr. Lippe - The Parks & Recreation meeting was held immediately after the last Board meeting. She stated that the Tree Lighting was a success, and it was a beautiful ceremony. Upcoming events include In-Door Soccer sign-ups, which will be very limited.

Safety - Mrs. Dwyer/Mrs. O'Brien - Mrs. Dwyer indicated that there has been no meeting, and she has not been notified of a meeting to date.

Superintendent's Roundtable - Mrs. Racano/Mrs. Van Dyk - Mrs. Racano explained to the community what the Superintendent's Roundtable meeting entails, and the individuals that attend. This month, there was inquiry if there was any feedback from students or parents about the new Eureka Math program. Feedback from the staff has been overwhelmingly positive, as it is more targeted, and there is less "busy" work involved than our previous program. Parents inquired if there are video resources available for Eureka Math like our old Math program. She explained there are resources available through the program's site, but the book is the best resource with step-by-step and detailed information. There was also inquiry as to instituting a keyboard or typing class, as well as discussion on the Chromebook Protection Plan. The Media Centers in our Elementary schools were also discussed. A process will be implemented where parents will be invited to the school to volunteer in the Library. The program will be called "Library Lovers," and it will have designated people that will be in the building each week, after a background check and fingerprinting are conducted. Mr. Novak spoke about iReady and the feedback he has received. Parent reports were discussed, and Dr. Furnari spoke about our District strategic plan. Also, dates for the 2024 SRT meetings were provided.

Passaic County School Boards Association - Mrs. Lockwood stated the meeting was held on November 30th. There was a workshop/training for any newly elected School Board members that wanted to attend. She did not attend that portion. They were then allowed to stay for the meeting afterwards, and it was hosted at the Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology. The topic was on "Safety." The Clifton Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and the Director of District Safety and Security came to speak about what they have done and implemented in their District. They applied and were awarded a School Climate Transformation Grant that is given yearly, which helped them fund a lot of things that they do. She will forward the presentation to the Board. They spoke about the local Police Department that come to their schools and do active shooter drills, and they recommend that all schools should be looking into doing these drills. The information received was very informative. The next meeting is on February 1st and is virtual only, on Advocacy and Special Education topics.

XVI. COMMITTEE REPORTS/LIAISONS - Continued

New Jersey School Boards Association - Mr. Cytowicz stated that on January 10th there is an on-line Board leader master class series. He then congratulated the new Board members on being elected. He stated that one of the most important parts of joining the Board is the "New Board Member Orientation" session, which will be held on Friday, January 19th to Sunday, January 21st and is an "in-person" session in Princeton. He highly recommends attending it, as there are a lot of opportunities to network and to learn about your role as a Board member. From his personal experience, it was one of the most important sessions that he has attended, and he explained why.

Legislative - Mrs. O'Brien/Mr. Lippe - Mrs. O'Brien spoke about the New Jersey State Board of Education hearing updates and actions taken on items at the Board's December meeting, including Access for English Language Learners Assessment; the Dynamic Learning Maps Assessment; the results of the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessments; updates on the New Jersey Partnership for Students Success; offerings of additional professional development opportunities in Special Education; and helping educators by waiving certification fees and providing other flexibilities. The State Board is beginning to discuss updates concerning student residency, which requires payment of tuition for certain non-residential students. She provided additional information on this update.

Technology Oversight - Mr. Guarino/Mr. Lippe - No report.

Township/Board of Education Joint Committee - Mr. Guarino/Mrs. Romeo/Mrs. Lockwood/Mr. Cytowicz - Mr. Cytowicz stated that in November, the Township and the Board of Education members on the Committee met to discuss items with ENV, who was awarded the contract for the Feasibility Study for the Hillcrest property. At that session, ideas of what the Township would possibly like to see on the property were exchanged with the engineers and architects, and the job now is to see if it is feasible. ENV will provide us with that study and once it is reviewed, the findings will be reported.

West Milford Municipal Alliance - Mrs. Van Dyk/Mrs. Lockwood - Mrs. Van Dyk stated that the WMMA had a meeting on Monday, December 11th and discussed the application to the Atlantic Health Grant for programs in our schools, connecting with New Jersey Student Support Services for Resources. They will be coming to speak at a meeting in 2024 for the WMMA. A survey was discussed and will be going out to the community in 2024, to find out what the Township would like them to use the opioid settlement money for.

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) - Mrs. Lockwood/Mrs. O'Brien - Mrs. Lockwood indicated there was no meeting this month. The next meeting is tentatively set for January 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Ressa stated the meeting will be held at West Milford High School, with a guest speaker on "Transition."

XVII. OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Mrs. Van Dyk, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to close Old Business.

VOICE VOTE:

All in Favor.

MOTION PASSED

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Furnari read the Resolution for Board Trustee, Raymond Guarino.

Motion by Mr. Cytowicz, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Mr. Raymond Guarino has served as a prominent member of the West Milford Board of Education from January 2018 until December 2023; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Guarino has diligently served on and chaired the Policy Committee, the Personnel Committee, and the Operations and Finance Committee, and was a liaison for the Parks and Recreation Committee, Technology Oversight Committee, and the Township/Board of Education Joint Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Guarino held uppermost the welfare of our students in his decisions and served with great skill and dedication; and

WHEREAS, his service on the Board has brought him the respect of his colleagues on the Board, the administrative staff, and the teaching and support staff;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, on behalf of the grateful community, publicly acknowledges and expresses its sincerest appreciation to Mr. Guarino for his outstanding contributions to the West Milford Township Public School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Workshop/Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of December 19, 2023, and presented to Mr. Raymond Guarino.

Mrs. Romeo presented a plaque to Mr. Guarino, in recognition of his service on the Board.

Mr. Cytowicz spoke about Mr. Guarino and sitting next to him at Board meetings and how their dynamic changed. He thanked him for all of his work and time that he has dedicated in West Milford, and wished him luck and best wishes for what comes ahead.

Mrs. Dwyer indicated she has known Mr. Guarino for a very long time, and has come to respect him as a Board member. She stated that he is a fighter and he has fought for our children and to keep personal agendas off of the table. She is sorry he is leaving, and she wished him the best of luck.

Mrs. Racano spoke about becoming a new Board member and how different it is than sitting in the audience. She has appreciated Mr. Guarino's temperance and his demeanor throughout all of the Committee meetings and Executive Sessions, and how he is always a voice of reason. She expressed that she will miss that.

Mrs. Lockwood agreed with Mrs. Racano. She spoke about Mr. Guarino guiding her and looking to him sometimes for a source of reassurance. She feels he is just that solid person that whenever he said something, it always came from the right place. He is calm and strong, and a great person to work with over the last two years, and she will miss him.

Mrs. Romeo spoke about Mr. Guarino as well. She stated it has been a journey, and a good one, and she is very thankful for all of the work he has done for our District.

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS - Continued

Mr. Lippe stated that although he has worked with Mr. Guarino for a short time on the Board, he has learned that Mr. Guarino values the balance of what our perspective is here on the Board, what we are looking for, and family time, which is something that Mr. Lippe also values. He appreciates Mr. Guarino sharing that opinion, and that he has learned a lot from him.

Mrs. O'Brien commented as well.

Mrs. Van Dyk spoke about starting this journey together and running together, and that they didn't know each other very well. She feels they have developed a wonderful friendship that far exceeds the Board. She stated that Mr. Guarino and his wife are wonderful people who care immensely about West Milford, and what goes on in our schools. She is very thankful for the person he has been, and the friend he has been to her. She will miss him, but she knows there is a friendship that will continue. She stated that if he can foresee in the future that he would like to return, it will always be here for him, and the passion that he has for education and for this community will never go away. She thanked him for his service and genuinely appreciates it.

Mr. Guarino addressed the Board and the community. He thanked the parents, the students, and the greater West Milford community. He feels this was the best place for his children to get a great education. He spoke about his children's experiences and how amazing they were, and what the West Milford school system does for students. He thanked the staff for everything they do and the hours that they put in beyond the classroom. He stated that those are the things that go unnoticed, and so many people that work here are so passionate about it. He spoke about teachers, cafeteria aides, custodians, and other staff and thanked them. He thanked all of the Board members, and spoke about when he ran for the Board and the friendships he has formed. He thanked his family and his wife, who are the most important people in the world to him. He feels the Board has done some great things here and have made some tough decisions. He commended the administration for having to make those decisions and listen to their questions. He knows it is all coming from a good place, and it is to make who we are as a school system and what we do here as a town better. He thanked the administration and the Board for everything they do, and he loves the friendships he has developed over these last six (6) years.

VOICE VOTE:

All in Favor.

MOTION PASSED.

Dr. Furnari read the Resolution for Board Trustee, Debbie O'Brien.

Motion by Mr. Cytowicz, seconded by Mrs. Van Dyk, to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Mrs. Debbie O'Brien has served as a prominent member of the West Milford Board of Education from January 2021 until December 2023; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. O'Brien has diligently chaired the Negotiations Committee, served on the Education Committee, Personnel Committee, and Policy Committee, and was a liaison for the Passaic County School Boards Association Committee, West Milford Municipal Alliance Committee, Legislative Committee, Safety Committee, and the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPA); and

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS - Continued

WHEREAS, Mrs. O'Brien held uppermost the welfare of our students in her decisions and served with great skill and dedication; and

WHEREAS, her service on the Board has brought her the respect of her colleagues on the Board, the administrative staff, and the teaching and support staff;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, on behalf of the grateful community, publicly acknowledges and expresses its sincerest appreciation to Mrs. O'Brien for her outstanding contributions to the West Milford Township Public School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Workshop/Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of December 19, 2023, and presented to Mrs. Debbie O'Brien.

Mrs. Romeo presented a plaque to Mrs. O'Brien, in recognition of his service on the Board.

Mrs. Van Dyk spoke about Mrs. O'Brien, and stated they have been friends for a very long time going back to the PTA days. She thanked her for her dedication and her love for this District. She is a person of such kindness and caring, and Mrs. Van Dyk is honored that she has been able to serve on the Board with her. She knows that Mrs. O'Brien will still be out there in other capacities. Mrs. Van Dyk also stated that Mrs. O'Brien will truly be missed, and thanked her for their friendship.

Mrs. Dwyer stated that she met Mrs. O'Brien when she first ran for the Board of Education and brought her petition into the County office. Mrs. Dwyer expressed that she has been an angel for this District, and that she is kind, compassionate, loving and very concerned for our children, parents and the community. Mrs. Dwyer is devastated that she did not run again and will not be working with her, but knows their friendship will continue on. She thanked Debbie for all of the work she has done for the District.

Mr. Guarino has known Mrs. O'Brien since their children were in Kindergarten. He stated that she puts everyone else first, before herself, and he thanked her for doing that because it has helped him in life.

Mr. Cytowicz spoke about him being on the Board with Mrs. O'Brien back in 2015 and how they have had some different opinions on important matters. But what he has learned about Mrs. O'Brien throughout this time, which has always been consistent, is that she always brings her heart for the school and the children. No matter where they stood, he knew her intention was always a good intention. He wished her the best, and thanked her so much for all of the time she has spent on the Board and making some hard decisions.

Mrs. Racano spoke about Mrs. O'Brien, and how she always tries to do the right thing and is always concerned with making sure that the Board is doing the right thing. Mrs. Racano feels that is such a personal asset. She will miss that, and she thanked Mrs. O'Brien's genuine passion for always doing the right thing, helping people, and being there for our District.

Mrs. Lockwood thanked Mrs. O'Brien for everything she has done for our students, but especially our Special Education students, working on the Board. Mrs. O'Brien has been so actively involved and has always had a voice for them. Mrs. Lockwood feels Mrs. O'Brien still has a voice for them, and that she will continue to have that voice for them in the future.

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS - Continued

Mrs. Romeo stated that as she takes this time off, we look forward to her running again for the Board in a year or two. She thanked her for the time that she has given to this District, and that she is full of heart and passion, and Mrs. Romeo is excited to see how that heart and passion will continue to help our community because Mrs. O'Brien does not stop. She thanked her for that.

Mr. Lippe spoke about first sitting next to Mrs. O'Brien at Board meetings and not knowing who she was. He has figured out from different perspectives and different ends of the spectrum that he is impressed on how she thinks and presents things. He is extremely impressed with everything he has heard about her and since he has gotten to know her, very impressed with not only what she does for the Board, but what she does for the community at large. He hopes that she continues to do so, and he looks forward to seeing her back here and making sure the Board does the right thing.

Mrs. O'Brien addressed the Board and the community. She does not usually like to be the center of attention, and felt a little overwhelmed leading up to the meeting trying to figure out what to say to the community at large, to the Board, to our administrators, and to our educational community. The two words that she thought of are: appreciation and gratitude. She has the utmost appreciation and gratitude to everyone on the Board and administrators for all of their hard work and dedication, and to all of the hard work and dedication of our educational community that we do not see here firsthand. She also thanked and expressed her deepest appreciation and gratitude to our community, which she loves very much, and she is very involved in many ways besides being a Board member. She feels the most precious commodity are the children of our community, and all children are very important. She finds it is lacking in our society, and feels that education as a whole is undervalued by our society. She expressed that it is so nice to see dedicated people sitting around this table, Board members and administrators. She also feels that we need to have communal effort on education, and thinks that one of the things that COVID has taught us is that community is of the utmost importance. She continued to speak about issues that exist in the community and how it impacts education. She thanked the administrators for all of their hard work and dedication, and expressed that she has enjoyed working with them. She asked that they please keep education and West Milford in their hearts and in their minds. She thanked all of the Board members and appreciates them more than words can say, and expressed the admiration and respect they have had for each other. She wishes the new Board members coming in January the best of luck and to please keep our students, faculty and staff in mind. She expressed her love to the educational community, and thanked three (3) teachers of many that have made a difference in her children's lives, Mrs. Katie Bonforte, Dr. Greg Matlosz, and Mrs. Kathy Mendes. She thanked her family so much, her husband, John, and her sons, Bill and Dan. She will continue to serve West Milford Township in many ways, and hopes to remain friends with everyone here to the best of her ability. Mrs. O'Brien again expressed her deepest appreciation and gratitude to all.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

Motion by Mr. Guarino, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to close New Business.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

XIX. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA OR 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. 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.

Stephanie Marquard, 486 Lake Shore Drive, Hewitt. Mrs. Marquard spoke about a letter that went home to Macopin families the first week of December from Dr. Matlosz. The purpose of the letter was to inform families that Macopin School would be moving away from mid-term and final examinations this school year. She feels there is a real concern regarding this issue, and reached out to Mr. Novak, Dr. Furnari, and the Board members on December 8th, asking them to provide the research that was done by the District that led to this decision, as well as additional information. She explained an email she received back letting her know that the information requested was being gathered from Dr. Matlosz and his academic committee. She sent a follow-up email on December 14th, as she still had not received what she had requested. She also spoke about Policy 2132, School District Goals and Objectives, and what it entails. She stated that based on this policy, a Principal would not be able to eliminate exams. She did receive a response from Dr. Furnari on December 15th on behalf of Mr. Novak, and spoke about the information in that email. While she appreciated the email, she feels that it is completely unacceptable that a middle school Principal was able to make such an important decision without involving top level administration and Board members. She feels that iReady assessments are meant to be a supplemental tool for our teachers to use, and not to replace mid-terms or final examinations. She stated the District does not receive NJSLA results until August, and feels that clearly, that cannot be used in place of exams. She continued to speak about exams and how they affect our students, and feels there should have been research to back up a change of this magnitude. She expressed that we cannot continue to dilute educational standards in our District and put our children at a disadvantage. She also expressed that it is the responsibility of the Superintendent, the Director of Education, and the Board members to correct this immediately.

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

VOICE VOTE:

All in Favor.

MOTION PASSED.

XX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:12 p.m., Mrs. Lockwood made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel appointments, resignations, current litigation matters, special education matters, negotiations, HIBs, and matters of attorney/client privilege.

XX. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Continued

The executive session minutes will not be released until such time as the privilege or confidentiality is no longer applicable. The Board will be in Executive Session for approximately ninety (90) minutes. The Board will return to the public meeting and action will be taken.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

The Board returned to the Public Meeting at 9:42 p.m.

ROLL CALL UPON RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:

TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE
Mrs. Van Dyk	Present	Mrs. Dwyer	Present	Mrs. Lockwood	Present
Mr. Cytowicz	Present	Mrs. O'Brien	Present	Mr. Lippe	Present
Mrs. Racano	Present	Mr. Guarino	Present	Mrs. Romeo	Present

XIII. EDUCATION - Mrs. Claire Lockwood, Chairperson

Motion by Mrs. Lockwood, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to approve the following agenda item #6:

- 6. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements set forth in P.L. 2010, Chapter 122, the West Milford Board of Education has received results of HIB investigative reports on **December 19, 2023**; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Milford Board of Education approves issuance of written decisions affirming, rejecting or modifying the Superintendent's determination in the following HIB investigation(s):

<u>Incident Report Number</u>	<u>Board Determination</u>
2024/M-3	Unsubstantiated
2024/M-4	Unsubstantiated
2024/M-5	Substantiated
2024/E-1	Unsubstantiated
2024/E-2	Substantiated

ROLL CALL FOR ITEM #6:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mrs. Lockwood	Yes	Mr. Cytowicz	Yes	Mr. Lippe	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes*	Mrs. Dwyer	Abstain	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Racano	Yes*	Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes**	Mrs. Romeo	Yes***

*Mr. Guarino and Mrs. Racano "Abstained" on 2024/M-5.

**Mrs. Van Dyk "Abstained" on 2024/M-3, 2024/M-4, 2024/E-1 and 2024/E-2.

***Mrs. Romeo voted "No" on 2024/M-5.

The **MOTION PASSED**.

Minutes for the Workshop/Regular Meeting of December 19, 2023

XIV. 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 item #3:

- 3. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to accept the resignation of **ERIC BUNK**, Assistant Head Custodian, Macopin School, effective February 9, 2023.

NOTE: Employee will be released from 60 days' notice required per contract if a replacement is hired prior to February 9, 2023.

ROLL CALL FOR ITEM #3:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes	Mrs. Racano	Yes	Mrs. Dwyer	Yes
Mr. Cytowicz	Yes	Mrs. Lockwood	Yes	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes
Mr. Lippe	Yes	Mr. Guarino	Yes	Mrs. Romeo	Yes

The **MOTION PASSED.**

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Guarino, to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

**William Scholts
Board Secretary**