

**WEST MILFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024**

Mrs. Claire Lockwood, Board President, called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:15 p.m., in the West Milford High School Upper 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.

**MR. WILLIAM SCHOLTS, 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	Present	Mrs. Dwyer	Present	Mrs. Romeo	Present
Mrs. Jurgensen	Present	Mr. Cytowicz	Absent	Mrs. Van Dyk	Present
Mrs. Marquard	Present	Mr. Lippe	Absent	Mrs. Lockwood	Present

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

There were no members of the public in attendance.

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**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION**

Motion by Mrs. Racano, seconded by Mrs. Jurgensen, to approve the following Resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Board immediately go into Executive Session for approximately thirty (30) minutes for the purpose of discussing a student matter.

The executive session minutes will not be released until such time as the privilege or confidentiality is no long applicable.

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

The Board returned to the public meeting at 8:12 p.m.

**ROLL CALL UPON RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE
Mrs. Marquard	Present	Mrs. Dwyer	Present	Mrs. Romeo	Absent
Mr. Cytowicz	Absent	Mr. Lippe	Absent	Mrs. Racano	Present
Mrs. Jurgensen	Absent	Mrs. Van Dyk	Present	Mrs. Lockwood	Present

Mrs. Romeo and Mrs. Jurgensen returned to the public meeting at 8:14 p.m.

**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 question Board members individually.

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**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGULATIONS - Continued**

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.

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.

Motion by Mrs. Racano, seconded by Mrs. Marquard, to close Public Comment.

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

**IX. MOTION BY MRS. VAN DYK, SECONDED BY MRS. DWYER, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA, AS PRESENTED.**

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

**SPECIAL ACTION**

**X. EDUCATION - Mrs. Teresa Dwyer, Chairperson**

Motion by Mrs. Dwyer, seconded by Mrs. Van Dyk, to approve the following agenda item #1:

**DISCUSSION:** Mrs. Romeo spoke about item #1, and stated that she thinks of every student with every item that the Board votes on, and she is very passionate about all of the students in this District.

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

**RESOLVED,** that the Board of Education accepts the Settlement Agreement between the West Milford Township Board of Education and the parent of student ID #70431; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Board President and the Board Secretary is authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board.

X. EDUCATION - Mrs. Dwyer, Chairperson - Continued

ROLL CALL FOR ITEM #1:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mrs. Dwyer	Yes	Mrs. Racano	Yes	Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes
Mr. Cytowicz	Absent	Mrs. Romeo	No	Mrs. Marquard	Yes
Mrs. Jurgensen	No	Mr. Lippe	Absent	Mrs. Lockwood	Yes

The MOTION PASSED.

XI. 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.

Motion by Mrs. Racano, seconded by Mrs. Van Dyk, to close Public Comment.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

At 8:16 p.m., Mrs. Racano made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Romeo, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing HIBs and matters of attorney/client privilege.

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 thirty (30) minutes. No action will be taken, and the Board will adjourn from Executive Session.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

William Scholts  
Board Secretary