

**PUBLIC HEARING ON HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING
AND BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
June 27, 2017**

In accordance with the State’s Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by sending a notice of the time, date, location, and, to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting on January 3, 2017, and on June 23, 2017, to The Princeton Packet, The Times, The Home News Tribune, and West Windsor and Plainsboro Public Libraries. Copies of the notice also have been placed in the Board Office and in each of the district schools on January 3, 2017, and on June 23, 2017, and sent to Plainsboro Township and West Windsor Township clerks on January 3, 2017, and on June 23, 2017.

The meeting of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education was called to order by Board President Fleres at 6:42 p.m. in the C110-111 at the District Administration Building. Upon motion by Ms. Krug, seconded by Ms. Ho, and by unanimous voice vote of all present, the meeting adjourned immediately into closed executive session:

RECESS INTO CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act authorizes Boards of Education to meet in executive session under certain circumstances;

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting to go into private session;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District Board of Education that it is necessary to meet in executive session to discuss certain items involving:

Matters of personal confidentiality rights, including but not limited to, staff and/or student discipline matters, and specifically:	Student Discipline Matter
Matters in which the release of information would impair the right to receive government funds, and specifically:	
Matters which, if publicly disclosed, would constitute and unwarranted invasion of individual privacy, and specifically:	
Matters concerning negotiations, and specifically:	Negotiations with East Windsor Regional School District re: Bus Services
Matters involving the purchase of real property and/or the investment of public funds, and specifically:	
Matters involving the real tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public, and specifically:	
Matters involving anticipated or pending litigation, including matters of attorney client privilege, and specifically:	PERC Docket No. CO-2017-181; Indict. No. 15-005-I; Agency Ref. No. 113-6/17
Matters involving personnel issues, including but not limited to, the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion or discipline of any public officer or employee, and specifically:	Personnel Issues, and as noted on the agenda
Matters involving quasi-judicial deliberations, and specifically:	HIB Review

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public as soon as feasible. The minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session, if necessary.

The meeting reconvened to public session at 7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room. The following board members were present:

Mr. Anthony Fleres	Ms. Rachel Juliana	Mr. Yingchao “YZ” Zhang
Ms. Carol Herts	Ms. Michele Kaish	Mr. Yu “Taylor” Zhong
Ms. Louisa Ho	Ms. Dana Krug	

Board Member Isaac Cheng was absent. Present also were: Dr. David Aderhold, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Larry Shanok, Assistant Superintendent for Finance/Board Secretary; Mr. Gerard Dalton, Assistant Superintendent, Pupil Services/Planning; and, Ms. Charity Fues, Director of Human Resources. Also present were board attorneys, Jeffrey Caccese and Shifra Tarica.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

Mr. Fleres welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming; there was a closed session earlier.

SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING ON HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING

The Special Public Hearing on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying opened at 7:31 p.m.

Mr. Fleres introduced Lee McDonald, Director of Guidance and Anti-Bullying Coordinator, to present the semi-annual report on harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB), as required by the State of New Jersey.

Mr. McDonald opened the presentation by reviewing the definition of HIB and how factual evidence of findings is defined. He reported the district’s investigations and confirmed HIB incidents over a six-month period starting from January 2017 through June 2017. He also reviewed the three-year snapshot containing applicable data for September 2014-June 2017, including the number of investigations and confirmed HIB, types of incidents, demographic information on the offenders and victims, location of incidents and data on those who reported such incidents. Overall, during this timeframe, investigations/confirmed HIB have increased. Mr. McDonald cited improved reporting as well as improved investigation protocols, staff training and overall awareness as probable causes for the increase.

Mr. McDonald spoke about the Department of Education’s Anti-Bullying Rubric (ABR) and school grading system. ABR is a district’s self-assessment checks and balances to address HIB incidents. This grading system is a tool for self-reflection and improvement. Overall, the district is in excellent shape being above average in most schools with strong HIB programs, approaches, and other initiatives. He also emphasized areas of strength and areas in need of growth as we continue forward.

Proactive programs were reviewed, such as the Campaign Connect-New Jersey, a certification and recognition system for schools ran by the Center for Supportive Schools which is designed to encourage schools to become safer, more supportive, engaging, and inspiring and provides them with the tools and resources to do so. The program focuses on middle and high school students. Mr. McDonald commented

that Campaign Connect School Certification Program requires a team effort and collaboration to meet the milestones set to become certified and Grover Middle School reached this milestone this year. GMS Principal Lamont Thomas spoke about the GMS theme “Health and Balance: Whole Child Community Approach to Understanding and Embracing the Middle School Experience.”

The presentation ended with Mr. McDonald’s review of the district’s mission statement: WW-P is committed to providing all students with a safe learning environment that is free from harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB). This commitment is an integral part of our comprehensive efforts to provide learning, and to prevent and eliminate all forms of HIB through the following practices: adhering to the 2011 New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights legislations; training all staff to identify, report, and address HIB behaviors in a timely fashion; and proactively educating parents, students, Board of Education members, and the community to establish HIB expectations and the communication of our commitment to safety and respectful behavior for all.

The Board engaged in a brief discussion regarding various aspects of harassment, intimidation and bullying.

Mr. Fleres, on behalf of the Board Members, thanked Mr. McDonald for his presentation.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING

There were no public comments at this time.

APPROVAL OF THE REPORT

Upon motion by Mr. Ho, seconded by Ms. Kaish, and by roll call vote with all Board Members present voting yes, the following board actions were approved:

1. Accept the “January 1, 2017, to June 30, 2017, District Semi-Annual Report of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying” as required by the New Jersey State Department of Education under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (P.L. 2010, c.122).
2. Verify that the School District and School Grade Report issued by the New Jersey Department of Education was reviewed as required by the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (P.L. 2010, c.122) and that this report was posted on the district’s web site pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46*.

The Special Public Hearing on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying adjourned at 7:53 p.m. The regular board meeting reconvened immediately.

SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS

Dr. Aderhold made a brief announcement in regards to an accident that occurred earlier in the day. The accident involved a twelve year-old bicyclist, who is currently in the hospital in critical condition, and a motor vehicle. Both the bicyclist and the driver of the motor vehicle are district residents. Dr. Aderhold asked that the public be respectful of the sensitive nature of the incident and keep both the family of the victim and the family of the driver in their thoughts.

Dr. Aderhold recognized that this is the last Board meeting Larry Shanok will be attending. Larry is retiring after 15 years of service with the district. Dr. Aderhold congratulated Mr. Shanok on his retirement and summarized many of the district’s accomplishments under Mr. Shanok’s direction, including the district’s

receipt of the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for 9 consecutive years, the Meritorious Budget Award for 4 consecutive years, and a AAA bond rating.

He announced that the Howard Hughes Corporation will be presenting at the West Windsor Township Planning Board meeting on July 26, 2017 at High School South at 7 p.m. This meeting is a continuation of the May 10, 2017 Planning Board meeting on the Howard Hughes concept plan.

Dr. Aderhold introduced Ms. Rebecca McLelland-Crawley to recognize students involved in the NuYu program. NuYu is an 18 member Community Problem Solving Team from Community Middle School and is supported by Principal Shauna Carter. They attended the International Competition for Future Problem Solvers in Wisconsin in June where they received first place honors for their two-year evolving project on stress and mental health. Their project, called Mindful Panther Pause, included presentations to students, parents, and teachers across the district, state, and globally through Mindful Mondays where the team conducted Google Hangout sessions with students and teachers around the world. The website created by the group is nuyuchallenge.weebly.com. Ms. McLelland-Crawley handed out certificates to the students and she and Dr. Aderhold congratulated the students on their accomplishments.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Fleres congratulated the NuYu program students on their accomplishment. Mr. Fleres then clarified the purpose and reasoning behind the agenda item renewing the superintendent's contract. Mr. Fleres explained that the New Jersey superintendent salary caps, which are based on student enrollment, were recently increased, triggering a special circumstance clause in the superintendent contract allowing for a revision of the current contract. The Board discussed the contract during the May 9 closed session and asked the attorney to start to renegotiate the contract with the superintendent. Once an agreement was reached, the renegotiated contract was submitted to the executive county superintendent for approval and was approved on June 6. A Press release was issued on June 8, 2017, announcing that the contract would be voted on by the board this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT

24 members of the public spoke in regards to the following topics: Dr. Aderhold's contract, the science bowl program, racial divides in the community, teaching the whole child, the A&E Math program, and various program changes in the district.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

All committees met on June 13, 2017.

Administration & Facilities

Ms. Kaish stated that the committee met at Maurice Hawk on June 13 for a brief tour of the building. George Duthie, the district architect, guided the tour and provided an overview of the changes that would occur with the proposed expansion project. After the tour, the committee returned to the Board of Education office to review the policies and regulations being put forth for a vote on tonight's agenda. The committee also discussed Policy 5112 regarding enrollment age. Although a parent has appealed the October 1 deadline, the committee supports the deadline and is not recommending any change to policy or practice. The parking license agreement with the First Presbyterian Church of Plainsboro was reviewed and authorization by the board to renew is recommended. The committee reviewed one of the merit goals for the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services and recommends submission to the County Superintendent for approval.