

**MINUTES OF BOARD RETREAT HELD
November 10, 2004**

The Board Retreat of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Hemant Marathe at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room of High School North. The following Board members were present:

Ms. Patricia Bocarsly	Mr. Stan Katz	Mr. Stephen Smith
Ms. Linda Geevers	Mr. Hemant Marathe	Mr. Henry Wieck
Mr. Robert Johnson	Ms. Ellen Walsh	Mr. Liyou Yang

Present also were: Dr. Robert Loretan, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Jon Cosse, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services; Dr. Victoria Kniewel, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Mr. Larry Shanok, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Support Services; and Mrs. Carolyn Eversole, Business Administrator.

CONVENE

In accordance with the State's Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing a notice of the time, date, location and, to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting to the PRINCETON PACKET, THE TIMES, THE TRENTONIAN, THE HOME NEWS TRIBUNE, AND WEST WINDSOR and PLAINSBORO PUBLIC LIBRARIES. Copies of the notice have also been posted in the board office and filed with Plainsboro's and West Windsor's township clerks and in each of the district schools.

No members of the public were present.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Tonight's topic was where we go regarding facilities? The Board knows the culture of the community and can balance the issues.

DISCUSSION

Dr. Kniewel discussed research and presented a schematic to aid in framing the discussion. Each person briefly gave their view of facilities and what their hope was for the evening. To provide sufficient background for the discussion, several areas were presented. These included the pattern of targeted spending on the total budget; debt service and capital projects over the past eight years; project completions over the past two years; Human Resource aspects of facilities; possible future projects; seat counts in the district; district demographics; capacity of schools; and results of the comprehensive walk-through of district facilities that had been conducted by Linda Geevers, Ellen Walsh and Bob Johnson.

Impact of budgets, second questions, and referendums on facilities were introduced to the discussion. A general consensus emerged that the administration should strive to increase the dollars spent in the annual budget on facilities. Opportunities to utilize second questions may be few but should be kept in mind. More work will need to be done to consider the role of future referendums.

Two topics for a additional future consideration were: the next Long-Range Facility Plan and security. Aspects of the issue will be dealt with in future Administration and Facilities Committee meetings.

Upon motion by Mrs. Geevers, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and by unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Larry Shanok, Board Secretary

**MINUTES OF BOARD RETREAT HELD
November 30, 2004**

The Retreat of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Hemant Marathe at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room of High School North. The following Board members were present:

Ms. Patricia Bocarsly	Mr. Stan Katz	Mr. Stephen Smith
Ms. Linda Geevers	Mr. Hemant Marathe	Mr. Henry Wieck
Mr. Robert Johnson	Ms. Ellen Walsh	Mr. Liyou Yang

Present also were: Dr. Robert Loretan, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Jon Cosse, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services; Dr. Victoria Kniewel, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Larry Shanok, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Support Services; and Mr. Russell Schumacher, Special Assistant for Labor Relations.

CONVENE

In accordance with the State's Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing a notice of the time, date, location and, to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting to the PRINCETON PACKET, THE TIMES, THE TRENTONIAN, THE HOME NEWS TRIBUNE, AND WEST WINDSOR and PLAINSBORO PUBLIC LIBRARIES. Copies of the notice have also been posted in the board office and filed with Plainsboro's and West Windsor's township clerks and in each of the district schools.

Hopes for the Evening The Superintendent and Dr. Kniewel introduced the evening's focus: the future of the district. They introduced the program's facilitator: futurist Art Kleiner.

Utilizing techniques developed and used by think tanks and corporations, the group developed a variety of plausible scenarios and assumptions about predetermined conditions. To focus the activity, a time frame of the year 2010 was selected. Working hard to compress the most important elements of such a process – one that often consumes days of effort – the group explored issues associated with good decision making. Toward the end of the evening, the group was further challenged to identify those scenarios, from the numerous ones discussed, that were considered the most important to the district or the most interesting to themselves.

A scenario that struck many of the group as important was the increasing tendency toward state control of education. Next in importance and interest was one in which children learned more and learning itself improved significantly, while writing quality improved and textbooks played less of a role in education. Also netting attention was a tendency toward greater frictions separating people and their institutions.

Next Steps The Board and Administration will be challenged to apply these lessons to decisions on the upcoming budget and new strategic plan.

Dr. Loretan and Dr. Kniewel summarized the evening and thanked Art Kleiner for his assistance and the members of the group for their spirited participation.

COMMENTS No members of the public were present.

Upon motion by Mr. Wieck, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and by unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

Larry Shanok, Board Secretary