

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RETREAT MEETING MINUTES  
September 29, 2014**

The meeting of the Plainsboro Board of Education was called to order by Vice President Richard Kaye at 5:30 p.m. at the Village Elementary School construction site; after the inspection and a short break, the Board Members will reconvene at 6:30 p.m. in the media center at High School South for the retreat. The following board members were present:

Ms. Rachelle Feldman Hurwitz	Ms. Michele Kaish	Ms. Dana Krug
Ms. Louisa Ho	Mr. Richard Kaye	Mr. Scott Powell
Ms. Rachel Juliana		

Board Members Fleres and Zhong were absent for the construction site visit. Present also were: Dr. David Aderhold, Superintendent; Mr. Larry Shanok, Assistant Superintendent for Finance/Board Secretary; Mr. Martin Smith, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction; and Mr. Gerard Dalton, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services/Planning.

**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.

A short walk-through of the Village School new construction started the meeting. After the inspection and a brief progress report, the meeting adjourned to High School South media center at 6:15 p.m. and the board meeting reconvened at 6:30 p.m. Board Members Fleres and Zhong joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at High School South.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (No members of the public were present.)

**BOARD PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Fleres welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their participation. He commented that the main purpose of this retreat is to discuss the Village Expansion Project and discuss the financial impacts of moving, staffing, etc.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

Dr. Aderhold also welcomed the Board to the retreat. Besides the discussion about the Village Expansion Project, tonight we will also develop broad "big picture" themes and explore deeper understanding of potential budget concerns for the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Smith led a teambuilding exercise with the group.

**DISCUSSION**

**Overview and Naming:**

The Superintendent led the discussion for the designation of the new construction at Village. Another name is useful to distinguish between those that will want the school versus those coming to the offices. A consensus emerged to continue with the wording presently used at the existing board offices.

2015-16 Budget - Overview of the “usual suspects” – Financial Risks – Village Expansion:

The Superintendent led a summary discussion of the factors that each year can vary by a lot – making a budget challenging. Among such topics are: health benefits; impact of the Affordable Care Act; liability and workers compensation insurance; utility bills; special education costs (instruction, tuition and transportation); transportation; noncertified personnel pensions; and, the growing risk of inflation due to these and other factors in coming years.

The Board of Education broke up into groups of three for thirty minute round robin discussions with each of the three assistant superintendents. Mr. Dalton’s centered on future use/expense associated with the current district office building; the future use of the current special services building; the aging and coming need for replacement of turf fields and high school tracks; school security issues; and, district enrollment.

Mr. Smith focused on the 1:1 program expansion and other technology needs; program review recommendations; efforts targeting struggling learners; PARCC; and, Title I, II, and III issues.

Mr. Shanok concentrated on negotiations; the aging bus fleet; the likely loss of the present transportation area; the upcoming building and grounds contract process; and the broad issue of HVAC controls in the district.

After these lively discussions, the Superintendent brought the group together again. He then led a discussion covering the variety of happenings that will result from the central office move, including school related moves and furniture issues. He outlined likely staffing increases associated with these actions. Moving costs associated with the schools, both contractually required stipends and actual moving costs will be needed in the budget

**RECOMMENDATION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion for Closed Session**

Mr. Fleres noted the need for a closed session immediately in order to discuss matters involving personnel and litigation.

Upon motion by Mr. Kaye, seconded by Ms. Kaish, and by unanimous voice vote the Board moved into closed session at 10:06 p.m.

Upon motion by Mr. Kaye, seconded by Ms. Kaish, and by unanimous voice vote, the meeting reconvened to open session at 10:18 p.m.

There was a general conversation on tonight’s discussion and on likely future steps. Another retreat is intended for November. Getting priorities from the committee process was one avenue for surfacing thoughts about the budget.

Superintendent Aderhold and Board President Fleres thanked everyone for their participation.

Upon motion by Mr. Kaye, seconded by Ms. Kaish, and by unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

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Larry Shanok, Board Secretary