

**MINUTES OF BOARD RETREAT HELD
June 25, 2015**

The Board Retreat of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education was called to order by Board President Fleres at 6:30 p.m. in the in the media center at Village Elementary School. The following Board members were present:

Mr. Anthony Fleres	Ms. Rachel Juliana	Mr. Scott Powell
Mr. Isaac Cheng	Ms. Michele Kaish	Mr. Yingchao “YZ” Zhang
Ms. Louisa Ho	Ms. Dana Krug	

Board Member Zhong was absent. Present also were: Dr. David Aderhold, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Larry Shanok, Assistant Superintendent for Finance/Board Secretary; Mr. Martin Smith, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction; and Mr. Gerard Dalton, Assistant Superintendent, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

Mr. Fleres welcomed everyone to the retreat. The Superintendent led an inspection tour of the Village Addition construction site. Everyone was impressed at the progress made to date.

SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS

Dr. Aderhold thanked everyone for participating tonight. Once again the subjects are the “District Strategic Goals” for the year. This year, a slightly different approach to the discussion will be taken.

Strategic Goal #1: To work toward continuous improvement of instructional programs with a focus on the developmental needs of and the social/emotional impacts on students.

Strategic Goal #2: We will continue to ensure that the budget provides for the achievement of all students and that we maintain safe, healthy and clean facilities that reflect high standards for learning while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Strategic Goal #3: To continue to develop the professional growth and capacity of district leadership.

Welcome/Review Purpose and Outcomes

The Superintendent led a team building exercise utilizing the Continuum Dialogue Protocol: a provocative, but non-threatening way to explore perspectives, beliefs, and opinions on difficult issues. Using a line on the floor with each end representing the far, extreme positions, the Superintendent encouraged folks to take their place on the line that reflected where they place themselves relative to the two opposing statements. A lively discussion ensued as combinations of statements led to an active shift of positions as the statements were explored.

District Strategic Goals

Mr. Smith described the Tuning Protocol a sequence of steps by which goals can be explored. After outlining the protocol, he proceeded to describe Strategic Goal #1 and the tasks and measurable indicators associated with it. After an opportunity for clarifying questions, a period of reflection followed. Reflection was followed by “warm” feedback and “cool” feedback addressing the essential qualities of the tasks/indicators. A variety of feedback was collected to be integrated into the final product.

Mr. Zhong arrived at 9:21 PM.

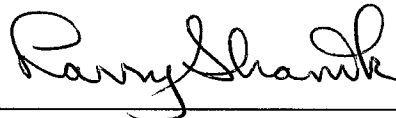
Mr. Dalton and Mr. Shanok followed a similar process for Strategic Goal #2 and its tasks and measurable indicators. Once again a variety of feedback provided a basis for adjusting the tasks/indicators. One consistent suggestion by the Board of Education was that abbreviations be avoided whenever possible in this process.

The Superintendent led a similar discussion of Strategic Goal #3’s tasks and indicators.

A few minutes were spent getting everyone’s impression of tonight’s approach; the Board of Education generally found the approach useful and engaging.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Zhong, seconded by Mr. Powell, and by unanimous voice vote of all present, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 p.m.



Larry Shanok, Board Secretary

Prepared by:



Kathleen M. Bertram