



Our Children
Our School
Our Future

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING

of the
NETCONG SCHOOL DISTRICT
26 College Road
Netcong, New Jersey 07857

March 17, 2015
7:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Dalesandro at 7:30 p.m.

A. FLAG SALUTE

B. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT PROCLAMATION

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act the Board of Education of the Netcong School District in the County of Morris has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted. The notice was mailed to the Daily Record and those persons or entities requesting notification, and filed with the municipal clerk of the Borough of Netcong.

C. MISSION STATEMENT

Netcong, a tradition to nurture, inspire, empower, and achieve by all, for all.

D. BOARD GOALS for 2014-2015

- Comprehensive review and update of the district policy manual.
- Continue to monitor and approve curriculum updates and systems of assessment.
- Review Board operations to improve Board performance.

E. DISTRICT GOALS for 2014-2015

- Implement the action plans identified in the Netcong School District's Strategic Plan with a 2014/15 timeline under the goal areas of Student Achievement & Technology, School and Community, and Finance and Facilities.

II. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Mrs. Callahan, Mr. Coladarci, Mr. McQueeney, Mrs. Popelka, Mr. Morton, Mrs. Santana, Ms. Sufly and Mrs. Dalesandro, President.

Not Present: Mr. Stevens, Death in the Family

Also Present: Mr. Pio Pennisi, Interim Superintendent
Mrs. Nicole Sylvester, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Dr. Gina Cinotti, Principal
Mayor Joseph Nametko
Sixteen (16) Members of the public present

III. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND MINUTES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the following meeting(s) be approved as submitted:

February 24, 2015	Regular Minutes
February 24, 2015	Executive Session Minutes
March 9, 2015	Special Meeting Minutes

Board Trustee Lynn Popelka made a motion to table the March 9, 2015 Minutes. Board Trustee Todd Morton seconded this and was approved by Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present.

VOTE: BOARD MINUTES RESOLUTION #1 AS AMENDED.

AYES: Mrs. Callahan, Mr. McQueeney, Mrs. Popelka, Mr. Morton, Mrs. Santana, Ms. Sufly and Mrs. Dalesandro, President.

NAYES: None

ABSENTATIONS: Mr. Coladarci on all February 24, 2015 minutes.

Correspondence

Board Trustee Todd Morton moved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, the communications mentioned be listed in the minutes and action be taken as noted.

Sender	Subject	Referred to
Sandy Jensen	Retirement	Mr. Pio Pennisi, Interim Superintendent

The motion was seconded by Board Trustee Patrick McQueeney and was approved by Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present.

IV. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

President Dalesandro wanted to thank and acknowledge the Netcong Educational Foundation for funding the purchase and upgrade of our main entry way security system to include a new camera and intercom system.

President Dalesandro thanked all for coming tonight. She stated this is the most people she has seen attend a budget presentation in a long time and this makes her very happy.

President Dalesandro gave her report on upcoming PTA events and information. The highlights included the Gertrude Hawk fundraiser which successfully raised \$1,900 of profit to be used towards class trips. She reminded everyone of the scheduled fundraiser at McDonald's on March 19th from 4-7 pm. She reminded everyone that the spring box top for education contest has begun and the Tricky Tray is scheduled for May 16th.

President Dalesandro informed the Board that there were two upcoming Morris County School Board Association meetings. The first on March 26th on critical legal issues regarding personnel and negotiations. The second on April 30th, Randolph School will present their “bring your own device to school” program.

President Dalesandro informed the public and the Board that the PTA was mistakenly sent an e-mail regarding custodial services for the Saturday Easter Egg Hunt. This error occurred as a result of a misinterpretation of the Board’s Policy. She explained that a disregard e-mail would be sent to the PTA and they will not be charged for their Egg Hunt. It was never the intent of the Board of Education to charge the PTA, and she apologized for any miscommunication from the Board Office.

The Board of Education has carefully reviewed the proposed budget line item by line item and she was happy to report that all line items are funded appropriately.

At this time President Dalesandro turned the meeting over to Mr. Pennisi to present the 2015-2016 preliminary budget.

V. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS

Mr. Pennisi presented the 2015-2016 Preliminary Budget. Discussion ensued.

VI. SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS

None at this time.

President Dalesandro stated that she felt the right administrators were in place and thanked Mr. Pennisi, Mrs. Sylvester and Dr. Cinotti for their hard work, efforts, thoughts and dedication with the 2015-2016 preliminary budget.

VII. PETITIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Board Trustee Patrick McQueeney moved, seconded by Board Trustee Todd Morton, to open the public session at 7:55 p.m. and was approved by a Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present. President Dalesandro opened the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Public is invited to address the Board with any questions, comments or concerns. The Board requests that the individual address the Board, giving name and address, and asks that all remarks be directed to the Chair. The public portion shall be limited to thirty minutes with a five-minute time limit on each participant.

The Board wishes to remind all attendees at its meeting that while it subscribed without reservation to the principle of keeping the public completely informed, by policy it cannot allow public discussion of personnel matters. If a matter concerning the staff of the Netcong Public School is of interest or concern, the matter would be referred to the Interim Superintendent or the Board of Education, either by telephone or letter.

The following members of the public spoke and raised questions about the 2015-2016 preliminary budget. Many stated they felt the 2015-2016 preliminary budget was a good budget and they hoped this is the beginning of how we can move forward at the Netcong Elementary School.

Joe Albensi, Randy Schrader, Karin Bond, Kathy Renegar.

There being no further items for discussion, Board Trustee Lynn Popelka moved, seconded by Board Trustee Todd Morton, to close the public session at 8:08 p.m. and was approved by a

Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present. President Dalesandro closed the meeting to the public at 8:08 p.m.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

IV. PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. GOVERNANCE/POLICY/FINANCE - Bernadette Dalesandro, Chairperson
Joe Coladarci, Member
Patrick McQueeney, Member
Colleen Suflay, Member**

Board Trustee Colleen Suflay, seconded by Board Trustee Todd Morton moved the following resolutions to be approved as submitted:

Discussion ensued:

Board Trustee Patrick McQueeney thanked Mr. Pennisi for putting together what he believes to be a strong 2015-2016 preliminary budget. He explained he was in support and will approve the bottom line number tonight but wanted to take a better look at some line items.

President Dalesandro stated that the final budget number/line item funding would be approved at the Public Hearing on April 28, 2015.

Board Trustee Marianne Callahan expressed that she is not happy with what is happening and that it is going to be a hard pill to swallow. However, she stated she will be supporting the bottom line number as presented by Mr. Pennisi.

Mr. Pennisi cautioned the Board that if they start moving money from one line item to another in order to spend, that they would fall into the same pattern in past years.

Board Trustee Lynn Popelka stated this was the healthiest budget she has seen in a few years. She feels this budget will help get the school in better financial shape.

BE IT RESOLVED that resolution numbers 1-4 be adopted as presented:

1. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for increases costs of health benefits in the amount of \$45,307. The additional funds are included in the base budget and will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefits.
2. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for banked cap in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b). The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the amount of \$333,431 for

the purposes of maintaining and supporting staff and maintenance of building. The district intends to complete said purposes by June 2015.

3. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves the tentative budget be approved for the 2015-2016 School Year using the 2015-2016 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL REVENUES</u>	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2015-16 Total Expenditures	4,559,037	215,109	150,290	4,924,436
Less: Anticipated Revenues	<u>1,218,109</u>	<u>215,109</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,433,218</u>
Taxes to be Raised	<u>3,340,928</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>150,290</u>	<u>3,491,218</u>

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Daily Record in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at 26 College Road, Netcong, New Jersey in the Annex building, on April 28, 2015 at 7:00 pm for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2015-2016 School Year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Netcong Board of Education authorizes the Business Administrator to modify the proposed FY 2015-16 school budget, if changes are required at the conclusion of the review of the proposed FY 2015-16 school budget by the Executive County Superintendent and the Board acknowledges that in the FY 2015-16 tentative budget, the Board is applying for various tax levy adjustments that could be utilized in future budgets.

4. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$1,500 for all staff and board members.

VOTE: GOVERNANCE/POLICY/FINANCE RESOLUTIONS #1 – #4 AS PRESENTED.

AYES: Mrs. Callahan, Mr. Coladarci, Mr. McQueeney, Mrs. Popelka, Mr. Morton, Mrs. Santana, Ms. Sufly and Mrs. Dalesandro, President.

NAYES: None

ABSENTATIONS: None

B. PERSONNEL- Marianne Callahan, Chairperson
Bill Stevens, Member
Jennifer Santana, Member
Bernadette Dalesandro, Member

Board Trustee Todd Morton, seconded by Board Trustee Patrick McQueeney moved the following resolutions to be approved as submitted:

BE IT RESOLVED that resolution numbers 1-2 be adopted as presented:

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby approves Huihong Standridge as a substitute custodian pending fingerprinting and background check at an hourly rate of \$15/hour as of March 25, 2015.
2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, hereby accepts the resignation of Ms. Sandy Jensen, music teacher, for the purpose of retirement effective May 1, 2015.

President Dalesandro it was with sadness and regret that we accept Ms. Jensen's retirement after 35 successful dedicated years to the district.

VOTE: PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS #1 – #2 AS PRESENTED.

AYES: Mrs. Callahan, Mr. Coladarci, Mr. McQueeney, Mrs. Popelka, Mr. Morton, Mrs. Santana, Ms. Sufly and Mrs. Dalesandro, President.

NAYES: Ms. Popelka on motion #2.

ABSENTATIONS: None

C. FACILITIES

None at this time.

D. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION

None at this time.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

The Board reviewed and discussed next week’s agenda and motions.

XII. PETITIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE PUBLIC

Board Trustee Todd Morton moved, seconded by Board Trustee Patrick McQueeney, to open the public session at 8:22 p.m. and was approved by a Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present. President Dalesandro opened the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

The Public is invited to address the Board with any questions, comments or concerns. The Board requests that the individual address the Board, giving name and address, and asks that all remarks be directed to the Chair. The public portion shall be limited to thirty minutes with a five-minute time limit on each participant.

The Board wishes to remind all attendees at its meeting that while it subscribes without reservation to the principle of keeping the public completely informed, by policy it cannot allow public discussion of personnel matters. If a matter concerning the staff of the Netcong Public School is of interest or concern, the matter should be referred to the Interim Superintendent or the Board of Education, either by telephone or letter.

Mr. Domick expressed to Board Trustee Marianne Callahan that this is not “a hard pill to swallow” and would gladly spend twice this amount. Most people spend more a month on coffee. He was happy to see a plan in place to start “fixing” the school.

Mayor Nametko stated this looked like a good budget and thanked Mr. Pennisi for putting it together. He stated if the town does not have a strong school system it will not attract new people to Netcong and that will be greater than the \$32 a month cost. The town can’t do much to help attract new residents in terms of the Police department. It is the school that will attract new residents.

There being no further items for discussion, Board Trustee Lynn Popelka moved, seconded by Board Trustee Patrick McQueeney, to close the public session at 8:25 p.m. and was approved by a Unanimous Voice Vote by all members present. President Dalesandro closed the meeting to the public at 8:25 p.m.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None at this time.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to come before the board, Board Trustee Todd Morton made a motion, seconded by Board Trustee Patrick McQueeney and carried by Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the March 17, 2015 Work Session Meeting of the Netcong Board of Education at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Sylvester".

Nicole Sylvester
Business Administrator/Board Secretary