

WARREN HILLS REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 7, 2020

6:30 p.m. – Executive Session

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the Board meeting held on April 7, 2020 was conducted electronically, with Board Members attending via Zoom. The board meeting was live-streamed to the public via Zoom (<https://zoom.us>). The link to the meeting was posted on the District's website. The link could also be found within the posted agenda for this meeting, which was on the District's website. During the meeting, an announcement was made for any members of the public that wish to participate and the public was invited to question/comment.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/935791112?pwd=Yjhxb1JTMVRYN25vK00yK0M3NTFMQT09>

A. Call to Order - Mr. Christopher Hamler, President

B. Roll Call - Mrs. Donnamarie Palmiere, Business Administrator

Roll call was taken by Mrs. Donnamarie Palmiere. Members present were Joseph Bodenschatz, Christopher Cannavo, Christopher Hamler, Sam Knutson, Lisa Marshall, Sherri Musick, Christine Pi, Cory Piasecki, and Eric Walls. Also present were Earl Clymer, Dennis Mack and Donnamarie Palmiere.

C. Executive Session- 6:40 p.m.

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-11, permits the board of education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Warren Hills Regional Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss:

- 1) *Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule*
- 2) *Pending Litigation*
- 3) *Personnel Matters*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Warren Hills Regional Board of Education reserves the right to discuss such other matters rendered confidential by law should the need arise; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Action may be taken.

Motion by Mrs. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Piasecki to go into Executive Session at 6:40 with full board consent.

D. Reconvene: 7:04 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Piasecki and seconded by Mrs. Marshall to go into open session at 7:04 p.m. with full board consent.

President's Announcement: Adequate notice of this meeting in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act has been given by posting one copy of a Notice of Meeting in the Warren Hills Regional Board of Education Office, by mailing copies to *The Express-Times*, *Warren-Reporter*, *Newark Star-Ledger* and to the municipal clerks in the Borough of Washington and Townships of Franklin, Mansfield and Washington.

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, this meeting of the Board of Education will not be physically open to the public. This is to ensure we follow best practices for social distancing. The board meeting will be live-streamed to the public via Zoom (<https://zoom.us>). The link to the meeting will be posted on the District's website. The link can also be found within the posted agenda for this meeting, which is on the District's website. During the meeting, an announcement will be made for any members of the public that wish to participate. At that time, type a question/comment into the chat feature of Zoom. All participants must provide their name and address, and your comment and/or question will be included in the Board's public record of the meeting, just as it would for a standard Board meeting and will be read aloud by the Board Secretary.

Our Mission Statement

The Warren Hills Regional School District challenges and empowers a dynamic, diverse student body in a supportive learning environment by providing academic and co-curricular opportunities to become successful, productive members of the global community.

Pledge of Allegiance

E. Motion by Mr. Piasecki and seconded by Mrs. Marshall to approve the Minutes of the March 17, 2020, Regular and Executive Session meetings.

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, this meeting of the Board of Education will not be physically open to the public. This is to ensure we follow best practices for social distancing. The board meeting will be live-streamed to the public via Zoom (<https://zoom.us>). The link to the meeting will be posted on the District's website. The link can also be found within the posted agenda for this meeting, which is on the District's website. During the meeting, an announcement will be made for any members of the public that wish to participate. At that time, type a question/comment into the chat feature of Zoom. All participants must provide their name and address, and your comment and/or question will be included in the Board's public record of the meeting, just as it would for a standard Board meeting and will be read aloud by the Board Secretary.

Approval of Board Minutes

Motion by Mr. Piasecki and seconded by Mrs Marshall to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2020 Regular and Executive Session meeting.

MOTION: Corey Piasecki		SECOND: Lisa Marshall		
Name	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Joseph Bodenschatz	X			
Christopher Cannavo	X			
Sam Knutson	X			
Lisa Marshall	X			
Sherri Musick	X			
Christine Pi	X			
Eric Walls	X			
Corey Piasecki	X			
Christopher Hamler	X			

F. Communications – Mr. Earl C. Clymer, III, Superintendent of Schools

G. Superintendent’s Report – Mr. Earl C. Clymer, III

Spring Break will be from April 10, 2020 through April 15, 2020.

“Senior door decorating” was aired on News 12 today.

Alternative graduation plans are being discussed in the event they are necessary.

Update on the Face Shield Project – so far the Go Fund Me has raised \$15,000 for the purpose of making face shields with Mount Olive to distribute throughout Warren County. The first batch of face shields is expected to be distributed by the end of the week.

Mr. Clymer administratively withdrew item #1 under Education and Policy.

H. Presenter(s): None

I. Goals:

Warren Hills Board of Education District Goals for 2019-20

1. Implement and support strategies to improve student achievement for ALL students, including but not limited to, Advanced Placement, Vocational Education, Gifted & Talented, General Education and Special Education through course offerings, the 1:1 technology initiative, and enhanced PLCs.
2. Continue vertical articulation within the WHRSD cluster with a focus on increased achievement for students in grades 6-9.
3. Create a comprehensive, collaborative plan, involving district stakeholders, focused on the systematic implementation of the revised Future Ready Schools initiative.

Warren Hills Board of Education Board Goals for 2019-20

1. Utilize resources to ensure the support of District Goals.
2. Recognize student achievement through student presentations at Board meetings.
3. Work towards building optimal Board communication and trust.

J. Committee Reports

Finance, Facilities & Transportation met virtually on March 28, 2020 and again on April 3, 2020 to discuss Bill A3902 and cash flow. Mrs. Marshall asked if this will impact construction on the dam and was told that the dam is moving forward waiting on a few more certificates.

Education and Policy – did not meet.

Personnel and Student Activities met virtually on March 30, 2020 and the information was discussed in Executive Session.

Technology – did not meet.

Negotiations – did not meet.

Wall of Fame – did not meet.

K. Old Business

Mrs. Marshall asked about the grant and Mr. Pasecki responded by saying that all state spending is currently frozen including grants.

L. New Business

Mrs. Marshall mentioned that the June assembly meeting will probably be a virtual meeting. She also shared that the county alliance funds are frozen which will have implications on the Summer Rec program.

Mr. Hamler spoke to Kathy Hellowa from School Boards and was told that the superintendent's evaluations could not be extended at this time. He also read a very supportive and appreciative letter from Dr. Lamonte, Warren County Executive Superintendent that expressed what a great job the superintendents were doing and how they are going above and beyond, especially some districts who are using 3-D printers to create face shields.

M. Public Comment – concerning action items.

Public comment shall be governed by the Board of Education Bylaw 0167. There are two public comment opportunities. The first public comment is reserved for Action Items only, those items on the agenda the Board is voting on this evening. The second public comment is set aside for public comment on any school or school district issue that the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the school district. The first public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per person. The second public comment length is determined by the board as per policy.

Before making a public comment, participants are to state their name, place of residence, and group affiliation if appropriate.

The Board uses the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to citizen concerns, but please be aware that not all issues brought to a board meeting will be resolved this evening; rather, the Board will, in appropriate cases, delegate the authority to investigate the matter to the Superintendent or his designee.

Please let the record reflect that the Board of Education does not endorse your comments nor will the Board of Education be held liable for comments you make about a staff member or other person which the staff member or other person may consider defamatory and/or libelous, as that individual retains all rights to pursue any legal remedies against you.

Mrs. Knittel had concerns about item 1 under Education and Policy and was pleased it was administratively removed.

N. ACTION ITEMS

I. PERSONNEL

Motion by Mr. Bodenschatz and seconded by Mr. Knutson to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions **I.1** through **I.2** as described below:

*1. Motion to approve/accept the following appointments / resignations / retirements as recommended by the Superintendent:

Code No.	Name	Nature of Action	Position	Salary	Location	Date Effective	Date Terminated	Discussion
1	39811807	Rescind	Special Education Teacher	N/A	High School	3/17/20	N/A	Rescind board motion of 3/17/20, I. Personnel, 2., Code No. 2
2	53034716	Rescind	Science Teacher	N/A	High School	4/3/20	N/A	Rescind board motion of 3/17/20, I. Personnel, 2., Code No. 1
3	Toni Ioffredo	Accept	HS Guidance Counselor	\$87,585	High School	6/30/20	6/30/20	Resignation

*2. Motion to approve the following appointments for the 2020-2021 school year:

Code No.	Name	Nature of Action	Position	Salary	Location	Date Effective	Date Terminated	Discussion
1	Marcus Gurdineer	Approve	Head Football Coach	\$8,294.00	High School	4/7/20	End of Season	Tier 1, Step 3 – Pending receipt of all required paperwork

Approval of Personnel Motions

MOTION: Scott Bodenschatz		SECOND: Sam Knutson		
Name	Ayes	Nayes	Abstain	Absent
Joseph Bodenschatz	X			
Christopher Cannavo	X			
Sam Knutson	X			
Lisa Marshall	X			
Sherri Musick	X			
Christine Pi	X			
Eric Walls	X			
Corey Piasecki	X			
Christopher Hamler	X			

II. EDUCATION AND POLICY

Mr. Clymer administratively withdrew motion #1.

*1. Motion to approve the following resolution:

~~WHEREAS, Board Policy 0131 provides that *the Board* may, under emergency circumstances, suspend the operation of a bylaw or policy and adopt, amend, or repeal a bylaw or policy without prior notice; and~~

~~WHEREAS, due to the emergent health, safety and welfare issues faced by the Warren Hills School District due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the uncertainty surrounding the Board's ability to hold regular meetings, there may be a need for *the Chief School Administrator* to exercise this authority regarding Board bylaws or policies; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the Board wishes to delegate its authority to the *Chief School Administrator* under Policy 0131 given the urgent circumstances which currently exist, subject to certain terms and limitations which are set forth below;~~

~~Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Board hereby delegates to its Chief School Administrator the authority to suspend the operation of a bylaw or policy and adopt, amend, or repeal a bylaw or policy; and~~

~~Be it further resolved, that this authority shall be exercised by the Chief School Administrator in consultation with the Board President upon timely notice to the full Board; and~~

~~Be it further resolved, that the Board shall ratify this action at its next duly convened meeting and such ratification shall not be unreasonably withheld; and~~

~~Be it further resolved, that that Board and Chief School Administrator shall discuss and agree upon a date when the emergency adoption, amendment, or repeal of a bylaw or policy shall terminate which shall also be set forth in the Board ratification resolution and reflected in the Board minutes.~~

Motion by Mr. Piasecki and seconded by Mrs. Marshall to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions II.2 through II.3, as described below:

*2. Motion to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 3902, currently pending in the State Legislature, would authorize the Department of Community Affairs to permit municipalities to delay the quarterly transmission of property tax revenues to school districts during gubernatorial-declared emergencies; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's public schools are highly dependent on property tax revenue to support education programs; and

WHEREAS, on average, local property taxes constitute close to 60% of public school revenue, with the percentage even greater in a significant number of districts; and

WHEREAS, a delay in payments from municipalities would result in a financial crisis for school districts, seriously disrupting the educational process—and bringing it to a halt; and

WHEREAS, although public school buildings are closed during the current health emergency, the education of our students is taking place through remote learning and home instruction; and

WHEREAS, continued timely transmission of school property taxes is critical for the education process to continue without interruption; and

WHEREAS, even though municipalities are designated as the authorities to collect property taxes, these taxes are levied for specific purposes—e.g., municipal, school, county, fire district—and these obligations must continue to be met; and

WHEREAS, as currently written, A-3902, which is intended to ease a financial burden on municipalities, would place a severe strain on school districts and the students and families that they serve; and

WHEREAS, the Warren Hills Regional Board of Education recognizes the impact of the current public health emergency on the state and local governments, as well as local school districts, but believes this legislation would worsen the situation for our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Warren Hills Regional Board of Education urges the State Senate and the Governor to oppose A-3902; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Phil Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; and the 23rd Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

*3. Motion to affirm the administrative decision regarding the following HIB cases:

MS – 19-20 - None
 HS - 19-20 - None

Approval of Education & Policy Motions

MOTION: Corey Piasecki		SECOND: Lisa Marshall		
Name	Ayes	Nayes	Abstain	Absent
Joseph Bodenschatz	X			
Christopher Cannavo	X			
Sam Knutson	X			
Lisa Marshall	X			
Sherri Musick	X			
Christine Pi	X			
Eric Walls	X			
Corey Piasecki	X			
Christopher Hamler	X			

III. BUDGET AND FINANCE

No Resolutions

O. Public Comment

Mrs. Knittel commented that anxiety among students seem high this week with a 3 hour workload.

Mrs. Wilson commented that special service programs are not necessarily available to students.

Mr. Hamler thanked the administration and the staff for their hard work over the last several weeks.

P. Second Executive Session

None

Q. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Piasecki and seconded by Mrs. Marshall to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. with full board consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Donnamarie Palmiere
Business Administrator/Board Secretary