

WARREN HILLS REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 7, 2020

6:30 p.m. – Executive Session

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

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

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

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Joseph Bodenschatz | Sam Knutson | Christine Pi |
| Christopher Cannavo | Lisa Marshall | Corey Piasecki |
| Christopher Hamler | Sherri Musick | Eric Walls |

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.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

C. Executive Session- 6:30 p.m. (If Necessary)

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.

Approval to go into Executive Session

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

D. Reconvene: 7:00 p.m.

Approval to Reconvene

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

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.

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. Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the Board meeting held on March 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. was conducted electronically, with Board members attending via a Google Hangout. Members of the public were invited to listen and participate in the Board meeting which was available for broadcast in the Board meeting room at 89 Bowerstown Road, Washington, N.J., however, no members of the public attended.

Approval of Board Minutes

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

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

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

H. Presenter(s):

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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

| Committee | Date | Discussion |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Finance, Facilities & Transportation | 3/28/20 and 4/3/20 | By Chair: Mr. Hamler |
| Education & Policy | No meeting held | By Chair: Mr. Piasecki |
| Personnel & Student Activities | 3/30/20 | By Chair: Mr. Bodenschatz |
| Technology | No meeting held | By Chair: Mr. Walls |
| Negotiations | No meeting held | By Chair: Mr. Cannavo |
| Wall of Fame | monthly | By Chair: Mr. Walls |

K. Old Business

L. New Business

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.

N. ACTION ITEMS

I. PERSONNEL

*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: | | SECOND: | | |
|---------------------|------|---------|---------|--------|
| Name | Ayes | Nayes | Abstain | Absent |
| Joseph Bodenschatz | | | | |
| Christopher Cannavo | | | | |
| Sam Knutson | | | | |
| Lisa Marshall | | | | |
| Sherri Musick | | | | |
| Christine Pi | | | | |
| Eric Walls | | | | |
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| Christopher Hamler | | | | |

II. EDUCATION AND POLICY

*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.

*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: | | SECOND: | | |
|---------------------|------|---------|---------|--------|
| Name | Ayes | Nays | Abstain | Absent |
| Joseph Bodenschatz | | | | |
| Christopher Cannavo | | | | |
| Sam Knutson | | | | |
| Lisa Marshall | | | | |
| Sherri Musick | | | | |
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| Christopher Hamler | | | | |

III. BUDGET AND FINANCE

Approval of Budget & Finance Motions

| MOTION: | | SECOND: | | |
|---------------------|------|---------|---------|--------|
| Name | Ayes | Nayes | Abstain | Absent |
| Joseph Bodenschatz | | | | |
| Christopher Cannavo | | | | |
| Sam Knutson | | | | |
| Lisa Marshall | | | | |
| Sherri Musick | | | | |
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O. Public Comment

P. Second Executive Session (If Necessary)

Approval to go into Second Executive Session

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

Approval to Reconvene

| MOTION: | | SECOND: | | |
|---------------------|------|---------|---------|--------|
| Name | Ayes | Nayes | Abstain | Absent |
| Joseph Bodenschatz | | | | |
| Christopher Cannavo | | | | |
| Sam Knutson | | | | |
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| Sherri Musick | | | | |
| Christine Pi | | | | |
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| Christopher Hamler | | | | |

Q. Adjournment _____ p.m.

Approval to Adjourn

| MOTION: | | SECOND: | | |
|---------------------|------|---------|---------|--------|
| Name | Ayes | Nays | Abstain | Absent |
| Joseph Bodenschatz | | | | |
| Christopher Cannavo | | | | |
| Sam Knutson | | | | |
| Lisa Marshall | | | | |
| Sherri Musick | | | | |
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| Christopher Hamler | | | | |

***Roll Call**