

MINUTES OF ORGANIZATION MEETING January 4, 2023

AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRESENT: Wayne Bartron, Kathleen Clohessey, John J. Friend
Erin Henry, Shane Hrbek, Stephen Koger,
Christopher Patterson, Stephanie Perna, James Saltzman
John R. Giacchi, Chief School Administrator

ABSENT: Barbara A. Decker, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mr. Giacchi, Chief School Administrator, opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M., with the Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by the following statement:

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, notice of this meeting has been properly advertised in the NJ Herald and the Star Ledger, its agenda has been posted at the appropriate locations, and a copy has been filed with the Franklin Borough Clerk.

Mr. Giacchi, Chief School Administrator, reported the results of the November 8, 2022 Annual School Board Election.

CANDIDATE	VOTES
Three (3) Three-Year Full Terms	
Stephen Koger	1,032
John Friend	959
Stephanie Perna	998
Write-In Totals	59
TOTAL	3,048

CANDIDATE	VOTES
Two (2) Two-Year Terms	
Nanci Davis**	15
Erin Henry**	15
Christopher Patterson	20
Not Assigned	71
TOTAL	121

***The candidates agreed to a coin toss to break the tie which took place Monday, December 5, 2023 at the Sussex County Clerk's Office. Both candidates were present along with Mr. Giacchi and Mrs. Decker. Mr. Parrott, Sussex County Clerk, conducted the coin toss which Ms. Henry won.*

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ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

Michael Restel, Wantage Township Administrator, administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Board members:

- Mr. John Friend
- Mr. Stephen Koger
- Mrs. Stephanie Perna

- Ms. Erin Henry
- Mr. Christopher Patterson

ROLL CALL

Roll call vote was taken. All board members were present.

Mr. Bartron	Mrs. Clohessey	Mr. Friend
Ms. Henry	Mr. Hrbek	Mr. Koger
Mr. Patterson	Mrs. Perna	Mr. Saltzman

Terms of Office:

Board Member	Term Expires
John Friend	2025
Stephen Koger	2025
Stephanie Perna	2025
Erin Henry	2024
Christopher Patterson	2024
James Saltzman	2024
Wayne Bartron	2023
Kathleen Clohessey	2023
Shane Hrbek	2023

Organization Action

ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT:

The Chief School Administrator opened the floor for nominations for Board President.

Mr. Friend nominated Wayne Bartron

The Chief School Administrator closed the floor for nominations for Board President.

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Discussion: NA

Mr. Bartron was elected President of the Board by the following roll call vote:

Yes	-	7
No	-	Mr. Hrbek
Abstain	-	Mr. Patterson

The Chief School Administrator turned the meeting over to Mr. Bartron, President of the Board.

ELECTION OF BOARD VICE-PRESENT:

The Board President opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice President.

Mr. Bartron nominated Kathleen Clohessey for Board Vice-President.

Discussion: NA

Mrs. Clohessey was elected Vice-President of the Board by the following roll call vote:

Yes	-	7
No	-	Mr. Hrbek
Abstain	-	Mr. Patterson

PRESENTATION:

A. School Boards Ethics Presentation by Kathleen Helewa, New Jersey School Boards Association.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

On motion by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mrs. Perna, and carried unanimously by voice vote, opened the meeting to the public for comment on the agenda items.

Mr. Bartron read the following statement:

At this time, members of the public are invited to address the Board. Please note that public comments on the agenda items will be made in accordance with Policy 0167 - Public Presentation at Board meetings. Each statement made by all participants may be limited to three minutes in duration. If you would like to address the Board, please raise your hand to be called upon. Once called, please come to the microphone and state your name, municipality of residence and/or group affiliation.

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

This public session is designed for members of the public to speak on issues for Board consideration. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comment. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board at the conclusion of public participation. This portion of the meeting is meant to hear public comment, not to have a dialogue between the Board and the person speaking.

No one addressed the Board.

On motion by Mrs. Clohessey, seconded by Mr. Friend, and carried unanimously by voice vote, closed the meeting to the public for comment on agenda items.

Approval of action items:

ORGANIZATION – Items A – J

On motion by Mrs. Clohessey, seconded by Mr. Hrbek, and carried unanimously by roll call vote, approved the following resolutions:

- A. Resolved that the Board of Education adopts the existing bylaws and policies of the Franklin Borough Board of Education through the next organization meeting in January 2024.
- B. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the Chief School Administrator to serve as alternate Custodian of Records.
- C. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the Vice President of the Franklin Borough Board of Education to serve as alternate board secretary when necessary.
- D. Resolved that the Board of Education adopts the Code of Ethics for School Board Members to include:

CODE OF ETHICS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

N.J.S.A.18A:12-24.1

I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.

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I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.

I will confine my board action to policy making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.

I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.

I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.

I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.

I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its school.

I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendations of the chief administrative officer.

I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.

I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

- E. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the evaluation instrument established by the New Jersey School Boards Association for their annual self-evaluation.
- F. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the notice of annual meetings of the Board of Education through the next organization meeting in January 2024 and directs the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to advertise and post the notice in accordance with policy. The meetings will be held in the auditorium of Franklin School.

Regular Monthly Meetings
Monday, January 23, 2023
Monday, February 13, 2023
Monday, March 13, 2023 (SNOW DATE March 16, 2023)
Monday, April 24, 2023 – Tentative Public Hearing 2023-2024 Budget
Monday, May 15, 2023
Monday, June 19, 2023

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Regular Monthly Meetings
Monday, July 17, 2023
Monday, August 14, 2023
Monday, September 18, 2023
Monday, October 16, 2023
Monday, November 13, 2023
Monday, December 11, 2023
Wednesday, January 3, 2024 Organization Meeting

G. Resolved that the Board of Education approves The New Jersey Herald and The Star Ledger as the official newspapers for advertising and for public notices.

H. Resolved that the Board of Education approves Lakeland Bank to be designated as the official depository with the signatories for all accounts in accordance with the following summary:

LAKELAND BANK ACCOUNT	SIGNATORIES
General Fund	Board President, Vice President, Treasurer, Board Secretary
Payroll	Treasurer, Board Secretary
Agency	Board President, Vice President, Treasurer, Board Secretary
FSA	Board President, Vice President, Treasurer, Board Secretary
Student Activities	Board Secretary, Chief School Administrator
Food Service	Treasurer, Board Secretary

I. Resolved that the Board of Education adopts any existing contracts and agreements to which the Board is a party and where continuation is not authorized by law.

J. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the annual appointments listed below effective January 4, 2023 through December 31, 2023:

ORGANIZATION	DELEGATE
Sussex County School Boards Association	Erin Henry
New Jersey School Boards Association	Stephanie Perna
Sussex County Educational Services Commission	Kathleen Clohessey

OLD BUSINESS: NA

NEW BUSINESS: NA

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT: NA

CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Giacchi congratulated the five board members who were sworn in.

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Mr. Giacchi reminded the Board President to notify the board members of their committee assignments.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – VISITORS ADDRESS THE BOARD

On motion by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mrs. Clohessey, and carried unanimously by voice vote, opened the meeting to the public for comment on non-agenda items.

Mr. Bartron read the following statement:

At this time, members of the public are invited to address the Board. Please note that public comments on the agenda items will be made in accordance with Policy 0167 - Public Presentation at Board meetings. Each statement made by all participants may be limited to three minutes in duration. If you would like to address the Board, please raise your hand to be called upon. Once called, please come to the microphone and state your name, municipality of residence and/or group affiliation.

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No one addressed the Board.

On motion by Ms. Henry, seconded by Mr. Hrbek, and carried unanimously by voice vote, closed the meeting to the public for comment on non-agenda items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: NA

On motion by Mrs. Clohessey, seconded by Mr. Hrbek, and carried unanimously by voice vote, adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Giacchi
Chief School Administrator