

GREEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
March 18, 2021

Time: 7:30p.m.

Place: Green Hills School
Small Gym

I. CALL TO ORDER Read by President Bilik

A. FLAG SALUTE

B. MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT Read by President Bilik

“This is a regular meeting of the Green Township Board of Education held for the purpose of transacting appropriate Board business. In compliance with Chapter 31, Laws of 1975, the New Jersey Herald was properly notified and copies of the agenda of this meeting were appropriately posted and made available for the public.”

C. ROLL CALL

| | | Term | Roll Call |
|------|--|------|-----------|
| Mrs. | Marie Bilik | 2023 | P |
| Mrs. | Ann Marie Cooke | 2021 | P |
| Mr. | Scott Guzzo | 2022 | P |
| Dr. | Noah Haiduc-Dale | 2022 | P |
| Ms. | Deana Lykins | 2023 | P |
| Ms. | Kristin Post | 2021 | P |
| Mr. | Michael Rose | 2021 | Absent |
| Mr. | Rob Strasser | 2022 | P |
| Dr. | Melissa Van Blarcom | 2023 | P |
| | | | |
| Dr. | Lydia Furnari, Interim Superintendent | | P |
| Dr. | Vincent Occhino, Interim SBA/Bd. Secretary | | P |

P=Present

Also in attendance: Jon Paul Bollette, Principal Green Hills School and several community members.

D. MISSION STATEMENT Read by Mr. Guzzo

March 18, 2021

Page 1

Our mission at Green is to educate every student in a safe and secure environment to become a confident and caring life-long learner, who can communicate and contribute positively to the changing needs of society. The district, in cooperation with the community, will provide an academic environment that values excellence, initiative, and diversity of our students and community, while supporting a program of studies that is congruent with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

II. **STUDENT RECOGNITION** -

Superintendent's Roundtable Award Winner – Olivia May

III. **INTRODUCE THE PRELIMINARY 2021-2022 BUDGET**

ADOPTION OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET 2021-2022

DISTRICT NAME: Green Township School District

BOE MTG DATE: March 18, 2021

Dr. Furnari and Dr. Occhino presented the preliminary budget to the Board and asked that the Board consider the use of Banked Cap in the amount of \$45,973. At the end of the discussion, Mrs. Bilik called for a motion to use Banked Cap.

Motion....Ms. Cooke

Second...Mr. Guzzo

Roll Call/

| | MR. GUZZO | DR. HAIDUC- DALE | MS. LYKINS | DR. VAN BLARCOM | MS. POST | MR. ROSE | MR. STRASSER | MRS. COOKE | MRS. BILIK | Consent agenda all in favor |
|----------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| YES | X | X | X | X | X | | | X | X | 0 |
| NO | | | | | | | X | | | 0 |
| Abstain | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Absent | | | | | | X | | | | 0 |

**Adoption of Tentative Budget
2021-2022**

BE IT RESOLVED that the amended tentative budget be approved for the 2021-2022 School Year using the 2021-2022 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> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 2021-22 Total Expenditures | <u>\$12,667,506</u> | <u>\$212,385</u> | <u>\$140,507</u> | <u>\$13,020,398</u> |
| Less: Anticipated Revenues | <u>\$2,622,879</u> | <u>\$212,385</u> | <u>\$47,770</u> | <u>\$2,883,034</u> |
| Taxes to be Raised | <u>\$10,090,599</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$92,737</u> | <u>\$10,183,336</u> |

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Green Township Board of Education in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b)2 approves the use of \$45,181 of Banked Cap generated in 2018-2019 and the use of \$791 of Banked Cap generated in 2019-2020. The funds are needed to maintain teaching staff and programs within the district. The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the total amount of \$45,972 for the purpose of maintaining the academic program in compliance with the state and local academic goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held in the Small Gymnasium at Green Hills School, New Jersey on April 28, 2021 at 7:30pm for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2021-2022 School Year.

**Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement
2021-2022**

WHEREAS, the Green Township Board of Education 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 \$1,500 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 \$15,000 for all staff and board members.

MotionMr. Guzzo

SecondMrs. Cooke

Roll Call/

| | MR. GUZZO | DR. HAIDUC- DALE | MS. LYKINS | DR. VAN BLARCOM | MS. POST | MR. ROSE | MR. STRASSER | MRS. COOKE | MRS. BILIK | Consent agenda all in favor |
|---------|--------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| YES | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | 0 |
| NO | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Abstain | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Absent | | | | | | Absent | | | | 0 |

IV. CORRESPONDENCE None

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA TOPICS Read by President Bilik

This public session is designed for members of the public to speak on this evening's agenda topics. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comment. If the Board of Education chooses to respond, it does not waive its right thereafter not to respond. Length of comments may be limited to three minutes to the individual who has been recognized by the board president. Each individual may be limited to one opportunity to speak per topic. Members of the public are asked to state their name and address for the record.

Open at 8:11 pm

None

Closed at 8:14 pm

VI. VARIOUS REPORTS

A. NEWTON BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE – Mrs. Cooke

Superintendent's Report: February COVID cases (13). Case rate remains 10x higher than Sept 2020.

Board Business: Approved 2020-21 School Calendar. Approved new course at NHS for 2021-22 school year: Fundamentals of Optics 1. Approved the districts' application for a \$10,000 internet connectivity grant from NJ League of Municipalities Education Foundation and Walmart.

Committee Reports: Negotiations - Mediation scheduled for 3/4/21.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Greene reported on Return to Schools Plan status (revised twice), current county health data, and continued communications with the Dept of Health. Vaccination rate in Sussex County at 9%. Eligible staff continue to work remotely per ADA guidelines. Schools may pivot to in person as soon as data allows.

ESSER funding of \$812,749 allows for Summer Learning, including enrichment learning for students.

Public Comments: Approximately 24 members of the public attended the meeting in person. Approximately 20 members of the public attended the Live Stream.^[L]_[SEP] +/- ten (10) Individuals spoke about their frustrations of Hybrid and Remote learning. The public asked for changes to the schedule and the desire to return to in person classes. Dr. Greene responded "we can pivot based on numbers."^[L]_[SEP] "I have heard you loud and clear."^[L]_[SEP] "I will

take your comments back to Administration and those who developed the plan."

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

B. PTA UPDATE – Ms. Post

Ms. Post shared that the PTA had not met yet, but the next meeting was scheduled for March 23, 2021. She also stated that if 30 new members are enrolled, the Green Hills PTA would be eligible for an award. Dr. Van Blarcom also noted that a GHS student won recognition in the PTA Reflections Art competition and was moving on to the National level.

C. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Mrs. Bilik

Mrs. Bilik congratulated Mrs. Stiles, GHS Guidance Counselor for her article published in the Green Township Journal. She also attended a number of meetings including the Sussex County Educational Services Commission. Ms. Bilik shared that the SCESC and other ESCs in NJ are now eligible for some State funding.

D. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Furnari

Dr. Furnari reported that administration and staff are very happy to be able to facilitate the return of K-2 students in Cohorts A & B back to on-site instruction 4 days per week, and that Cohort students in Grades 3-8 would begin 4 on-site days on March 22, 2021. If all goes well, these students will return to 5 days of instruction. Remote students' return

to on-site instruction is dependent upon the tenets of Policy 1648.02 and the space in classrooms based on the most up to date rules on social distancing.

Next Dr. Furnari talked about the Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) allocations granted to the District: \$145,547 for allowable uses, \$45,000 for Mental Health Supports and \$25,000 for Learning Acceleration. Dr. Furnari then talked about the summer offerings planned for student support and thanked Mr. Turner and Dr. Occhino for their collaboration on the preliminary budget.

- E. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT – Dr. Occhino
Dr. Occhino indicated that Dr. Furnari provided a comprehensive overview of the preliminary budget and reminded those present that the formal Budget Hearing would take place on April 28, 2021.

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Cooke spoke about the work of the Tri-District Consortium.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

Mrs. Bilik informed those present that the application period for the Superintendent Search process ended on March 8, 2021. She stated that the Board chose six (6) candidates for interview. She also stated that there were 23 responses to the community survey and 15 completed staff surveys.

VIX. BOARD BUSINESS – Mrs. Ann Marie Cooke

Mrs. Cooke requested a consent agenda for motions A. 1 and 2, and B.

A. 1 Regular Meeting of February 18, 2021.

A. 2 Executive Session of February 18, 2021.

B. Motion to approve the revised school calendar for the 2020-2021 school year with changes as attached.

Motion....Mrs. Cooke

Second....Dr. Van Blarcom

Roll Call/

| | MR. GUZZO | DR. HAIDUC- DALE | MS. LYKINS | DR. VAN BLARCOM | MS. POST | MR. ROSE | MR. STRASSER | MRS. COOKE | MRS. BILIK | Consent Agenda All in Favor |
|---------|--------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| YES | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | 0 |
| NO | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Abstain | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Absent | | | | | | Absent | | | | 0 |

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Motion to approve the revised Board Code of Ethics for Virtual Meetings with changes as attached.

| | Motion...Mrs. Cooke | | | | Second...Ms. Post | | | | | Consent Agenda All in Favor |
|---------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| | MR. GUZZO | DR. HAIDUC- DALE | MS. LYKINS | DR. VAN BLARCOM | MS. POST | MR. ROSE | MR. STRASSER | MRS. COOKE | MRS. BILIK | |
| YES | | | | | | | | | | 8 |
| NO | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Abstain | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Absent | | | | | | Absent | | | | 1 |

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Regionalization Bill S-3488 President Bilik commented on the Regionalization Bill.

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **CURRICULUM** – Dr. Haiduc-Dale, Chairperson
Dr. Haiduc-Dale provided an overview of the Curriculum Committee meeting held on 3/15/2021.
1. Motion to approve proposed field trips for the 2020-2021 school year as per the attached schedule.

| | Motion...Dr. Haiduc-Dale | | | | Second...Ms. Post | | | | | Consent Agenda All in Favor |
|------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Roll Call/ | MR. GUZZO | DR. HAIDUC- DALE | MS. LYKINS | DR. VAN BLARCOM | MS. POST | MR. ROSE. | MR. STRASSER | MRS. COOKE | MRS. BILIK | |
| YES | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | 0 |
| NO | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Abstain | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Absent | | | | | | Absent | | | | 0 |

- B. **FINANCE** - Mr. Scott Guzzo, Chairperson
Mr. Guzzo provided an overview of the Finance Committee meeting held on 3/8/2021

Mr. Guzzo requested a consent agenda for motions B 1 through B 6.

1. Motion to approve the General Fund bills list for February 19, 2021 through March 18, 2021 for a total of \$1,203,466.45.
2. Motion to approve the attached disbursements for March 2021 from the Student Activities Account in the amount of \$0.00 and the Business Office Petty Cash Account in the amount of \$3.50. **(attachment)**

February 2021 Financial Reports (attachment)

3. Motion to accept the preliminary Board Secretary's monthly certification, as attached, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(d) that as of February 28, 2021 no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.S.A. 18A-22-8 and 18A-22-8.1.
4. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 the Green Township School District Board of Education, after review of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's monthly financial reports certify that as of February 28, 2020 and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2. and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
5. Motion to accept the financial reports from the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of February 2021.
6. Motion to approve transfers for February 2021.

Motion....Mr. Guzzo

Second....Mrs. Cooke

Roll Call/

| | MR. GUZZO | DR. HAIDUC- DALE | MS. LYKINS | DR. VAN BLARCOM | MS. POST | MR. ROSE. | MR. STRASSER | MRS. COOKE | MRS. BILIK | Consent Agenda All in Favor |
|----------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| YES | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | 0 |
| NO | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Abstain | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Absent | | | | | | Absent | | | | 0 |

C. OPERATIONS – Mr. Strasser, Chairperson

1. Updates as applicable.

D. PERSONNEL – Mrs. Cooke, Chairperson

March 18, 2021

Page 8

Mrs. Cooke provided an overview of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 3/8/2021. Dr. Furnari responded to questions from a Board member concerning the use Sick Days and the Sick Day Bank.

Mrs. Cooke requested a consent agenda for motions D 1 through D 5.

1. Motion to retroactively approve Marlene Sobczak as Teacher Mentor for novice teacher Karen Smith beginning March 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 at the stipend of \$480.00 (\$1,200.00 prorated), as recommended by the Interim Superintendent.
2. Motion to approve Ann Marie VanSickle and Kristen Waters as Homebound Instructors as needed for the 2020-2021 school year at a stipend of \$40.00 per hour, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent.
3. Motion to approve the following persons for the stipend positions listed below for the 2020-2021 school year, stipend amounts as per contract, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent:

| <u>Position</u> | <u>Name</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| | |
| Drama/Musical Coach | Diana Minervini |
| Assistant Drama/Musical Coach | Kelli McKeown |
| Track & Field Coach | Jessica Meyer |
| Assistant Track & Field Coach | Sarah Pittenger |

4. Motion to approve the request from Eileen Maffei for the use of thirty (30) Sick Bank days, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent.
5. Motion to approve the request from Ana Velez for the use of Family Medical Leave from March 15th through March 26th, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent.

Motion.....Mrs. Cooke

Second....Ms. Post

Roll Call/

| | MR. GUZZO | DR. HAIDUC- DALE | MS. LYKINS | DR. VAN BLARCOM | MS. POST | MR. ROSE | MR. STRASSER | MRS. COOKE | MRS. BILIK | Consent Agenda All in Favor |
|----------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| YES | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | 0 |
| NO | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Abstain | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Absent | | | | | | Absent | | | | 0 |

E. POLICY – Kristen Post, Chairperson

Ms. Post provided an overview of the Policy Committee meeting held on 3/9/2021.

Ms. Post requested a consent agenda for motions E 1 through E 3.

1. Motion to approve the following policies and regulations for second reading and adoption.
 - Bylaw 0145 – Board Member Resignation and Removal
 - Bylaw 0164.6 – Remote Public Meeting During a Declared Emergency
 - Regulation 1642 – Earned Sick Leave Law
 - Policy 1643 – Family Leave
 - Policy 7425 – Lead Testing of Water in Schools
 - Regulation 7425 - Lead Testing of Water in Schools

2. Motion to approve the following policies and regulations for first reading
 - P 2415 Every Student Succeeds Act
 - P 2415.02 Title I – Fiscal Responsibilities
 - P 2415.05 Student Surveys, Analysis, and/or Evaluations
 - P & R 2415.20 Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints
 - P 4125 Employment of Support Staff Members
 - P & R 5330.01 Administration of Medical Cannabis
 - P 6360 Political Contributions
 - P 8330 Student Records
 - P 9713 Recruitment by Special Interest Groups

3. Motion to approve the abolishment of the following policies (**attachments**):
 - P 2415.01 Academic Standards, Academic Assessments, and Accountability
 - P 2415.03 Highly Qualified Teachers

Motion....Ms. Post

Second....Ms. Lykins

Roll Call/

| | MR. GUZZO | DR. HAIDUC- DALE | MS. LYKINS | DR. VAN BLARCOM | MS. POST | MR. ROSE | MR. STRASSER | MRS. COOKE | MRS. BILIK | Consent Agenda All in Favor |
|----------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| YES | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | 0 |
| NO | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Abstain | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Absent | | | | | | Absent | | | | 0 |

F. NEGOTIATIONS – Mr. Rose, Chairperson

1. Updates as applicable.

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NEW BUSINESS TOPICS Read by President Bilik

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

March 18, 2021

Page 10

comment. If the Board of Education chooses to respond, it does not waive its right thereafter not to respond. Members of the public are asked to state their name and address for the record.

Open At: 8:55 pm

Two community members spoke about the Response to Intervention (RTI) program.

Closed At: 9:05 pm

XIV. CLOSED MEETING No Closed Session

XVI. ADJOURNMENT 9:00 PM

Motion...Mrs. Cooke

Second...Ms. Post

| | MR. GUZZO | DR. HAIDUC- DALE | MS. LYKINS | DR. VAN BLARCOM | MS. POST | MR. ROSE. | MR. STRASSER | MRS. COOKE | MRS. BILIK | Consent Agenda All in Favor |
|---------|--------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| YES | | | | | | | | | | 8 |
| NO | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Abstain | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Absent | | | | | | Absent | | | | 1 |

Submitted by:

Vincent J. Occhino

MACH 18, 2021

**Vincent J. Occhino
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary**