

# GREEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

## Public Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting April 29, 2020

**Time: 7:00 p.m.**  
**Zoom**

**Place: Conducted Remotely:**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

A. FLAG SALUTE

B. MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

“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**

	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expires</u>	<u>Roll</u>
Mrs. Marie Bilik- President	2020		<b><i>Pres</i></b>
Mrs. Ann Marie Cooke – Vice-President	2021		<b><i>Pres</i></b>
Mr. Matthew Fox	2020		<b><i>Pres</i></b>
Mr. Scott Guzzo	2022		<b><i>Pres</i></b>
Mr. Noah Haiduc-Dale	2022		<b><i>Pres</i></b>
Mrs. Denise Kelly-Jones	2020		<b><i>Pres</i></b>
Ms. Kristin Post	2021		<b><i>Pres</i></b>
Mr. Michael Rose	2021		<b><i>Pres</i></b>
Mr. Robert Strasser	2022		<b><i>Pres</i></b>
Dr. Lydia E. Furnari, Interim Superintendent			<b><i>Present</i></b>
Dr. Vincent Occhino, SBA /Board Secretary			<b><i>Present</i></b>
Mr. Ernest Turner			<b><i>Present/remote</i></b>

### **D. MISSION STATEMENT**

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. PRESENTATION HEARING OF THE 2020-2021 BUDGET**

Presentation of the 2020-2021 budget – Dr. Lydia Furnari, Interim Superintendent, Dr. Vincent Occhino, Interim Business Administrator and Mr. Ernest Turner. At the conclusion of the presentation Board members asked question regarding the data that was presented. Dr. Furnari and Mr. Turner responded to questions.

## **III. ADOPT THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET**

A. Motion to adopt the 2020-2021 School Budget as follows:

RESOLVED, The Green Township School District Board of Education in accordance with N.J.S.A 18A:7F-38, hereby approves the adoption of the 2020-2021 school year district budget as follows:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
2020-2021 TOTAL BUDGET	\$12,732,718	\$159,441	\$175,468	\$13,067,627
LESS: ANTICIPATED REVENUES	<u>\$2,885,045</u>	<u>\$159,441</u>	<u>\$175,468</u>	<u>\$3,219,954</u>
TAXES TO BE RAISED	<u>\$9,847,673</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$9,847,673</u>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Green Township School District Board of Education includes in the proposed budget a withdrawal from the Tuition Reserve in the amount of \$151,738. The purpose of this withdrawal is to fund tuition expenses and adjustments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Green Township School District Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the use of Banked Cap in the amount of \$97,031. The purpose of this use will be to support the operations and programs of the school district; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the district's maximum taxing authority is composed of:

\$0.00	Health Benefit Adjustment
\$0.00	Enrollment Adjustment inflated by 2%
\$0.00	PERS Deferment
\$ 97,031	Use of Banked Cap
\$ 191,189	2% Current Expense tax levy increase

\$9,559,453  
\$9,847,673

Prior year 2019-2020 Current Expense Tax Levy  
Maximum district tax levy 2020-2021

**Budget Carried by the following vote:**

Motion                      Mr. Guzzo                                      Second                      Mr. Fox

**Roll Call**

	M.F.	S.G	N.H.D.	D.K.J.	K.P.	M.R.	R.S.	A.C.	M.B	ALL IN FAVOR
<b>YES</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>NO</b>						<b>X</b>				
<b>Abstain</b>										
<b>Absent</b>										

- B. Motion to approve the following resolution regarding travel and related expense reimbursement maximum costs for 2020-2021 school year:

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, 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:23A 7.4 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:23A-7.3, to a maximum

expenditure of \$1,500 for each and all staff and board members and a district maximum expenditure of \$15,000.

Motion                      Mr. Guzzo                      Second                      Mr. Fox

## Roll Call

[illegible]

C. Motion to approve the following resolution regarding public relations and professional services maximum costs for 2020-2021 school year

WHEREAS, NJAC 6A:23A-5.2 provides that a school district must establish a maximum dollar limit prior to budget preparation for public relations and professional services fees, and;

WHEREAS, Green Township Board of Education has established the following maximum dollar limits as required:

Public Relations	\$750
Architects	\$12,00
Attorneys	\$39,680
Auditors	\$30,050
School Physician	\$7,500

BE IT RESOLVED, if these professional services exceed the maximum amount listed, the Green Township Board of Education will consider another motion to increase amounts listed.

Motion                      Mr. Guzzo                      Second                      Mrs. Jones

## Roll Call

[illegible]

<b>Abstain</b>										
<b>Absent</b>										

#### **IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Superintendent and Board President stated that the district did not receive any correspondence.

#### **V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA TOPICS**

Open: 7:50pm

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.

No Public Comments.

Closed: 7:55pm

#### **VI. VARIOUS REPORTS**

- A. NEWTON BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE – Mrs. Cooke reported on the following Newton Agenda of April 28<sup>th</sup>:  
 Approved early dismissal days for NHS on June 11, 12, 15, 16, and 17, 2020 with June 17, 2020 as the graduation ceremony for NHS (pending revision of the Governor's school closure order).

to Approved the removal of June 18, 29, 22, and 23, 2020 from the student calendar coincide with June 17, 2020 as the final student day of the 2019-2020 school year (pending revision of the Governor's school closure order).

Approve the new course proposal for "Life Skills Lab" at NHS for the 2020-2021 school year.

Approved the revised Tuition Contract between the Newton BOE and the Green Township BOE for the 2020-2021 school year.

Approved the agreement with Honeywell Energy Services Company to provide Energy Services related to the ESIP program.

Approved the 2020-2021 School Budget. Taxes to be raised: \$13,857,415.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 12, 7:00 pm

- B. PTA UPDATE – Mrs. Kelly-Jones reported that the PTA was exploring how to conduct a virtual meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- C. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Mrs. Bilik informed the Board that she participated in talks with NJEA on the proposed changes in the health care program. Mrs. Bilik suggested that the Board consider doing a self-evaluation. She mentioned that she was able to get a NJSBA representative to hold a place for Green to present the results at a time in August. The Board agreed that this was a good idea and asked Mrs. Bilik to move ahead on this matter.
- D. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Furnari thanked Ms. Thompson and the staff for their work on the Morning Announcement and themed week initiatives. Ms. Thompson collects submissions from teachers and families to illustrate aspects of remote learning and other activities. Morning Announcements have become a natural start to the school day for many. Themed weeks such as movement, wellness, mindfulness, a virtual talent show and this week’s Multicultural theme have been well received. Dr. Furnari also made note of discussions surrounding alternate plans for 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation. The services of several companies are being reviewed by Ms. Thompson and teachers in the event that we need to hold a virtual ceremony due to the health related school closure. Finally, Dr. Furnari talked about the disposition of fundraised funds. She indicated that Board policy and regulation dictate that unused fundraised funds are to be returned to the Student Activities account. This practice is not to be confused with personal monies paid by parents for activities. The District is working with the company that organized our 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip and should know more about refunds of those monies in the near future. In the event a full refund of personal monies is not possible through the company, the District will do our best to refund part if not all of those personal monies to parents. If this is necessary, the funds will have to come from the district’s operating budgeted not from the student activities account, as this is not a permissible use of fundraised funds.
- E. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY’S REPORT – Dr. Occhino and Mr. Turner explained the passage of the budget now required certified tax levy for school purposes filings with municipal and state agencies.

**VII. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH   Suspended**

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** Mrs. Bilik informed the Board that she received an email from Rosalie S. Lamonte, Ph.D., Interim Executive County Superintendent approving Dr. Furnari's Interim Superintendent contract from July 1, 2020 through January 8, 2021.

**X. NEW BUSINESS** Mr. Guzzo suggested that the Board purchase lawn signs acknowledging municipal first responders and Green Hills eight graders. Dr. Furnari said she and her staff are already looking into purchasing signs for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The Board indicated their support for this initiative.

**XI. BOARD BUSINESS** – Ann Marie Cooke

A. Motion to accept minutes of the following meetings:

1. Regular meeting of April 22, 2020.

Motion

Mrs. Cook

Second

Mr. Rose

**Roll Call**

	<b>M.F.</b>	<b>S.G</b>	<b>N.H.D.</b>	<b>D.K.J.</b>	<b>K.P.</b>	<b>M.R.</b>	<b>R.S.</b>	<b>A.C.</b>	<b>M.B</b>	<b>ALL IN FAVOR</b>
<b>YES</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>NO</b>										
<b>Abstain</b>					<b>X</b>					
<b>Absent</b>										

**XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. CURRICULUM** – Mr. Noah Haiduc-Dale, Chairperson

1. Updates as applicable. Updates as applicable. No Motions

**B. FINANCE** – Mr. Scott Guzzo, Finance Chairperson called for a consent agenda for Finance Resolutions 1 through 6.

1. Motion to accept the Board Secretary's monthly certification, as attached, pursuant

[illegible]

<b>NO</b>										
<b>Abstain</b>										
<b>Absent</b>										

**C. OPERATIONS** – Mr. Matthew Fox, Chairperson

1. Updates as applicable - Chairperson Fox remarked briefly on the committee's status. He mentioned that he and Dr. Furnari planned to set up a meeting date sometime after the April 29<sup>th</sup> budget hearing.

**D. PERSONNEL** – Mrs. Ann Marie Cooke, Chairperson

1. Motion to approve Jennifer Thompson as the Principal/Coordinator of Instruction for the 2020-2021 school year at the salary of \$101,755.17 as per the attached contract, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent. (**attachment**)  
Motion: Ms. Cooke Second: Mrs. Kelly-Jones

**Roll Call**

	<b>M.F.</b>	<b>S.G</b>	<b>N.H.D.</b>	<b>D.K.J.</b>	<b>K.P.</b>	<b>M.R.</b>	<b>R.S.</b>	<b>A.C.</b>	<b>M.B</b>	<b>ALL IN FAVOR</b>
<b>YES</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>NO</b>										
<b>Abstain</b>										
<b>Absent</b>										

2. Motion to approve contract renewal for the 2020-2021 school year for staff members listed on the attached Personnel List "A", Tenured Teachers, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent. (**attachment**)  
Motion: Mrs. Cooke Second: Mr. Rose

**Roll Call**

	<b>M.F.</b>	<b>S.G</b>	<b>N.H.D.</b>	<b>D.K.J.</b>	<b>K.P.</b>	<b>M.R.</b>	<b>R.S.</b>	<b>A.C.</b>	<b>M.B</b>	<b>ALL IN FAVOR</b>
<b>YES</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>NO</b>										
<b>Abstain</b>										
<b>Absent</b>										

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3. Motion to approve David H. Miller, Jr. as the Facilities Manager for the 2020-2021

school year at the salary of \$78,343.24 (inclusive of \$500.00 and \$300.00 black seal stipend) as per the attached contract, as recommended by the Interim Superintendent. **(attachment)**

Motion: Mrs. Cooke

Second: Mr. Rose

### Roll Call

	M.F.	S.G	N.H.D.	D.K.J.	K.P.	M.R.	R.S.	A.C.	M.B	ALL IN FAVOR
<b>YES</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>NO</b>										
<b>Abstain</b>										
<b>Absent</b>										

**E. POLICY** – Mrs. Denise Kelly Jones, Chairperson, briefly informed the Board on the first reading of the policies listed. A brief discussion followed.

1. Motion to approve the following policies for first reading: **(attachments)**

- 0512 – Board Officers
- 1581 – Domestic Violence
- 2422 – Health and Physical Education
- 3421.13 – Postnatal Accommodations (Teaching Staff Members)
- 4421.13 – Postnatal Accommodations (Support Staff)
- 5330 – Administration of Medication
- 7423 – Supervision of Construction
- 8220 – School Day
- 8462 – Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children

Motion: Mrs. Kelly-Jones

Second: Mrs. Post

### Roll Cal

	M.F.	S.G	N.H.D.	D.K.J.	K.P.	M.R.	R.S.	A.C.	M.B	ALL IN FAVOR
<b>YES</b>										<b>X</b>
<b>NO</b>										
<b>Abstain</b>										
<b>Absent</b>										

**F. NEGOTIATIONS** – Mr. Michael Rose, Chairperson

1. Updates as applicable No Report

### **XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NEW BUSINESS TOPICS**

Open: 8:28pm

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. 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.

The Board President read the public participation on new business topics into the record. Allowing some time for members of the public to ask questions remotely no one participated. She thanked Dr. Furnari, Dr. Occhino and Mr. Turner for a well done budget presentation.

### **XIV. CLOSED MEETING**

The Board did not adjourn into Closed Session.

### **XV. ADJOURNMENT 8:32pm**

Motion

Mr. Fox

Second: Mrs. Kelly-Jones

#### **Roll Call**

	<b>M.F.</b>	<b>S.G</b>	<b>N.H.D.</b>	<b>D.K.J.</b>	<b>K.P.</b>	<b>M.R.</b>	<b>R.S.</b>	<b>A.C.</b>	<b>M.B</b>	<b>ALL IN FAVOR</b>
<b>YES</b>										<b>9</b>
<b>NO</b>										<b>0</b>
<b>Abstain</b>										<b>0</b>
<b>Absent</b>										<b>0</b>

Submitted April 30, 2020

*Vincent J. Occhino*

Vincent J. Occhino  
Board Secretary