

**LOWER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2024**

Call to Order:

Work Session: {Starts at 6:00 p.m.}

Work Session Meeting:

Roll Call:

Lindsey Selby
Joseph Thomas
Lauren Randle
Jonathan Vile
Lauren Cox
Cynthia Baldacchini
Patricia Smith
Monica DiVito
Gary Douglass

Also in Attendance:

Jeff Samaniego, Superintendent
Patricia Ryan, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator
Brett Gorman, Board Attorney

Agenda Items:

Non-Agenda Items:

2024-2025 District Calendar

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Meeting with Mr. Anderson
Personnel Matters: Employee #4155; #4779; #5481; #4481; #5284
H.I.B. Mitnick #2 2023-2024
H.I.B. Maud Abrams #5 2023-2024

Other Matters:

Retirement Sick Day Payout
Employment Contracts

Motion: _____ **Second:** _____

Discussion:

All in Favor: _____

Motion to return to Regular Meeting:

Motion: _____ **Second:** _____

February 28, 2024

All In Favor:

Regular Meeting: {Starts no earlier than 6:30 pm but no later than 7:15 pm}

Roll Call:

Lindsey Selby
Joseph Thomas
Lauren Randle
Jonathan Vile
Lauren Cox
Cynthia Baldacchini
Patricia Smith
Monica DiVito
Gary Douglass

Also in Attendance:

Jeff Samaniego, Superintendent
Patricia Ryan, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator
Brett Gorman, Board Attorney

Salute to the Flag.

Statement:

Notice of this meeting of the Lower Township Board of Education, listing the Agenda as known, was duly sent to the Cape May County Herald - Times Newspaper, The Press of Atlantic City, posted at the Municipal Building, and a copy thereof delivered to the Township Clerk; in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

District Mission Statement:

"Dedicated to academic excellence, Lower Township Elementary Schools will nurture and challenge all students in a safe and innovative learning community. By encouraging respect and responsibility, students become self-directed, passionate, lifelong learners who will reach their potential. We are dedicated to supporting all students in exceeding the New Jersey Student Learning Standards."

Vision Statement:

Every Student, Every Day, Learning, Teaching, Exploring, Succeeding.

2022-2024 Board Goal:

Establish a system with district leadership to ensure that board policies are consistently being implemented and enforced.

2024-2025 Board Goals:

Support the district's effort to enhance student achievement, staff development, and parent engagement through policy and advocacy while maintaining the fiscal integrity of the budget.

February 28, 2024

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with:

District Policy: #0164 Conduct of Board Meetings

District Policy: #0167 Public Participation in Board Meetings

1} REPORTS:

A} Board President:

B} Superintendent:

C} School Business Administrator: Safety Awards- ACCASBO JIF

D} Presentations:

E} Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds Committee

Curriculum Committee

Finance Committee

Goals Committee

F} Board Comment

2} APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 24, 2024

Regular Meeting & Executive Meeting

Motion: _____ **Second:** _____

Discussion:

Vote:

Lindsey Selby

Joseph Thomas

Lauren Randle

Jonathan Vile

Lauren Cox

Cynthia Baldacchini

Patricia Smith

Monica DiVito

Gary Douglass

3} CONSENT AGENDA:

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON CONSENT ITEMS ONLY:

PLEASE NOTE: Each speaker shall identify him/herself by giving their name and address and will be allowed to speak once for a period not to exceed four minutes. The public comment portion of all Board Meetings shall not exceed forty minutes in total. Prior to the roll call vote, any member of the board may ask for discussion on any of the items within the block.

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The following items are believed to be items of a routine nature and will be moved as a block of action items. Prior to the roll call vote, any member may ask for discussion on any of the items without the block.

R. Routine Matters

- R-1 Approval of Financial Statements:** Secretary's and custodian's reports for **January 2024**, which are in agreement as certified by the Board Secretary, that no budgetary account has been over-expended, in violation of NJAC 6:20-2.12 (a), (d).
- R-2 Approval of Transfers:** **January 24, 2024 - February 28, 2024** {Backup R-2}
- R-3 Approval of Bill List:** **January 24, 2024 - February 28, 2024** {Backup R-3}
- R-4 Approval of Cafeteria Report:** **February 2024** {Backup R-4}
- R-5 Approval of Travel:** **October 2023** {Backup R-5}

P. Personnel:

- 1.** On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the following substitutes be approved for the the 2023-2024 school year, pending receipt of required documentation: (Backup P-1)

SUBSTITUTES NEEDING MORE DOCUMENTATION

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Mary Rulon, Courtney Sluk, Courtney Sedlak, Siena Perez

SUBSTITUTE CLASSROOM AIDE

Gina Buonopane, Cecilia Eagan

SUBSTITUTE SECRETARY/CLERK

Cecilia Eagan

SUBSTITUTE BUS AIDE

Gina Buonopane

- 2.** On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education accepts the resignation of Lori Sockriter, School Secretary at the Maud Abrams School, effective March 12, 2024. (Backup P-2)
- 3.** On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approves the FMLA for Employee #4047, effective February 12, 2024 to March 22, 2024, pending documentation.
- 4.** On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve Crystal Slaney, Kindergarten Resource Room Teacher at the David C. Douglass Veterans Memorial School, for placement of BA+30 on the LTEEA Teachers' Salary Guide, to reflect an increase of credits to her degree, pending review of documentation, effective March 1, 2024. (Backup P-4)

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5. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve the FMLA for Employee #5238, effective February 6, 2024 to February 21, 2024.
6. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of Nancy Watson, Custodian in the District, effective June 30, 2024. (Backup P-6)
7. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve Marina Bosell as School Bus Driver in the Transportation Department, on Step 1 on the LTEEA Bus Driver's Salary Guide, effective March 1, 2024. (Backup P-7)
8. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve the FMLA for Employee #4483, effective January 31, 2024, return date to be determined.
9. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve Shannon Feltwell, as Supervisor of Transportation in the District, effective date to be determined. (Backup P-9)
10. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve Diana Stevenson as Temporary Kindergarten Teacher, at the David C. Douglass Veterans Memorial School, effective March 1, 2024 until date to be determined. (Backup P-10)

H. Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying:

1. The Board affirms the actions taken by the Superintendent and the School Safety Teams, for H.I.B. Mitnick #1 2023-2024; H.I.B. Sandman #2 2023-2024; and H.I.B. Maud Abrams #4 2023-2024. (Backup H-1)

L. Legislative and Internal Policies:

1. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve the second reading for the following revisions to existing or new Policies and Regulations: (Backup L-1)

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
8423	<i>Policy</i>	<i>School Safety Policy</i>

E. Education:

1. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve the following placement for the 2023-2024 school year: (Backup E-1)

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Case #4784-A: 1st grade student out of district placement to Cape May County Special Services School District.

Case #5138-A: Kindergarten student out of place placement to Cape May County Special Services District.

F. Finance and Insurance:

1. On the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, that the Lower Township Board of Education accept additional ARP Homeless funding totaling \$1,017 and approve amending the Grant. (Backup F-1)
2. On the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve Seashore Food Distributor as our district milk/dairy supplier.
3. On the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve the 2023-24 Joint Transportation Agreement hosted by Winslow Township Board of Education for one student (A.R.) to Pinelands Learning Center effective November 15, 2023 through June 30, 2024, at a cost of \$56.86 per diem totaling \$7,619.24 for the 2023-2024 school year. (Backup F-3)
4. On the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, that the Lower Township Board of Education approve the Sidebar Agreement effective July 1, 2023, between the LTEEA and the Lower Township Board of Education. (Backup F-4)

MOTION ON CONSENT AGENDA ON ALL MOTIONS LISTED BELOW:

Routine Matters: R-1 to R-5

Personnel: P-1 to P-10

Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying: H-1

Legislative and Internal Policies: L-1

Education: E-1

Finance and Insurance: F-1 to F-4

Motion: _____ Second: _____

Discussion:

Vote:

Lindsey Selby
Joseph Thomas
Lauren Randle
Jonathan Vile
Lauren Cox
Cynthia Baldacchini

February 28, 2024
Patricia Smith
Monica DiVito
Gary Douglass

4} NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

5} EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: _____ **Second:** _____

Discussion:

Vote:

Lindsey Selby
Joseph Thomas
Lauren Randle
Jonathan Vile
Lauren Cox
Cynthia Baldacchini
Patricia Smith
Monica DiVito
Gary Douglass

6} OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

7} OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC: (public comment rules as read above apply):

8} GOOD OF THE ORDER:

A} Next Board Meeting: March 13, 2024

B} Fire Drills: 1/23/24 - Sandman School; 2/7/24 - Maud Abrams School;
2/26/24 - Mitnick School; 2/26/24 - Memorial School

C} Monthly Emergency Drill: 2/22/24 Active Shooter Lockdown Drill

D} Bus Evacuation Drills: N/A

9} ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

Motion: _____ **Second:** _____

Discussion:

All in favor: _____

Time: _____

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F.Y.I

1. Attendance/Enrollment
 2. Sandman School Reports
 3. Maud Abrams School Reports
 4. Mitnick School Reports
 5. Memorial School Reports (Guidance Report to be supplied)
 6. Supervisor of Special Services Report
 7. Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds Reports
 8. Supervisor of Transportation Reports
 9. Food Service Profit & Loss Report
 10. Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction Report
 11. Supervisor of Academic Achievement Report
 12. Day Care Reports
- March Calendar

**LOWER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, while the Sen. Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.) requires all meetings of the Lower Township Board of Education to be held in public, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) sets forth nine (9) types of matters that may lawfully be discussed in "Executive Session," i.e. without the public being permitted to attend, and

WHEREAS, the Lower Township Board of Education has determined that ____ issues permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) to be discussed without the public in attendance shall be discussed during an Executive Session to be held on February 28, 2024 at _____P.M. and

WHEREAS, the nine (9) exceptions to public meetings set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) are listed below, and next to each exception is a box within which **the number** of issues to be privately discussed that fall within that exception shall be written, and after each exception is a space where additional information that will disclose as much information about the discussion as possible without undermining the purpose of the exception shall be written.

"(1) Any matter which, by express provision of Federal law, State statute or rule of court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from public discussion." The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is

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“(2) Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government.” The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____

“(3) Any material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as any records, data, reports, recommendations, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including but not limited to information relative to the individual's personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly.” H.I.B. Mitnick #2 2023-2024; H.I.B. Maud Abrams #5 2023-2024

“(4) Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body”

“(5) Any matter involving the purchase lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed.” The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is Personnel matters _____

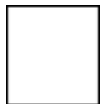
“(6) Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection. Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law.” The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____;

“(7) Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer.” The parties to and docket numbers of each item of litigation and/or the parties to each contract discussed are and nature of the discussion, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is:

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“(8) Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting.” Subject to the balancing of the public’s interest and the employee’s privacy rights under South Jersey Publishing Co. v. New Jersey Expressway Authority, 124 N.J. 478, the employee(s) and nature of the discussion, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality: Employee #4155; #4779; #5481; #4481; #5284



“(9) Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility.” The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____

WHEREAS, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be ____minutes after which the public meeting of the Board shall reconvene and proceed with business.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lower Township Board of Education will go into Executive Session for **only** the above stated reasons;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) will be made public at a time when the public’s interest in disclosure is greater than any privacy or governmental interest being protected from disclosure. For each of the above items, the estimated date by which such disclosure can be made and/or the occurrence that needs to take place before disclosure can be made are listed below (attach separate sheet if necessary)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary, at the present public meeting, shall read aloud enough of this resolution so that members of the public in attendance can understand, as precisely as possible, the nature of the matters that will privately be discussed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary, on the next business day following this meeting, shall furnish a copy of this resolution to any member of the public who requests one at the fees allowed by N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.