

**FRANKLIN LAKES BOARD OF EDUCATION
FRANKLIN LAKES, NEW JERSEY**

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Franklin Avenue Middle School
755 Franklin Avenue, 8:00 PM
Multi-Purpose Room

1. **CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDENT**

2. **FLAG SALUTE**

3. **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. This does not extend to Board discussions of pending or active litigation, contract negotiation, and matters involving the confidentiality and privacy rights of students and employees. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted on the School website; published in the Board's designated newspapers: *The Record* and *The Suburban News*; and mailed to all persons, if any, who have requested said notice. In addition, please be aware that employees of this School District retain the right of privacy and shall retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey. The Board shall not be held liable for comments made by members of the public and, in order to protect the privacy rights of employees in the District, the Board shall not respond to statements made by the public of or about District employees.

Meetings of the Board are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the business of the schools and, therefore, are not public meetings, but meetings held in public. As a reminder, the Board of Education has a "BOE Suggestion Box" located on the District Website under "Board of Education." The Board welcomes your questions, input and suggestions.

4. **ROLL CALL**

Mr. Michael Ben-David, Mr. Peter Koulikourdis, Dr. Jennifer Marcus, Ms. Susan McGowan, Mr. Robert Medeiros, Ms. Shirley O'Reilly, Ms. Kathie Schwartz, Ms. Jackie Veliky

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Ms. O'Reilly	Seconded by Ms. McGowan
To approve Minutes from the meetings on January 6, 2015	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **MOTION TO APPROVE BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER'S REPORTS**

Motion by Ms. O'Reilly	Seconded by Ms. McGowan
To approve Board Secretary and Treasurer's Report for December 2014	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS CERTIFICATION**

The Board Secretary certifies that for the month ending December, 2014, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Board of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of December, 2014, the Board Secretary’s monthly financial report (appropriations section) did not reflect an over-expenditure in any of the major accounts or funds, and based on the appropriation balances reflected on this report and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that the district has sufficient funds available to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion by Ms. O’Reilly	Seconded by Ms. McGowan
To approve Monthly Budget Status Certification ending December 2014	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

- Board Candidate Interviews – Mr. Merlino and Ms. Holst
- Update – One to One Laptop Initiative – Mr. Keiser updated Board
- Network Audit Presentation – Cyberology
- 2015-16 Preliminary Budget Discussion – Mr. Solokas updated Board
- Performance Target Data Report (<http://education.state.nj.us/pr/>) – Dr. Furnari updated Board
- Report of Committees
 - Community Relations – Dr. Marcus updated Board
 - Curriculum – Ms. McGowan updated Board
 - Operations – Mr. Koulikourdis updated Board
 - Negotiations – N/A
 - Policy – N/A
 - Technology – Ms. Schwartz updated Board

9. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS (30 MINUTES)**

Motion by Ms. O’Reilly	Seconded by Ms. McGowan
To approve motion to open the meeting to public discussion on agenda items	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Luciano, FLEA President, addressed the Board regarding contract negotiations. Three parents spoke in favor of keeping “K” as is. A parent suggested the Board appoint Ms. Holst to the Board. A teacher spoke about salary guide.

Motion by Ms. O’Reilly	Seconded by Ms. McGowan
To approve motion to close the public discussion and re-enter the regular public meeting.	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **RESOLUTIONS**

RESOLUTION #	TOPIC
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	
1CW	ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FROM RIVER DELL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM TO COLONIAL ROAD SCHOOL CAPS PROGRAM
2CW	ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FROM MR. AND MRS. FERNANDEZ
3CW	APPROVE VACATION AND CARRY OVER OF UNUSED VACATION TIME FOR DR. LYDIA FURNARI
Motion by Ms. O'Reilly To approve 1-3CW	Seconded by Ms. McGowan. Motion carried unanimously.
At 11:00 PM AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION 4CW-Walk In	APPOINT MR. MERLINO TO BOARD, EFFECTIVE 2/24/15 UNTIL BOARD REORGANIZATION IN JANUARY 2016.
Motion by Ms. O'Reilly To approve 4CW	Seconded by Ms. McGowan. Motion carried 5-3-0. YES: Ben-David, Marcus, Medeiros, McGowan, O'Reilly NO: Koulikourdis, Schwartz, Veliky ABSTAINED: None
BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND OPERATIONS	
	NONE
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION	
1CUR	APPROVAL OF FIELD TRIPS
Motion by Ms. McGowan To approve 1CUR	Seconded by Ms. O'Reilly. Motion carried unanimously.
FINANCE	
1F	APPROVAL OF NJSBA INTERNET POLICY SERVICES AND LICENSE AGREEMENT
2F	MEDICARE INITIATIVE PROGRAM (SEMI)
3F	APPROVAL OF LINE ITEM TRANSFERS – JANUARY, 2015
4F	APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLS LIST

Motion by Ms. O'Reilly To approve 1-4F	Seconded by Dr. Marcus. Motion carried unanimously.
PERSONNEL	
1P	APPROVAL OF STAFF TRIPS AND CONFERENCES
2P	APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS
3P	APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW OJEDA AS LEAVE REPLACEMENT MUSIC TEACHER, FRANKLIN AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL
Motion by Ms. O'Reilly To approve 1-3P	Seconded by Ms. McGowan. Motion carried unanimously.
4P	APPOINTMENT OF KELLY HART AS SUPERVISOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
Motion by Ms. O'Reilly To approve 4P	Seconded by Ms. McGowan. Motion carried 6-0-2. YES: Ben-David, McGowan, Medeiros, O'Reilly, Schwartz, Veliky NO: None ABSTAINED: Koulikourdis, Marcus
5P	APPROVE MATERNITY LEAVE FOR DINA STEPANKSY, SPEECH/LANGUAGE SPECIALIST, HIGH MOUNTAIN ROAD SCHOOL
6P	APPROVE MATERNITY LEAVE FOR KAREN AUGELLO, MATH TEACHER, FRANKLIN AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL
7P	EXTEND APPOINTMENT OF STEPHANIE PRALL, LEAVE REPLACEMENT CHILD ASSISTANCE COUNSELOR, WOODSIDE AVENUE SCHOOL
8P	APPROVE MATERNITY LEAVE FOR ERIN FONT, RESOURCE ROOM TEACHER, FRANKLIN AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL
9P	APPROVE MATERNITY LEAVE FOR CONSTANTINA ALLOCCO, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER, COLONIAL ROAD SCHOOL
10P	APPROVE MATERNITY LEAVE FOR JAMIE MINSK, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER, COLONIAL ROAD SCHOOL
11P	ELIMINATION OF PARAEDUCATOR POSITION
12P	APPOINTMENT OF DARA D'URSO AS 1:1 PARAEDUCATOR
Motion by Ms. O'Reilly To approve 5-12P	Seconded by Ms. McGowan. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY	
1POL	SECOND READING OF REVISED POLICY #6151: CLASS SIZE
Motion by Ms. McGowan To approve 1POL	Seconded by Ms. Veliky. Motion carried 7-1-0. YES: Ben-David, Koulikourdis, Marcus, McGowan, Medeiros, O'Reilly, Veliky NO: Schwartz ABSTAINED: None
TECHNOLOGY	
1T	APPROVAL OF NJSBA AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOLBOARDNET SERVICES
Motion by Ms. Schwartz To approve 1T	Seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

#1CW

RESOLUTION NO. 11628

**ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FROM RIVER DELL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
TEAM TO COLONIAL ROAD SCHOOL CAPS PROGRAM**

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education accepts the donation of \$4,000 for the Colonial Road School CAPS program from River Dell High School Basketball Team raised at their Annual Hoops 4 Autism benefit tournament.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

#2CW

RESOLUTION NO. 11629

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FROM MR. AND MRS. FERNANDEZ

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education accepts the donation from Konica Minolta and Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez to the High Mountain Road School of a Cube 3D printer, valued at \$999.00, to be used for instructional purposes in the Think Station classroom.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

#3CW

RESOLUTION NO. 11630

**APPROVE VACATION AND CARRY OVER OF UNUSED VACATION TIME
FOR DR. LYDIA FURNARI**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves the carry over of seven (7) unused vacation days from the 2014-15 contract year for use in the 2015-16 contract year and the use of these seven (7) vacation days on the following dates: July 1-2, 2015 and July 6-10, 2015 for Superintendent Lydia Furnari.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND OPERATIONS

RESOLUTION NO. NONE

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

#1CUR

RESOLUTION NO. 11631

APPROVAL OF FIELD TRIPS

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves the field trips listed on the attached summary.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

Attachment

FINANCE

#1F

RESOLUTION NO. 11632

APPROVAL OF NJSBA INTERNET POLICY SERVICES AND LICENSE AGREEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education retroactively approves the contract with New Jersey School Boards Association for the annual subscription fee of \$2,500.00 for the Internet Policy Services and License Agreement for the 2014-15 School Year.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

Attachment

#2F

RESOLUTION NO. 11633

MEDICARE INITIATIVE PROGRAM (SEMI)

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may require a waiver of compliance with respect to the district’s participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for 2015.

WHEREAS, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Special Education Medicaid eligible students.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Franklin Lakes Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Bergen an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A:12A-5.3 for 2015.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

#3F

RESOLUTION NO. 11634

APPROVAL OF LINE ITEM TRANSFERS – JANUARY, 2015

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the line item transfers for the months of January, 2015. In order to accomplish the aforesaid purpose the Business Administrator was authorized to transfer the amount of money into and out of the line items set forth on the attached schedule.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

Attachment

#4F

RESOLUTION NO. 11635

APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLS LIST

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves the payment of claims on the current bills list in the amount of \$3,798,439.85 for January, 2015.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

Attachment

#3P

RESOLUTION NO. 11638

**APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW OJEDA AS LEAVE REPLACEMENT MUSIC TEACHER,
FRANKLIN AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves the appointment of Matthew Ojeda as a Leave Replacement Music Teacher at Franklin Avenue Middle School for the 2014-15 school year, at Step 1, Class BA on the teacher’s salary guide at a salary of \$50,885.00, prorated, plus an \$8,000 stipend, prorated, effective February 9, 2015 – May 22, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to make application for approval of the employment of Matthew Ojeda to the Commissioner of Education on an emergent basis for a period of three months pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1c pending clearance of a Criminal History Records check.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appointment is expressly contingent upon Matthew Ojeda executing the Board’s customary employment contract, containing a sixty (60) day termination clause.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

#4P

RESOLUTION NO. 11639

**APPOINTMENT OF KELLY HART AS SUPERVISOR OF CURRICULUM
AND INSTRUCTION**

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves the appointment of Kelly Hart as Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction for the Franklin Lakes School District for the 2014-15 school year, at a salary of \$82,000.00, prorated, effective on or before March 29, 2015 – June 30, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to make application for approval of the employment of Kelly Hart to the Commissioner of Education on an emergent basis for a period of three months pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1c pending clearance of a Criminal History Records check.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appointment is expressly contingent upon Kelly Hart executing the Board’s customary employment contract, containing a sixty (60) day termination clause.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

#5P

RESOLUTION NO. 11640

APPROVE MATERNITY LEAVE FOR DINA STEPANKSY, SPEECH/LANGUAGE SPECIALIST, HIGH MOUNTAIN ROAD SCHOOL

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves a maternity leave for Dina Stepansky from April 14 – June 30, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Dina Stepansky.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

#6P

RESOLUTION NO. 11641

APPROVE MATERNITY LEAVE FOR KAREN AUGELLO, MATH TEACHER, FRANKLIN AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves a maternity leave for Karen Augello, Math Teacher, Franklin Avenue Middle School, from March 30 – June 30, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Karen Augello.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

#7P

RESOLUTION NO. 11642

EXTEND APPOINTMENT OF STEPHANIE PRALL, LEAVE REPLACEMENT CHILD ASSISTANCE COUNSELOR, WOODSIDE AVENUE SCHOOL

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves to extend the appointment of Stephanie Prall, Leave Replacement Child Assistance Counselor, Woodside Avenue School, originally scheduled through January 23, 2015 to the new end date of January 30, 2015.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

#8P

RESOLUTION NO. 11643

**APPROVE MATERNITY LEAVE FOR ERIN FONT, RESOURCE ROOM TEACHER,
FRANKLIN AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves a maternity leave for Erin Font, Resource Room Teacher, Franklin Avenue Middle School, from April 27, 2015 – June 30, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Erin Font.

Motion by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

Seconded by _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

#9P

RESOLUTION NO. 11644

**APPROVE MATERNITY LEAVE FOR CONSTANTINA ALLOCCO, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TEACHER, COLONIAL ROAD SCHOOL**

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves a maternity leave for Constantina Allocco, Elementary School Teacher, Colonial Road School, from March 27, 2015 – June 30, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Constantina Allocco.

Motion by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

Seconded by _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

#10P

RESOLUTION NO. 11645

**APPROVE MATERNITY LEAVE FOR JAMIE MINSK, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER,
COLONIAL ROAD SCHOOL**

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves a maternity leave for Jamie Minsk, Elementary School Teacher, Colonial Road School, from May 1, 2015 – April 28, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Jamie Minsk.

Motion by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

Seconded by _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

#11P

RESOLUTION NO. 11646

ELIMINATION OF PARAEDUCATOR POSITION

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves the elimination of a ParaEducator Position, occupied by Risa D'Angelo, effective February 21, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Risa D'Angelo.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

#12P

RESOLUTION NO. 11647

APPOINTMENT OF DARA D'URSO AS 1:1 PARAEDUCATOR

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves the appointment of Dara D'Urso as a 1:1 ParaEducator for the remainder of the 2014-15 school year, at a salary of *\$24,363.00, prorated, effective February 23, 2015 - June 30, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to make application for approval of the employment of Dara D'Urso to the Commissioner of Education on an emergent basis for a period of three months pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1c pending clearance of a Criminal History Records check.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appointment is expressly contingent upon Dara D'Urso executing the Board's customary employment contract, containing a sixty (60) day termination clause.

* SALARY TO BE ADJUSTED UPON RATIFICATION OF SUCCESSOR BOARD/FLEA AGREEMENT

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015

POLICY

#1POL

RESOLUTION NO. 11648

SECOND READING OF REVISED POLICY #6151: CLASS SIZE

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves a second reading for revised Policy #6151: Class Size.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015
Attachment

TECHNOLOGY

#1T

RESOLUTION NO. 11649

APPROVAL OF NJSBA AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOLBOARDNET SERVICES

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education approves the agreement with New Jersey School Boards Association for Schoolboard.net services at an annual subscription fee of \$2,360.00 for the 2014-15 School Year.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
Passed _____ Failed _____

DATED: February 10, 2015
Attachment

- 11. **SUSPENSION REPORT** - Dr. Furnari reported 4 suspensions.
- 12. **ENROLLMENT REPORT**- Dr. Furnari reported increase of 4 students.
- 13. **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Vision Statement:

In pursuit of our district’s vision to build a learning environment where all children and adults take ownership to become imaginative, reflective, information age explorers and contributors to society, by developing in students a life-long commitment to learning, a sense of personal and social responsibility, healthy self-esteem, and a respect and appreciation of diversity, I offer the following update on our progress toward District Goals.

Our first goal speaks to the importance of Student Achievement, assessment and program evaluation.

Tonight, we welcomed Ms. Kelly Hart to our district. Ms. Hart brings a wealth of knowledge in the area of STEM education to our administrative team in support of our teaching staff members. I had the opportunity to visit classrooms with Ms. Hart as part of the interview process, along with several other administrators. We were all impressed by her insights and commentary. I would like to once again congratulate Ms. Hart on her appointment.

This section was presented during the Board's discussion related to NJ School Performance Reports, earlier in the meeting.] The NJDOE recently released previously embargoed NJ School Performance Reports for the 2013-2014 school year. While the district presents a full analysis of this and additional data received from NJDOE later in the school year, I can share the following information with you now:

Our schools continue to demonstrate Very High Performance in the area of Academic Achievement when compared to schools throughout the State of New Jersey.

Each of our schools, having a unique Peer Group, compares differently to their Peer Group schools. It should be noted that Peer Group schools change annually, and there is no guarantee that schools within a school district will be part of one another's Peer Group.

While at first glance, it appears that our schools demonstrated Average Performance, Lagging Performance or Significantly Lagging Performance when compared to their unique Peer Groups, a deeper analysis of these data is required in order to better understand what that actually means. For example, one of our schools attained 90% Proficiency and Advanced Proficiency in Language Arts and 89% in Mathematics, but is designated in the Average Performance range among Peer Group schools.

Our schools met between 88% and 100% of their progress targets in the areas of Academic Achievement and Student Growth.

3 of our 4 schools achieved 100% of their progress targets for College & Career readiness.

It should be noted that this area includes the number of students taking Algebra 1 and the measure of Chronic Absenteeism for middle schools. It only includes Chronic Absenteeism at the elementary level. Only 1 of our elementary schools missed the state set target of 6% Chronic Absenteeism, with a calculation of 7% for the 2013-2014 school year.

As I mentioned before, more information will be provided in the coming months with regard to our analysis of these data.

On another note, I was invited by Principal Joanne Mathews to attend the AMBS Open House on January 30th. I was escorted by 4 AMBS students, who very articulately described the program, resources and facilities available at their school. It was both an honor and a pleasure to attend this event. It should be noted that we interact with AMBS on a number of occasions and look forward to continuing this relationship in future. I would like to publicly thank Principal Mathews for inviting me to tour her school.

As you know, the PARCC assessment will be administered in our district in March and May, 2015. You have most likely heard a good deal in the news, regarding the issue of test refusal. As you know, I sent a letter to parents indicating a few important points about the administration of the PARCC. First, New Jersey State Statute requires all New Jersey school districts to assess students using a standardized measure annually. NJDOE also requires school districts to achieve a 95% participation rate in all testing grades and for all sub-groups on the state standardized assessment. These assessments used to be NJASK and HSPA, and have been replaced by PARCC, with the exception of the NJASK Science test for grades 4 and 8. It is very important to remember that our district is required to follow directives from NJDOE until such time as those directives change, usually through statutory revision or directive from the Commissioner. The matter of parent or student refusal to take the PARCC is one that is growing in our state. There are legislators and others involved in the matter, with opinions and sentiments ranging from that of compliance to taking an anti-testing stance. Still and all, schools and school districts are caught in the middle, with only existing legislation and directives on which to rely. Since this is the case, our district continues to prepare our staff and students for PARCC, as we have in the past for other state assessments. We also continue to provide essential information and resources to parents regarding the PARCC, including presentations made by our Curriculum Office, which can be found on the District website. In order to address the issue of test refusal, our PARCC Frequently Asked Questions document has been updated to include the

topic. The revision to the FAQ includes an outline of what will happen if a student refuses to test, or if a parent refuses in writing to allow their child to test. In short, NJDOE has always had directions to districts including procedures to be followed in the event of a student's refusal to test. With NJASK, the student's test was voided and the student was removed from the testing location. Our district will follow the same procedure with PARCC. Students refusing to test will not remain in the testing location as they may inadvertently distract students who are testing, constituting what is called a test disruption. Any students refusing to test (or whose parent has refused in writing to allow their child to test, will be relocated to a non-testing area under the supervision of staff not assigned to administer the assessment. There will be no alternate instruction at this location, but the child will be able to read quietly. It is our intent to keep the integrity and fairness of testing in tact, while acknowledging the fact that we may have some students who are unable or unwilling to complete the assessment. The PARCC data will provide teachers and administrators with important information as to the strengths and areas in need of support for students as well as the design of our curricular and instructional programs. However, please be reminded that the scores for PARCC will not be used to grade students, nor will they be used for promotion or placement into programs for the coming school year.

Our second goal speaks to the professional development of administrators and staff in support of teaching and learning.

The Board of Education approves expenditures pertaining to the provision of professional development to our staff on a regular basis. In addition to the allocation of funds, I must assure the Board that the District is engaging in appropriate professional development activities for our staff. I provide this information to the Board by way of a written report. This report contains all of the opportunities in which our staff participates during professional development meetings, full and partial day professional development scheduled events, as well as opportunities for staff to attend PD activities outside of our district. All of these events have a direct correlation to the professional development plans for the District, for our Schools, and/or for individual teachers. I am happy to report that we are on track with our professional development goals, and that our staff members bring what they have learned to their daily practice regularly.

Our third goal is about communication.

During the month of January, the district notified the public that we would be accepting registration for in-coming Kindergarten students for the 2015-2016 school year. Notice of Kindergarten registration was e-blasted to parents, posted on the District website, advertised in local newspapers, and was also very kindly posted on the Borough website as well. The process was streamlined to include an online registration component, and to date we have over 50 registrants for the upcoming school year. I encourage parents of children who will be eligible to attend Kindergarten in 2015-2016 to register if they have not already begun the process.

Finally, Our fourth goal is related to Financial & Resource Management.

Tonight the Board began preliminary discussions about the 2015-2016 budget. This is the first of a number of important upcoming discussions that will result in the allocation of resources to support the educational and operational needs of our Schools and our District. I want to thank the Board and the public for your willingness to help us to ensure that we continue to plan for the efficient and effective use of the resources available to us. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of Mr. Solokas, who continues to keep the needs of our students and staff at the forefront of his work.

This concludes tonight's update. I am happy to address any questions you may have. Thank you.

14. **BOARD COMMENTS/NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. O'Reilly inquired about placing an ad in FLEF journal.
Ms. Schwartz and Ms. Veliky thanked Mr. Keiser for laptop presentation

15. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON ANY TOPIC OF CONCERN – 30 MINUTES**

Motion by Ms. O'Reilly	Seconded by Ms. McGowan
To approve motion to open the meeting to public discussion on any topic of concern.	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

None

Motion by Ms. O'Reilly	Seconded by Ms. McGowan
To approve motion to close the public discussion and re-enter the regular public meeting.	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

16. **PRIVATE WORK SESSION TIME:**

Motion by Ms. O'Reilly	Seconded by Ms. McGowan
To approve motion to enter into Private Session at 10:10 p.m.	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

To discuss the Board candidates resumes.

Motion by Ms. O'Reilly	Seconded by Ms. McGowan
To approve motion to close the private session and re-enter the regular public meeting at 11:00 p.m. At this time a motion was made to approve walk-in resolution 4CW appointing Mr. Merlino to the Board.	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Ms. O'Reilly	Seconded by Ms. McGowan
To approve motion to adjourn meeting at 11:30 p.m.	On roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Solokas
Business Administrator/Board
Secretary