

**HANOVER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES
September 20, 2022**

I. OPENING

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Vanessa Wolsky, Board Secretary, at 6:30 p.m. in the IMC at Memorial Junior School, 61 Highland Avenue, Whippany, NJ 07981.

Mrs. Wolsky read the following statement:

In accordance with P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, notice of this meeting was provided to the newspaper of record, appropriately posted and sent to the Township Clerk on September 16, 2022. Please stand for the flag salute.

Present: Board Members:	Mr. Stephen Furda (arrived 6:38 p.m.) Mrs. Marcella Wilson Dr. Lynda Wright Mr. Jeffrey Basile Mrs. Kathryn McSorley Mr. Marc Amoresano Mrs. Lisa Bomengo Mrs. Patricia Mattia
Superintendent Business Administrator/ Board Secretary	Mr. Michael J. Wasko Mrs. Vanessa M. Wolsky
Board Attorney	Mrs. Nathanya Simon
Absent: Board Members	Mrs. Gina Marie Winkler

II. BOARD DISCUSSION – 2020 NJSLA – COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Mrs. Mattia indicated that tonight's meeting is in response to a motion that was passed previously for a special meeting regarding the 2020 NJSLA Comprehensive Health and Physical Education standards. A public forum was held on August 22 where Mr. Wasserman and Mr. Wasko gave a presentation for the Community on the standards and answered questions from the public and tonight is for Board discussion. She opened the meeting to Board discussion. No discussion occurred.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barbara Eames shared her concerns with the health curriculum and the 2020 standards and recommended that the Board postpone adopting the curriculum.

Gregory Skiff urged the Board to pass a resolution to reject the standards.

Susan Isles questioned what had been removed from the 8th grade health curriculum. Mrs. Mattia noted that this is an opportunity for public comment. Mrs. Bomengo said the motion said interactive. Mrs. Mattia said that meeting happened on August 22 and this meeting is for Board discussion.

Mr. Wasko stated that anyone with specific questions regarding curriculum can call their child's teacher, Principal, Director of Curriculum or the Superintendent as needed to discuss specifics.

Mrs. Bomengo inquired if an amendment would need to be made to a motion for it not to be fulfilled. She reread the motion she made in July. Mrs. Mattia asked Nathanya Simon, Board Attorney, to comment on the matter. Mrs. Simon said it was her understanding that the way in which the motion was implemented was for the public to come, listen to the presentation, ask questions and have them answered which was done previously and the opportunity for the Board to discuss the matter and listen to the public is taking place tonight. In her opinion, between those two meetings, the resolution was implemented. Mrs. Simon also noted that this portion of the meeting is public comment and that the public should be allowed to continue with their opportunity to speak.

Mrs. Isles stated that additionally she would like to know if the public could get the lesson plans and stated that she was disappointed there was no discussion tonight.

Mr. Wasko said lesson plans are confidential and not shared publicly. He also reiterated that anyone with concerns on any content area can call with their concerns.

Fern Wolken stated that the public needs to trust the teachers and also shared her concerns that the rejection of the standards could negatively impact the community in terms of loss of state aid and lower home values.

Christine Egbert asked Mr. Wasko to repeat what he said about lesson plans being private. Mr. Wasko said lesson plans are a personnel matter and all personnel matters are confidential. He again reiterated that anyone with any questions or concerns can contact the teacher, Principal, Director of Curriculum and Superintendent if necessary. He also reminded the public of the option to opt out.

Karen Cortright talked about the importance of supporting children and teaching empathy, compassion, kindness and inclusion during a time that they are struggling and suicide rates are high.

IV. BOARD DISCUSSION

Mrs. Bomengo inquired what was removed from the State curriculum. Mr. Wasko said the curriculum the District has been doing has been transitioned and realigned to the 2020 learning standards. He stated that he did not have a specific list but that we have

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realigned our curriculum to meet the revised grade bands and that we believe our curriculum is aligned with the core beliefs in the 2020 standards.

Mr. Amoresano said other Districts are posting lesson plans and inquired about posting the resources that will be used. He also stated that there haven't been any specific penalties discussed for rejecting standards and that many attorneys have said the most that can be does a reduction in QSAC points. Mr. Wasko said the District's new online curriculum does list resources. He noted that the NJSLS are mandatory for public schools in NJ and schools are evaluated on them through QSAC. He also noted that the DOE publicly said Districts are permitted to implement standards in a broad manner and have a tremendous amount of latitude which the District is utilizing. He indicated that if the District's QSAC score falls below 80, it faces disciplinary action which could require creating a plan for performance improvement and be placed on a performance continuum, state will determine what level of oversight Districts will receive.

XI. ADJOURNMENT – 7:12 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Wilson

Second: Mrs. McSorley

Approved: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Vanessa M. Wolsky
Business Administrator/Board Secretary