

INDEX

The following items are contained in the March 24, 2010 Work Session Minutes:

1. Executive Session
2. Tuition Student Contracts
3. April 28, 2010 Work Session
4. Letter of Agreement for Library Automation Services
5. Local Government Energy Audit Program
6. Public Participation
7. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

A Work Session Meeting of the Margate City Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 P.M. on March 24, 2010 by Christopher Storcella in the cafeteria of the William H. Ross, Margate, New Jersey.

Certification of Notice:

The Board Secretary announced that adequate notice of this meeting had been provided and read the following Certification Notice:

I, Susan E. Palaia, Secretary of the Margate City Board of Education hereby certifies:

On March 22, 2010, a notice of this meeting was posted on the district website, the bulletin board in the Board of Education Administration Office, the Eugene A. Tighe School, the Union Avenue School, the William H Ross, III School and advertised in the Press that action may be taken.

<u>Roll Call</u> - Members Present:	Mr. Christopher Storcella, President, Mrs. Linda Levitt Doyle, Vice-President, Mrs. Renee Bell,
..	Mr. Brad Jacobson, Mr. Christopher Koch,
..	Mrs. Joanne Kulzer, Mr. J.B. Sless
..	
Members Absent:	None
Others Present:	Dr. Theresa DeFranco, Superintendent; Susan Palaia, Board Secretary, Carl Tripician, Longport Representative

Executive Session:

Upon motion by Mrs. Kulzer, seconded by Mrs. Levitt Doyle, the board unanimously agreed to go into Executive Session at 6:35 P.M. for the purposes of discussing personnel and student matters.

Upon motion by Mrs. Kulzer, seconded by Mrs. Bell, the board unanimously agreed to reconvene the meeting at 7:20 P.M.

Tuition Student Contracts:

Dr. De Franco discussed the effects that tuition students have on class size. She indicated that if all four of the current tuition students at the kindergarten class level remain in the district this could make the difference between 2 or 3 classes at the first grade level. She noted that the 6 projected students for the second grade could also make the difference between 2 or 3 classes at that grade level. This could result in the keeping of an additional third teacher at both of these grades levels that may otherwise not be needed if the tuition students did not attend. She reviewed the other grade level and reported the tuition students didn't add incrementally to class size. Only in a few subject matter levels for the upper grades did they result in an additional class.

The board discussed if a priority should be placed on the acceptance of tuition students for staff members and students with sibling currently in the district over other of new applicants. The board discussed current tuition rate and if it should be increased for the 2010-2011.

April 28, 2010 Work Session:

It was decided to cancel the April 28, 2010 work session meeting.

Letter of Agreement for Library Automation Services:

The board reviewed a proposed agreement between the Margate City Public Library and the Margate City Board of Education for shared library services and products which would include access to the Integrated Public Library System.

Local Government Energy Audit Program:

Motion by Mr. Sless, seconded by Mr. Jacobson, to apply for reimbursement of 100% of the audit cost or \$42,769.00 from the Local Government Energy Audit Program to use for the installation of the recommended measures as per the energy audit completed Dome Tech and submitted to New Jersey Clean Energy Audit Program on October 22, 2010. Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mrs. Bell, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Koch, Mrs. Kulzer, Mr. Sless, Mrs. Levitt Doyle,
Mr. Storcella
Nays: None

Public Participation:

Mrs. Rich commented that to eliminate tuition students to have fewer but larger classes was not a good idea. She indicated it would be really bad to have 22 students in first and second grades. She added that it would be preferable to increase the tuition fee and if needed to accept more tuition students.

Mrs. Rich questioned if the district is still going to continue to pay aid-in-lieu of transportation for students attending St. Augustine Prep. Mr. Storcella replied that as of now it is board policy to pay the aid-in-lieu for those students. He added that this could be changed if the board makes changes to the policy.

Mrs. Rich asked if there would be Gifted and Talented sections for the sixth and seventh grades. She also inquired if the new reading books have come in? Dr. DeFranco said the reading books have been delivered. She explained that balanced literacy is spending time in independent, shared and guided reading and writing. The intent of the balanced literacy approach is to assure that all these areas are getting the appropriate amount of time. Dr. DeFranco indicated that an Honors/Accelerated program would be combined with the Gifted and Talented program.

Mr. Gluck commented that their family has three tuition students in the district. He stated he understands the fiscal concerns and would be in favor of a tuition increase if it is reasonable.

Mr. Novak asked if Union Avenue School was being closed why is there still a budget problem? Mr. Storcella replied that the district has lost close to one million dollars in State

Public Participation: (Continued)

funding.

A member of the community commented that 22 students in a class for the younger years would not be acceptable. He commented that the solar panels on the roofs should zero out the electric bills.

Mrs. Blumberg commented that the tuition policy was developed to bring in money. The tuition students are now integrated into the district. She asked the board to think of the students in terms of relationships that have been made. She commented that the 32 tuition students attending next year might cover the cost of two teachers.

Mr. Reed commented that money is tight now. He added that labor is a fixed cost. The tuition students allow for greater flexibility so that the district would be able to maintain the same number of classes for each grade. He stated he thought the teachers were made the scapegoats at the last board meeting. He indicated that the decisions that have been made over the last five to ten years have caused this situation. He added that he is against waivers for kindergarten bathrooms and small playgrounds. He commented that the dollars we are paying for are a premium and now we are putting younger students into a school not built for them. He asked what the board was looking at down the line. Mr. Storcella replied that the board does not have a plan that is totally developed yet. They hoped to get the Union Avenue School rented. Dr. DeFranco added that they are looking into grants and pursuing fundraising partnerships.

A member of the community commented that people would rather pay a little more and keep the teachers jobs.

Mrs. Sherry Scott, Margate Education Association President, addressed the board on behalf of the teachers' association.

Adjournment:

The board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan E. Palaia
Board Secretary/SBA