

MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP OF EDUCATION

WORK SESSION

JANUARY 23, 2007

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT

The Work Session of the Mount Laurel Township Board of Education was called to order in the Mt. Laurel Hartford School, located at 397 Hartford Road, Mount Laurel, NJ, by Ms. Margaret Haynes, President at 7:30 p.m.

B. NOTICE OF MEETING

Ms. Haynes read the Open Public Meeting Preamble stating, "In Compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, the date, time, and location of this meeting have been filed with the Municipal Clerk, posted at the Municipal Center, and sent to four newspapers, on May 24, 2006 and January 2, 2007.

C. FLAG SALUTE

D. BOARD OF EDUCATION ROLL CALL

Roll Call - Members Present: Ms. Blair Mr. Crowe, Mr. Frey, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Greatrex, Ms. Siegel, Ms. Wolfe, Ms. Haynes

Board Member Absent: Ms. Jones

Also Present: Dr. Rath, Mr. Wachter, Mr. Weiss

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion as per the attached agenda.

F. COMMUNICATIONS

Discussion as per the attached agenda.

G. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - REPORTS/
INFORMATION ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE**

Discussion as per attached agenda

H. **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR BUSINESS/ SECRETARY'S REPORT -
INFORMATION ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

Discussion as per the attached agenda.

I. **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORTS**

Discussion as per the attached agenda

1. Correspondence

2. Board Reports

(a) Negotiations

No report.

(b) BCSBA

Mr. Gallagher stated that the next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2007.

(c) NJSBA

No report.

(d) Lenape Council

No report.

(e) Library

Ms. Haynes stated that she attended the Library Re-organization meeting.

(f) PTO Liaison

No report

J. TOPIC PRESENTATIONS

1. Dr. Rath gave a presentation on the Final–Report Concept Study of Two Middle Schools. (See Attached Copy)
 - Upon completion of Dr. Rath’s presentation of the Concept Study of Two Middle Schools, Ms. Haynes thanked Dr. Rath for a very thorough report. Ms. Haynes then asked Board Members if they had any question in regards to Dr. Rath’s presentation.
 - Dr. Rath entertained questions and had dialog with Board Members about the concept of Two Middle Schools
 - Upon completion of this discussion, Ms. Siegel thanked Dr. Rath for the comprehensive report.
 - Prior to opening the meeting to the Public Ms. Haynes read a statement in which she thanked everyone involved with this process for all of their efforts.

K. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Haynes opened the meeting for public comment at approximately 9:20 p.m.

The following individuals spoke to the Board about the topic of two Middle Schools.

Bonni Rubin-Sugarman	116 Sandhurst Drive (See Attached Statement)
Kelly Graber	Principal, Larchmont School, President of the MLAA
Joanne Pelly	733 Amsterdam Road
Linda Bobo	47 Abington Road (See Attached Statement)
Scott Chelemer	549 Norwood Road
Paige Salvado	16 Richland
Mark Rowe	22 Wood Lark Drive
Terry Propper	5005 Church Road
Adam Samson	1323 Hainesport-Mt. Laurel Road
Michelle Sandberg	20 Autumnwood Lane
Melissa Nahama	527 Foxwood Drive
Bill Elliott	121 Yorktown Drive
Gary Oufurmael	8 Danbury Court

The Board took a 10 minute recess at 10:00 p.m. The Board Reconvened at 10:10 p.m.

After all those who wished to address the Board had the opportunity to do so, Ms. Haynes closed the public comment portion of the meeting at approximately 10:30 p.m.

Upon completion of the Public Session Ms. Haynes called for a “straw poll vote for the purpose of gauging if the process should continue in light of public opposition and some Board Members concerns”.

Ms. Haynes stated, “that the question for the straw poll vote would be whether we would perhaps make a motion to accept the report but not the 5-8 reconfiguration”.

Ms. Siegel stated that she was opposed to taking any action that would prematurely abridge the process.

The Board received clarification from Mr. Weiss (Board Solicitor). Upon completion of this discussion Ms. Wolfe made the recommendation to amend the agenda under “Other Business” to conduct a straw poll vote on the two Middle School Concept.

On motion of Ms. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Gallagher the Board voted to amend the agenda under “Other Business” to include a straw poll vote on the two Middle School concept.

Roll Call Vote – Ms. Wolfe Yes, Mr. Gallagher Yes, Ms. Blair Yes, Mr. Crowe Yes, Mr. Frey Yes, Mr. Greatrex Yes, Ms. Siegel No, Ms. Haynes Yes.

L. **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

Discussion as per the attached agenda.

M. **BUSINESS AND FACILITIES**

Discussion as per the attached agenda.

N. **PERSONNEL/NEGOTIATIONS**

Discussion as per the attached agenda

O. **POLICY AND LEGISLATION**

Discussion per the attached agenda

P. **ADDITIONAL REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Q. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Greatrex stated that he had come to a decision and there was no need for a straw poll vote.

Mr. Greatrex made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wolfe to reject the recommendation to reconfigure the two Middle Schools as presented. (Prior to the motion Mr. Greatrex thanked Dr. Rath and all participants for their efforts).

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Greatrex Yes, Ms. Wolfe Yes, Ms. Blair Yes, Mr. Crowe Yes, Mr. Frey No, Mr. Gallagher Yes, Ms. Siegel No, Ms., Haynes No. Motion Carried.

Mr. Frey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gallagher to cancel the January 25, 2007 Special Public meeting on the the Two Middle School Concept.

Roll Call Vote- Yes: Mr. Frey, Mr. Gallagher, Ms. Blair, Mr. Crowe, Mr. Greatrex, Ms. Siegel Ms. Wolfe, Ms. Haynes. Motion Carried.

R. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

S. **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

T. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Mr. Frey, seconded by Ms. Wolfe, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 p.m.

All Board members present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert F. Wachter, Jr.
Assistant Superintendent for Business/
Secretary

(President)