MINUTES OF THE LOPATCONG TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

President Taggart called the meeting to order on February 8, 2011 at 7:04 pm. Mrs. Barna read the following opening statement: "I would like to announce and have placed in the minutes that adequate notice of this regular meeting of the Lopatcong Township Board of Education has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of the annual notice in the Express-Times. A copy of the agenda has been filed with the Township Clerk and posted at both school locations.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

ROLL CALL

Present: Wade Caccese (arrived at 7:07 pm), Dennis Drake, Robert Edinger, Ernie Gallant, Joe Kennedy, Kurt Kessler, Ed Krusman, Bob McFarlane and Bill Taggart

Absent: None

Others Present: Vicki J. Pede, Superintendent; Teresa E. Barna, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Rosemary Kowalchuk, Principal; Matthew Eagleburger, Principal; John Comegno, Board Attorney and approximately 45 members of the public.

READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Mrs. Pede recited the District Mission Statement.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Krista Wayne – Request for Family Medical Leave
2. Valerie Turker – Request for Unpaid Leave

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Mrs. Larsen summarized some of the activities that are taking place in each building. Please see the attachment for more details.

RECOGNITION OF LOPATCONG TOWNSHIP MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

Mr. Geisel thanked Mr. Bob McFarlane, on behalf of the Student Council, for being the Santa Claus at the winter dance. Mr. Geisel stated that the Student Council recently received two awards at the Winter Leadership Conference. Mrs. Ruane and Mrs. Fernandez, Student Council Advisors were present to present the awards. The first award received was the Top 10 Projects Award. The Almost Anything Goes event was recognized by the New Jersey Association of Student Councils for coordinating the games, designing the T-shirt and raising money to donate to the local fire department and emergency squad. The Student Council was also awarded the Honor School Award.

DISCUSSION WITH TOWN COUNCIL

Mr. Taggart spoke on behalf of the Mayor and Town Council. The Mayor apologizes for not being able to be in attendance. Due to schedule conflicts, the Mayor and Town Council could not be here this evening.

MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Kessler, second by Mr. Drake, that the minutes of the January 11, 2011 meeting be approved and filed as presented. Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Kessler, second by Mr. Edinger, that the executive session minutes of January 11, 2011 be approved and filed as presented. Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

BILL LISTS

Motion by Mr. Gallant, second by Mr. Edinger, that the bill list submitted for the January 11, 2011 meeting for the Operating Account in the amount of $922,847.07 be approved for payment.
Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORTS

Motion by Mr. Gallant, seconded by Mr. Drake, that the Secretary/Treasurer's Reports submitted for the month ending December 31, 2010 which agree with each other and the bank, be approved and filed. Motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

FINANCIAL REPORTS CERTIFICATION

Motion by Mr. Kessler, seconded by Mr. Edinger, as follows: Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3(c)3, the Board Secretary certifies that no line account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(a) and; pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3(c)4, we certify that as of December 31, 2010, after review of the monthly report and upon consultation with the appropriate officials, to the best of our knowledge no major line account or fund has been overexpended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the entire fiscal year. Motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Duaime asked if there was going to be a meeting with town council. Yes, we still plan on having a joint meeting with town council and when it is rescheduled, the meeting will be announced publicly.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Education

R-159-11 **Family Leave Request**

Motion by Mr. Kennedy, second by Mr. Gallant,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve an unpaid family leave for Krista Wayne commencing on February 22, 2011 through February 25, 2011 under the Family and Medical Leave Act as requested.

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

R-160-11 **Unpaid Leave Request**

Motion by Mr. Drake, second by Mr. Edinger,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve a vacation leave without pay for Valerie Turker commencing on February 11, 2011 through February 17, 2011 as requested.

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

R-161-11 **Horizontal Salary Guide Movement**

Motion by Mr. Gallant, second by Mr. Drake,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve horizontal salary guide movement effective February 1, 2011 as follows.

Name	New Locator
Patricia Steele	LL/BA+30
Richard Bonney	PP/MA
James Thompson	KK/BA+15

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

R-162-11 **Substitutes for 2010-2011**

Motion by Mr. McFarlane, second by Mr. Krusman,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve a list of substitutes for the 2010-2011 school year as attached.

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

R-163-11 **Daytop Village of New Jersey Contract**

Motion by Mr. Kennedy, second by Mr. Gallant,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve a contract with Daytop Village of New Jersey to provide home instruction for high school student ID# 501207 at the rate of $108.00 per day commencing October 20, 2010 until no longer necessary for the 2010-2011 year.

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

R-164-11 **Field Trips**

Motion by Mr. Drake, second by Mr. Edinger,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the following field trips:

Grade	Destination	Date	Company	Amount
Band	North Warren High School	4-13-11 snow date 4-14-11	Pohatcong is securing bus	-
Band	Hershey Park	5-13-11	Snyder Bus Co.	$600.00
			B & K Dalrymple	$990.00
7th and 8th	Phillipsburg High School	5-26-11	B & K Dalrymple	$45.00
Band	Jazz Band Festival	4-7-11	Parents transport	-

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

R-165-11 **Volunteers for 2010-2011**

Motion by Mr. Gallant, second by Mr. Edinger,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve volunteers for the 2010-2011 school year as presented.

Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

b. Facilities and Technology

R-166-11 **Facility Use Request**

Motion by Mr. Edinger, second by Mr. Gallant,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve facility use requests for the 2010-2011 school year as follows:

Elementary School:

Organization	Date	School Area
LAA Wrestling	3-5-11	APR and gym

Middle School:

Organization	Date	School Area
Stateliners Soccer Club	new date 2-16-11	MPR
Stateliners Lacrosse	new date 1-25-11	vestibule
Community Basketball Tournament	3-5-11	APR & Gym
PTA Sweetheart Dance	new date 2-17-11	APR

Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

R-167-11 **USA Architects Contract Addendum**

Motion by Mr. Caccese, second by Mr. Edinger,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve an addendum to the original contract with USA Architects dated December 8, 2009 which includes a fee adjustment of $2300.00 to the construction documents phase of the project.

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

c. Finance

R-168-11 **Transfer of Uncommitted Funds**

Motion by Mr. Gallant, second by Mr. McFarlane,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the transfer of uncommitted funds within the 2010-2011 school year budget in the amount of $50,828.00.

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

R-169-11 **Employee Travel and Expense Reimbursement**

Motion by Mr. Kessler, second by Mr. Edinger,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve employee travel and expense reimbursement as attached.

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

d. Policy

R-170-11 **First Reading of Revised Policies**

Motion by Mr. Kessler, second by Mr. Edinger,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent and the Policy Committee, adopt on first reading, the following revised policies.

Policy Number	Title
1523	Comprehensive Equity Plan
1530	Equal Employment Opportunities
1550	Affirmative Action Program for Employment and Contract Practices
2260	Affirmative Action Program for School and Classroom Practices
2415.01	Academic Standards, Academic Assessments and Accountability
2415.04	Title I – District-Wide Parental Involvement
2423	Bilingual and ESL Education
6360	Political Contributions
6362	Contributions to Board Members and Contract Awards
8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations
8420	Emergency and Non-Fire Evacuation Plan
8420.2	Bomb Threat
8420.7	Lockdown Procedures
8740	Bonding

Roll Call Vote: 8 – Yes. Motion carried. Mr. Krusman – No. Motion carried.

Mr. Krusman stated that he abstained because he has some questions.

R-171-11 **First Reading of New Policies**

Motion by Mr. Edinger, second by Mr. McFarlane,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent and the Policy Committee, adopt on first reading, the following policies.

Policy Number	Title
1140	Affirmative Action Program
8420.10	Active Shooter

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

R-172-11 **Revised 2010-2011 School Year Calendar**

Motion by Mr. McFarlane, second by Mr. Gallant,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the revised 2010-2011 school year calendar as presented.

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

Mrs. Pede stated that the calendar has been revised to show two make-up days as being in session. Those dates are February 17, 2011 and April 18, 2011.

R-173-11 **College Student Observation**

Motion by Mr. Kennedy, second by Mr. McFarlane,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve Centenary College Student, Russa Nollstadt to observe Marsha Torine 1.5 hours each day for two days for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year.

Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

R-174-11 **Long Range Facilities Plan**

Motion by Mr. Gallant, second by Mr. Drake,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, authorize USA Architects to complete the five year Long Range Facility Plan at a cost not to exceed $5600.00.

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Pede congratulated the Student Council on their awards. Mrs. Pede reaffirmed that she sends weekly updates to the board and most information is contained in there. Mr. Crevani will do a presentation to the board at a future meeting on Smart Music. There is a joint staff meeting scheduled for tomorrow at the middle school. Mrs. Pede stated that a letter was sent home letting parents know that the teacher in-service day will be rescheduled for February 18th. Elementary School Report Cards went home this past week. Elementary School Literacy Night is rescheduled for March 17th. The Middle School Writing Workshop Night is being rescheduled with students being featured. Middle School QRI testing should be finished on Thursday and the Rachel's Challenge section of the library is being worked on.

Mrs. Pede stated that the 2011-2012 county draft of the school calendar has been released. We are looking at the possibility of having staff report on September 1 and the students returning after Labor Day. And a reminder that the elementary school will be under construction this summer.

Mr. Pede thanked Mr. Caccese for his involvement in the Active Shooter Policy and for bringing a group through the Middle School.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Drake reported that the State approved 23 New Charter Schools. School Districts will become financially responsible for homeless students after 1 year.

REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION FROM PHILLIPSBURG

Mr. Edinger stated that there is currently an investigation going on regarding the bidding process for the security firm that was awarded a contract. The fine that would be imposed is $101,000 which is the savings from the contract. Phillipsburg has not taken action to appeal but still may take action. A new football coach was hired. Last night the Phillipsburg Board approved a tuition rate of $11,025 per student for the 11-12 school year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adhoc Committee – Mr. Krusman reported that he will be meeting shortly with Mrs. Pede and Mrs. Fritts about holding a voter registration drive. Mr. Krusman also stated that he went to a shared services meeting on January 31st. He learned that there are some things that can be done with the food service account but the options are limited.

Education Committee – Mr. Kennedy reported that the committee discussed how the district is moving forward in tough budget times. The committee discussed the contractual item regarding Mrs. Barna's contract and the renewal of Mrs. Pede's contract.

Facilities and Technology Committee – Mr. Edinger reported that Mr. Shea demonstrated the web content filter that is in place. The Addendum to USA Architect's contract was reviewed. The timeline for the renovation project was discussed and the possibility of changing summer hours to a four-day week for cost savings. The committee asked Mrs. Barna and Mr. Marinelli to look into the possibility of a solar project.

Finance Committee – Mr. Gallant stated that the committee is continuing to have budget discussions. The initial cost estimate on health insurance premiums was reduced from 12% to 8.6%. The increase in tuition to Phillipsburg is over $600,000 and there is still no indication on what the state aid figures will be.

Negotiations – Mr. Kennedy stated that due to the budget constraints, the committee met with the Education Association. The Lopatcong Education Association responded that they would be willing to revisit discussions after the Governor's Budget Address.

Policy Committee – Mr. Kessler stated that a Policy Alert was recently issued and the committee will be meeting to review this alert.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Duaime – What are we paying Phillipsburg? We are currently paying $11,025 per student. We were told that Phillipsburg would be charging $11,200 per student in the 2011-2012 school year. The Phillipsburg Business Administrator is claiming that the incorrect number was on the resolution last night.

Jeff Ramano – Is the second question on the ballot still happening? Yes, this will be a non-binding question.

Doug Liptak – Is the board permitted to put non-budget questions on the ballot? As far as we know, yes. Mr. Liptak made a comment that the programs that impact teachers and students within the district should be the least impacted. A Superintendent and administrator in each building should be sufficient. Look at the admin. assistant positions first. Eliminating teachers will increase class size. The district should be entering into more shared services in the area of transportation, technology department, supply purchases and do we need someone to supervise the custodians? Mrs. Barna replied that the district is already partnered with other districts and cooperative purchasing for supplies, both classroom and custodial, transportation through Warren County Special Services School District and the Sussex County Regional

Cooperative. The district partners with other districts for electric and natural gas supply as well. The district continues to look for opportunities for shared services.

Mr. Gallant stated that the finance committee will be considering options that will have the least impact on students.

Marla Endick – With the second question on the ballot, the board is shooting themselves in the foot with passing the budget. This is very twisted logic as to why this is on the ballot.

Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Kessler, second by Mr. Drake,

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act authorizes Boards of Education to meet in executive session under certain circumstances

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting to go into private session; now therefore,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Lopatcong Township Board of Education, hereby recesses into executive session at 8:02 pm to discuss certain items involving:

1. Matters which, if publicly disclosed, would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy.

2. Matters involving anticipated or pending litigation, including matters of attorney-client privilege.

Be it, FURTHER RESOLVED that any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public as soon as feasible. The minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

And be it, FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education will return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session.

Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

The Board returned to regular session at 10:05 pm on a motion by Mr. Gallant, second by Mr. Drake. Motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

R-175-11 **First Reading of Revised Regulation**

Motion by Mr. Kessler, second by Mr. Gallant,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, revised Regulation 8600 entitled" Pupil Transportation".

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

Hearing no further business, the board adjourned at 10:07 pm on a motion by Mr. Drake, second by Mr. Gallant. Motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa E. Barna, RSBO
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

William J. Taggart, III
Board President