MINUTES OF THE LOPATCONG TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

President Taggart called the meeting to order on January 11, 2011 at 7:05 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, 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 Commegno, Board Attorney and approximately 17 members of the public.

READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Mrs. Pede recited the District Mission Statement.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Lopatcong Citizens for Before/After School Program – Letter requesting immediate implementation of a before and after school program.

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

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

MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Gallant, second by Mr. Drake, that the minutes of the December 14, 2010 meeting be approved and filed as presented. Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

BILL LISTS

Motion by Mr. Drake, second by Mr. Kessler, that the bills submitted for the December 14, 2010 meeting for the Operating Account in the amount of $544,646.48 and the Food Service Bill List in the amount of $19,789.11 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 November 30, 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. McFarlane, seconded by Mr. Drake, 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 November 30, 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

None

NEW BUSINESS

a. Education

R-148-11 Long Term Substitute, 5th Grade Math

Motion by Mr. Kennedy, second by Mr. Edinger,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the hiring of Joanne Mitch as a long term substitute teacher for 5th grade math at locator UU/BA on the salary guide beginning January 3, 2011 through the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-149-11 Wilson Reading Program Contract

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve a contract with Newgrange School of Princeton, Inc. to provide professional development to staff on January 13 and January 14, 2011 in an amount not to exceed $4200.00 plus mileage to be funded through federal ARRA funds.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

Mrs. Pede explained that this training is for a reading Assessment known as Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). This will be applied in phonetic intervention for special education and basic skills. The second day of training will be on Fundations which is also a Wilson Program used in regular education in the prevention of reading and spelling failure.

R-150-11 Substitutes for 2010-2011

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

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-151-11 Field Trips

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

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

Grade	Destination	Date	Company	Amount
4	Shop Rite	3-30-11	B&K Dalrymple	$300.00
8	Warren County Technical School	1-5-11	Transportation provided by Warren Tech.	-
5	Montclair State University	5-25-11	Snyder Bus Co.	$325.00
7 & 8	NJ State House	5-17-11	B&K Dalrymple	$300.00
7	Camden Aquarium	6-2-11	Snyder	$1185.00

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

Mrs. Pede commented that the Warren County Technical School staff complimented the Lopatcong students during their visit to the school on Jan. 5th.

R-152-11 **Volunteers for 2010-2011**

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

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-153-11 **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
Pee Wee Cheerleaders	1-6-11	all purpose room
Flag Cheerleaders	1-5-11	all purpose room
PTA-Sweetheart Dance	2-16-11	all purpose room

Middle School:

Organization	Date	School Area
Boys Lacrosse	1-18-11	vestibule near main office
Forensics	1-19-11 snow date 1-26-11	multi purpose room and classrooms
PTA- Family Movie Night	1-21-11	multi purpose room
PTA Meeting	1-26-11	multi purpose room

Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-154-11 **Elliott-Lewis Agreement**

Motion by Mr. Caccese, second by Mr. Gallant,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve an agreement with Elliott-Lewis commencing January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011 to service and maintain the HVAC systems at the elementary and middle schools at the cost of $8,860.00 and per the other terms and conditions of the contract.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

c. Finance

R-155-11 **Employee Travel and Expense Reimbursement**

Motion by Mr. Gallant, 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.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Mrs. Pede reported that a parent program will be held on January 25th at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm on the National Writing Project at the Middle School.

The staff will be surveyed in the next week for input to the Professional Development Plan.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Drake reported that the Anti-Bullying Bill has passed.

Mrs. Barna that there is a bill on the Governor's desk that will require all public employees to be residents of New Jersey. Current employees that are not residents of New Jersey are grandfathered. If a grandfathered employee switches employers there cannot be a break in service greater than 7 days.

REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION FROM PHILLIPSBURG

Mr. Edinger did not have a report since the Phillipsburg board has not met yet this month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ad-Hoc Committee - Mr. Krusman reported that he will be setting up a meeting shortly with Mrs. Pede. The committee is looking to schedule a PTA event for voter registration. Information on the will be included in the PTA Newsletter and several community events are being coordinated by which information can be distributed to the community stakeholders.

Education Committee – Mr. Kennedy reviewed the written report that was distributed to the board.

Facilities and Technology Committee – Looking to coordinate a meeting date following tonight's meeting.

Finance Committee – Mr. Gallant reported that the committee met before this meeting and Mrs. Barna reviewed changes that are taking affect regarding health care as a result of National Health Care. The committee reviewed preliminary budget numbers which included tuition increases and estimated health insurance increases of 15%. The current budget shortfall $325,000 at the cap.

Negotiations Committee – Mr. Kennedy reported that he school administrators met with representatives of the Lopatcong Education Association. The purpose of the meeting was to express what the possible budget implications may be. The board is collectively looking for creative ways to come to a solution.

Policy Committee - No report

ITEMS OF EMERGENT NATURE

No items of emergent nature.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Duaime – How does the school board plan on distributing budget information to the public? First public discussions will take place on February 8, 2011 when the board meets jointly with town council.

Mrs. Duaime – Is courtesy bussing being considered for elimination. Courtesy bussing is one of the items on an extensive list of possibilities that are being considered.

Mr. Taggart announced that the following dates are tentatively on the board's schedule as they go through the budget development process:

February 22, 2011 – Special Meeting

March 1, 2011 – Meeting to adopt the preliminary budget

March 8, 2011 – Regular business meeting

March 29, 2011 - Public Hearing on the 2011-2012 budget

There is also a Coffee with the Superintendent and Board President on January 26th at 9:00 am for the public to provide input.

Tara Hoey – If there is a potential gap in the budget, a possible was to generate revenue is to implement a before and after care program. Was there a letter read earlier? Yes, the letter was read.

Susan Flanagan – Are you saying that you are ignoring the letter? Mr. Taggart stated that we do not have the resources to look at a program.

Mr. Drake stated that he is interested in seeing a pilot program. He does not feel that this is a settled issue. The issue is not dead. Some type of program is under review.

Mr. Kessler presented a motion from the floor as follows.

R-156-11 **Board to Consider New Business**

Motion by Mr. Drake, second by Mr. McFarlane,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education open the floor to consider new business.

Roll call vote: 6 – Yes. Mr. Drake, Mr. Gallant and Mr. Taggart – No. Motion carried.

The following discussion took place regarding the proposal to place a separate question on the April ballot. Mr. Drake stated that it is never a good idea to put additional questions on the ballot. Mr. Krusman stated that he voted against a program previously but may have been wrong. May need a program to make ends meet. Mr. Gallant stated that anytime there is additional questions on the ballot, the question and the budget are defeated. Mr. Edinger stated that the board has voted twice not to implement a program. If the public and the community have an interest in a program, then let them have an opportunity to vote on it. Mr. Gallant added that it is foolish to put a question on the ballot. Mr. Caccese agrees with Mr. Edinger to put in on the ballot. Mr. Comegno advised the board that language would have to be drafted and the board would have to agree on that language. Mr. Taggart commented that this would be detrimental to the budget.

R-157-11 **Motion to Table R-158-11**

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby tables Resolution R-158-11.

Roll call vote: 5 – No. Mr. Drake, Mr. Gallant, Mr. Krusman and Mr. Taggart – Yes. Motion does not carry.

R-158-11 **After-Care Referendum**

Motion by Mr. Kessler, second by Mr. McFarlane,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby affirms its intent to propose a separate question on the April 27, 2011 ballot regarding the implementation of a before and after care program. Specific language will be subsequently drafted.

Roll call vote: 6 – Yes. Mr. Drake, Mr. Gallant and Mr. Taggart – No. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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 8:15 pm to discuss certain items involving:

1. Matters involving personnel issues, including but not limited to, the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion or discipline of any public officer or employee

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 open session at 9:25 pm on a motion by Mr. Gallant, second by Mr. Drake. Motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, the board adjourned at 9:26 pm on a motion by Mr. Gallant, second by Mr. Drake. Motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa E. Barna, RSBO
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

William J. Taggart, III
Board President