MINUTES OF THE LOPATCONG TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

President Taggart called the meeting to order on September 14, 2010 at 7:02 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 (arrived at 7:10 pm), 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; Matt Eagleburger, Principal; Stephen Geisel, Asst. Principal and approximately 10 members of the public.

READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Mrs. Pede recited the District Mission Statement.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT COUNCIL AWARD

Mrs. Fernandez, Student Council Advisor, announced that the Lopatcong Middle School Student Council received to awards during the 2009-2010 school year. The 2009-2010 Student Council President, Brenda Hernandez, Vice President, Sara Young and the 2010-2011 Student Council President, Claudia Bitone and Vice President, Jenna Gaytas were all present for the award announcement to the Board of Education. The awards that were received at the Spring Leadership Conference were the "Community Smiles Award" and the "Standards of Excellence Award". The Community Smiles Award was given based on the community service and charity organizations that the group gets involved in. The Standards of Excellence Award is given once every five years. Lopatcong has received this award twice consecutively in the past. Lopatcong was one in five schools and the only middle school to receive this award.

RECOGNITION OF 2010 CHARACTER EDUCATION AWARD

On March 22, 2010, the Lopatcong Township Middle School received an Honorable Mention under the 2010 New Jersey Schools of Character Program. This program recognizes schools and districts that excel in exemplifying "Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education", student behavior, school climate and academic performance.

On October 20, 2010, the Middle School will be hosting a "Rachel's Challenge" Event. All are invited to attend.

Mr. Krusman thanked the students for making his job as a board member worthwhile through their accomplishments.

Mr. Geisel also mentioned the Miss Pennsylvania was in district today. Miss Courtney Thomas met with students during health and physical education class. Her platform is "Consequences of Peer Pressure" C.O.P.P. Miss Thomas' message fit well into the health curriculum and reinforced what the teachers present to the students on a regular basis.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Stacie Behme – Request for maternity leave
2. Krista Wayne – Request for maternity leave

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS
Mrs. Larsen summarized some of the activities that are taking place in each building. Please see attached document for more detail on the activities that were presented.

MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2010
Motion by Mr. Gallant, second by Mr. Kessler, that the minutes of the August 17, 2010 meeting be approved and filed as presented. Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

BILL LISTS
Motion by Mr. Gallant, second by Mr. Drake, that the bills submitted for the September 14, 2010 meeting for the Operating Account in the amount of $638,024.77 and the Food Service Bill List in the amount of $2,077.09 be approved for payment.
Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORTS
Motion by Mr. Gallant, seconded by Mr. Edinger, that the Secretary/Treasurer's Reports submitted for the month ending July 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. Krusman, seconded by Mr. Kessler, 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 July 31, 2010, after review of the monthly report (appropriation section) 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-062-11 **Long Term Substitute**

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 Maureen Mourt as a long term substitute teacher at locator UU/BA on the salary guide beginning August 30, 2010 through October 18, 2010.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-063-11 **Maternity Leave Request**

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve a maternity disability leave for Stacie Behme commencing on or about December 7, 2010 and return on March 29, 2011 under the New Jersey Family Leave Act as requested.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-064-11 **Language Arts/Literacy Curriculum**

Motion by Mr. Gallant, second by Mr. Krusman,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the K-8 Language Arts/Literacy Curriculum as presented.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-065-11 **Substitutes for 2010-2011**

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

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-066-11 **Reading Recovery 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 Stroudsburg Area School District to provide technical support for two trained Reading Recovery teachers for the 2010-2011 school year at a cost of $750.00 per teacher for a total of $1500.00.

Roll Call Vote: 8 - Yes. Mr. Taggart – abstain. Motion carried.

R-067-11 **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 trip:

Grade	Destination	Date
8th	Chamber Theatre Productions, Allentown, PA	December 2, 2010

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-068-11 **IDEA Grant Application**

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve submission of the Fiscal Year 2011 Individual with Disabilities and Improvement Act (IDEA) Grant as follows:

Basic	$224,558
Preschool	$ 6,330
Total	**$230,888**

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-069-11 Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Contract

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve a contract with the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired for Level 1 Services for the 2010-2011 school year in the amount of $1700.00.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-070-11 Parent Paid Tuition Contracts

Motion by Mr. Kennedy, second by Mr. Kessler,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, accept the enrollment of two regular preschool students, ID #190251 and ID #190254, for the 2010-2011 school year and approve contracts with the parents or guardians for $2,250.00 per student per year.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-071-11 Maternity Leave Request

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve a maternity disability and child care leave for Krista Wayne commencing on or about January 3, 2011 and return on February 22, 2011 under the New Jersey Family Leave Act as requested.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-072-11 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.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

b. Facilities and Technology

R-073-11 Facility Use Request

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

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	10-1-10 to 3-31-11	All Purpose Room
Adult Basketball	11-01-10 to 4-30-11	Gym
LAA Basketball	10-18-10 to 4-02-11	Gym

Middle School:

Organization	Date	School Area
Adult Basketball	11-01-10 to 4-30-11	Gym
LAA Basketball	10-18-10 to 4-02-11	Gym

Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-074-11 **Fire Wall Upgrade**

Motion by Mr. Caccese, second by Mr. Kessler,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the purchase of a new fire wall appliance, content filter software, and digital citizenship software in the amount of $7,500.00.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

c. Finance

R-075-11 **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 $43,200.00.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-076-11 **Tuition Contract with Bonnie Brae**

Motion by Mr. Kessler, second by Mr. Krusman,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the placement of one Lopatcong student, ID #000365, at Bonnie Brae for the 2010-2011 school year and to approve a tuition contract for such placement in the amount of $62,820.00.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-077-11 **Tuition Contract with Warren County Special Services School District**

Motion by Mr. Krusman, second by Mr. Gallant,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the placement of a Lopatcong student, ID# 00001173, in the Behavioral Disabilities Program at Warren County Special Services School District and approve the tuition contracts for such placement in the amount of $35,000.00 for the 2010-2011 school year.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-078-11 **Tuition Contract with Phillipsburg Board of Education**

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve a tuition contract with the Phillipsburg Board of Education for the 2010-2011 school year for 367 Lopatcong students attending Phillipsburg High School in the amount of $11,025 per student for a total of $4,046,175.00 less the prior year adjustment for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of $1,945,515.00 for a total amount due of $2,100,660.00.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-079-11 Tuition Contracts with Warren County Technical School District

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve a tuition contracts with Warren County Technical School District for 31regular education Lopatcong students attending the Warren County Technical School in the amount of $2,175 per student for a total of $67,425 less the prior year adjustment for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of $18,807.50 for a total amount due of $48,617.50 and to approve a tuition contract for 8 special education students in the amount of $3,250 per student for a total of $26,000.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-080-11 Child Assault Program Grant Application

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, accept the CAP grant funds for the 2010-2011 school year in the amount of $900.00.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-081-11 Employee Travel and Expense Reimbursement

Motion by Mr. Krusman, second by Mr. Gallant,

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

Roll Call Vote: 8 - Yes. Mr. Taggart – abstain. Motion carried.

R-082-11 Royal Photographics, Inc.

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, appoint Royal Photographics, Inc. as the yearbook publisher for the 2010-2011 school year.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Pede reported that 4 different Back-to-School nights have been held.

Miss Pennsylvania, Courtney Thomas, visited both schools today. Her platform is Consequences of Peer Pressure, COPP. Her message fit well into our Character Education program.

Mrs. Pede stated that a lot of hard work went into the development of the Language Arts Curriculum that was approved this evening. Next year's curriculum area of focus is math. Mrs. Pede is hopeful that Lopatcong can take another lead role in the development of the math curriculum as well.

Mrs. Pede informed the staff via email that there is a First Energy Grant available. Last year a teacher from our district was a recipient of this grant.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Drake reported that New Jersey was not a successful recipient of the federal Race To The Top Grant. However, NJ will receive $260M of federal grant money through Education Jobs Funds. There is also proposed legislation that will cap accrued vacation and sick leave time to $15,000.

REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION FROM PHILLIPSBURG

Mr. Edinger reported the Phillipsburg is implementing an Energy Savings Program. They are working with Honeywell to make upgrades to the schools that will realize energy savings. Phillipsburg may be proposing a referendum for a solar panel project in the future.

Mr. Edinger announced that Eric Gallant attended the Governor's School of Engineering and Technology this summer at Rutgers University. He took five challenging engineering courses that are not offered at most high schools.

Phillipsburg is also entering into a contract that will generate income by renting space at Maloney Stadium to post signs. There are has been an Education Foundation established.

There is no additional news on the high school construction project.

Kathy Troxell has been appointed to the position of High School Assistant Principal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ad-Hoc Committee – No report.

Education Committee – Mr. Kennedy reported that the committee discussed the Reading Recovery Contract. The training will take place in a Stroudsburg since the Bridgewater-Raritan site has been closed. The committee reviewed the IDEA Grant, the Language Arts Curriculum, staffing for approved leaves of absences, a residency issue, the First Energy Grant and the fact that the State has issued and recalled the NJASK scores which has delayed the issuance of the student sheets.

Facilities Committee – Mr. Edinger reported that the committee conducted a building walk-thru of both buildings prior to the start of school. The custodial staff did a great job getting the facilities ready for a new school year. The committee also called an emergency meeting when the district was contacted by the local police department about activities that were taking place in the woods behind the middle school. A living arrangement was set-up including furniture, grill, bon-fire, porta-potty and a tarp. There were remnants of alcohol and drug paraphernalia. This is not actually school property, but property adjacent to the school. With the assistance of the local public works department and the police, the area has been cleared out but will continue to be monitored.

Finance Committee – Mr. Gallant reported that the committee met with the Mayor to discuss proposals to change the school tax requisition schedule. The schedule will remain the same. The committee discussed a change in yearbook vendors. Mrs. Barna made the committee aware that in the spring, the building debt will be eligible for refinancing. The new pension law requires the board to contribute 3% of the employee's salary to their Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (DCRP) account. This only affects newly hired part-time employees and is an unbudgeted expense. The committee also discussed the year end deposits into the reserve accounts.

Negotiations Committee – No report.

Policy Committee – A policy alert has just been received from Strauss Esmay. The committee will be meeting on September 21st at 7:00 pm.

OTHER ITEMS OF EMERGENT NATURE

Mr. Taggart reminded the Board that there is a retreat scheduled for September 22, 2010 at 5:30 pm in the middle school library.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jayne Krusman wanted to confirm that she was approved for travel for events associated with Special Olympics.

Mary Duaime – Was the bill from the township for the sinkhole resolved. Mr. Taggart replied that yes a revised bill has been received that only included the cost of materials. Is there a sample of what the new yearbook will look like? Yes, a sample is available in the business office. How was the district notified about the set-up in the woods? The local police had been called to the scene as a result of a neighbor calling about a noise disruption. The police then contacted the school.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, the board adjourned at 8:52 pm on a motion by Mr. Edinger, second by Mr. McFarlane. Motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa E. Barna, RSBO
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

William J. Taggart, III
Board President