MINUTES OF THE LOPATCONG TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

President Taggart called the meeting to order on November 9, 2010 at 7:01 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 (left at 8:17 pm), Dennis Drake (arrived at 7:05 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 9 members of the public.

READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Mrs. Pede recited the District Mission Statement.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Diane Wranitz – Letter expressing her concern with regards to her daughter
2. Casey Unangst – Letter of Resignation
3. Noelle Kondikoff – Revised maternity leave and child care leave request
4. Jenn Kozak – Letter expressing interest in participating in Special Olympics
5. On-Tech Consulting – The board received a check from X-Tel Communications in the amount of $6,632.72 for participation in the federal E-Rate Program that offers discounts of 40% for telecommunication services.

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Mrs. Brons summarized some of the activities that are taking place in each building.

MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Krusman, second by Mr. McFarlane, that the minutes of the October 12, 2010 meeting be approved and filed as presented. Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Gallant, second by Mr. McFarlane, that the Executive Session Minutes of October 12, 2010 Board Retreat be approved and filed as presented. Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

BILL LISTS

Motion by Mr. McFarlane, second by Mr. Gallant, that the bills submitted for the November 9, 2010 meeting for the Operating Account in the amount of $547,969,29 and the Food Service Bill List in the amount of $36,444.26 be approved for payment.
Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORTS

Motion by Mr. McFarlane, seconded by Mr. Edinger, that the Secretary/Treasurer's Reports submitted for the month ending September 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. Gallant, 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 September 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-112-11 Stipend Position

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve Jennifer Kozak for a Special Olympic stipend for the 2010-2011 school year. Amount to be determined.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-113-11 Long Term Substitute, Grade 1

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the hiring of Cynthia Hennebry as a long term first grade substitute teacher at locator UU/BA on the salary guide commencing on or about January 3, 2011 to February 22, 2011.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-114-11 Long Term Substitute, Grade 2

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the hiring of Casey Unangst as a long term second grade substitute teacher at locator UU/BA on the salary guide commencing on or about December 6, 2010 to March 28, 2011.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-115-11 Long Term Substitute, BSI

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the hiring of Lauren Beruta as a long term substitute Basic Skills Instructor at locator UU/BA on the salary guide commencing on or about November 22, 2010 to December 23, 2011.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-116-11 **Substitutes for 2010-2011**

Motion by Mr. Kennedy, 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-117-11 **Field Trips**

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

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

Grade	Destination	Date	Company	Amount
2	Lopatcong Middle School	12-15-2010	B&K Dalrymple	$100.00
1	Lopatcong Middle School	12-16-2010	B&K Dalrymple	$150.00
5	Da Vinci Science Center	04-15-2011	B&K Dalrymple	$900.00
6	Coca-Cola Park	05-24-2011	B&K Dalrymple	$876.00
Drama Club	Lopatcong Elem. School	12-01-2010	B&K Dalrymple	$100.00
8	Dorney Park	05-31-2011 rain date 6-1-2011	B&K Dalrymple	$900.00
1	Lehigh Valley Zoo	06-06-2011	First Student	$810.00
Band	Phillipsburg Mall	12-18-2010	No bus/ parents transport	0
Drama Club	Country Gate Theater-	12-11-2010	No bus/ parents transport	0

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

Mr. Edinger rose a concern about the Dorney Park trip. The request from the teacher states that the trip is for students who qualify. Are students being punished twice for the same "crime"? Phillipsburg lost a lawsuit for punishing a student twice. Mrs. Kowalchuk is confident that the criteria to qualify for the trip has been clearly communicated to the parents and the students. Mrs. Kowalchuk will review the information that is sent to the parents to confirm that it is not "double jeopardy".

Mr. Gallant rose a concern about the field trip to Coca-Cola Park. Mr. Gallant requested to see the justification for the trip. Mr. Gallant asked that this item be tabled 'til a future meeting. The administration explained that there is a packet of assignments in all curricular areas where the team of teachers has assignments for pre, during and post trip activities. Mr. Geisel explained that timing is of the essence for reserving the tickets. Mrs. Pede assured the board that this trip was denied by the administration in the past. The administration requested the justification and it was provided.

Mr. Caccese recommended that the students could take a tour of the stadium. There are a lot of things that happen behind the scenes that are of great value to operating a stadium.

Mr. Drake stated that baseball is a great American pastime and if the students had the opportunity to experience American culture, he would be in support of the trip.

R-118-11 **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: 8 - Yes. Motion carried. Mr. Taggart – abstain.

R-119-11 **Learning for Life Program**

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve a contract with Learning for Life for the Career Awareness Program in the amount of $550.00 for the 2010-2011 school year.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

b. Facilities and Technology

R-120-11 **Facility Use Requests**

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
L.A.A. – Wrestling	12-5-10, 1-9-11, 1-16-11, 2-13-11	A.P.R. and Gym
P.T.A.	10-18-10 / 10-21-10	A.P.R.
P.T.A.	11-29-10	A.P.R.
P.T.A.	12-15-10, 12-16-10, 12-17-10	A.P.R.

Middle School:

Organization	Date	School Area
Girl Scouts-Phillipsburg Service Unit	3-4-11	M.P.R.
P.T.A.	11-8-10	M.P.R.
P.T.A.	10-22-10	M.P.R.
P.T.A.	12-11-10	M.P.R.
L.A.A.	12-05-10	Gym

Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

c. Finance

R-121-11 Transfer of Uncommitted Funds

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

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 $28,807.00.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-122-11 Parent Paid Tuition Contracts

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, accept the enrollment of two regular education preschool students, identification numbers 190260 and 190259, for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year beginning November 8, 2010 and approve tuition contracts with the parents in the amount of $2250.00 per year prorated.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-123-11 Boy Scout Donation

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, accept a donation in the amount of $418.58 from Shawn Willis from the balance of his Eagle Scout Project.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-124-11 Employee and Board Member Travel and Expense Reimbursement

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

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

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

Mr. Krusman asked what the mileage reimbursement rate was. The reimbursement rate set by State statute is $.31 per mile. The difference between the state and federal rate is eligible to be claimed on an individual's federal tax return.

d. Policy

R-125-11 Second Reading of Revised Policies

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the second reading of the following revised policies and regulations, as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Policy Number	Title
0146	Board Member Authority
0171	Duties of Board President and Vice President
0173	Duties of Public School Accountant
3144	Certification of Tenure Charges

5516	Use of Electronic Communication and Recording Devices (ECRD) (M)
6830	Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (M)
8310 & R8310	Public Records
2464 & R2464	Gifted and Talented Pupils (M)

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

R-126-11 **Second 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 second reading, the following policies and regulations as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Policy Number	Title
R3144	Certification of Tenure Charges
4159	Support Staff Member/School District Reporting Responsibilities
6612 & R6612	Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures (M)

Roll Call Vote: 8 - Yes. Motion carried. Mr. Drake

ADDENDUM

R-127-11 **Revised Maternity Leave**

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve a revised maternity disability leave for Noelle Kondikoff commencing on October 11, 2010 until December 3, 2010 and a child care leave under the New Jersey Family Leave Act commencing on December 6, 2010 through February 25, 2011.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-128-11 **Part-time Long Term Substitute, BSI**

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the emergent hiring of Cynthia Hennebry as a part-time long-term substitute for Basic Skills Instruction at .5 of locator UU/BA of the salary guide commencing on November 10, 2010 through December 23, 2010.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-129-11 **Tuition Contract with Warren County Special Services School District**

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, approve the placement of one Lopatcong student, State ID#6842217196, in the multiple disabilities program at Warren County Special Services School District and approve a tuition contract for such placement in the amount of $32,800.00 for the 2010-2011 school year.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

R-130-11 Tuition Contract with Phillipsburg Board of Education

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

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent,
approve a special education tuition contract for Student ID# 501701 for a self contained Learning Language Disabilities class with the Phillipsburg Board of Education for the 2010-2011 school year in the amount of $12,739.00.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - Yes. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Pede reported that the "Teacher for a Day" Program is taking place this Thursday, November 11, 2010.

Mrs. Pede and Mr. Taggart are attending a program on Educational Foundations.

The Chain Links Clubs have been established and there are 3 leaders for each grade level at the middle school. The middle school was asked to bring in some of their Halloween candy and 200 pounds of candy was given in exchange for $200 to be donated to a charitable group.

The Red Ribbon Carnival was successful. Mrs. Pede received a lot of positive comments from the volunteers. There was newspaper coverage of this event and Mayor Steinhardt read a proclamation.

The literacy programs that were presented by Mr. Eagleburger at a previous board meeting are being implemented and are underway.

The staff is working towards professional learning communities.

Mr. Gallant stated that he was impressed by Rachel's Challenge and asked the administration if there has been an impact from the program in conjunction with out Anti-Bullying program. Mr. Geisel stated that yes, both he and Mrs. Conner have seen many positive results from the Rachel's Challenge program. There is a group of girls that have volunteered to work with the mentally challenged students in the school. Mr. Eagleburger reported that there is a 5th grade student that has come on her own to pass information onto the 4th grade class. Mr. Taggart stated that the presenter of the program was very impressed with the students, the organization and the community turnout.

ADDITIONAL ADDENDUM

R-131-11 CLASSROOM AIDE RESIGNATION

Motion by Mr. Taggart, second by Mr. Kessler,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Casey Unangst from her position as a classroom aide effective immediately.

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Drake reported that proposed legislation requiring background checks for board of education members has passed the house. The elimination of non-operating schools has been deemed constitutional.

Mr. Taggart stated that representatives of the board met with Senator Doherty this evening. He was receptive to the information that was presented. Senator Doherty

expressed hi won concerns on inequitable school funding. He has been advocating the Governor's office for a new school funding formula.

Mr. Drake asked what Senator Doherty's position was on a May or June budget vote. Senator Doherty clarified that the legislature has the responsibility of setting the school funding, however, the Governor and the Department of Education have had sole responsibility. Senator Doherty would like this responsibility to return to the legislature which could have an impact on many other timelines.

REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION FROM PHILLIPSBURG

Mr. Edinger reported that Phillipsburg is receiving funds to paint the trailers and install a security system in the trailers. Phillipsburg is still in the process of re-registration. There are still 400 students that have not provided proof of residency.

Phillipsburg recently held there Veterans Program where they honor veterans that could not finish school because they had to go to war. They issued 22 diplomas to area veterans.

Phillipsburg is also trying to work with the county with regards to sidewalks and lighting fixtures need the new high school property. There are many safety concerns in this area due to the fact that the high school athletic fields are located at the new site. Perhaps we can write a letter to the new County Freeholder that lives in Lopatcong Township to request some assistance with moving this forward.

There is no new information on the high school building project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ad-Hoc Committee – Mr. Krusman reported that the committee has been charged with investigating ways in which to increase communication with the community and increase voter turnout at school board elections. The committee has identified ways in which the board can communicate with the public which include the following: Kids-vote, PTA Newsletter, Senior Luncheon, create a podcast of the public hearing on the budget. The Board of Education President will prepare a blurb for the PTA newsletter to communicate with the parents on budget information. There are 5,100 registered voters in the township. 20 percent of the registered voters voted in the most recent school election. That means 80 percent are not voting.

Education Committee – Mr. Kennedy reported that the committee has met twice since the last meeting. The committee voted 3 to1 to not submit an application for the school choice program. The committee and the board can reconsider this in the future. The application deadline has now passed.

Mr. Kennedy also shared that the cluster has decided to change of the focus of the subject that will be reviewed this year from Math to Science.

Facilities Committee – No report.

Finance Committee – Mr. Gallant reported that budget development meetings begin in December. The committee has agreed to send a letter requesting that the state give school district more accurate information relating to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) contributions. Districts across the state were not properly budgeted for this line item. The contribution rate went from 8.5% to 11.5%. This created a shortage in our local budget of over $25,000. Mrs. Pede and Mrs. Barna will be meeting with the Executive County Superintendent and the Executive County Business Administrator on December 14, 2010 at 9:00 am for our mid-year budget review. We will have information to share with the committee that evening at our first budget meeting.

Negotiations Committee – No report.

Policy Committee – No report.

OTHER ITEMS OF EMERGENT NATURE

Mr. Taggart asked if anyone else was interested in attending the Education Foundations Conference on Saturday.

Mr. Edinger asked Mrs. Pede is there was going to be a response to the letter from Mrs. Wranitz? Mrs. Pede stated that she will be talking to the building principal and the parent to come to a resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Duaime provided information that former Chief Marinelli had put in a request for lighting at Roseberry Street and Belvidere Road. Mr. Edinger stated that the county is waiting until more construction has been completed so as not to duplicate efforts, but with construction held up right now ant he amount of traffic at that intersection, the lighting is really needed.

Diane Wranitz – What will be the timeframe that I can expect a response to the letter that was written? Mr. Taggart asked Mrs. Wranitz to speak with Mrs. Pede after the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, the board adjourned at 8:42 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