

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, August 17, 2011
6:00 p.m. Goal Setting Board Retreat Minutes
Stanlick School Media Center

A. Mr. Smith, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM, and read the Open Meeting Statement.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

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|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| C. ROLL CALL: | <u>Present</u> | <u>Absent</u> |
| Mrs. Castiglione | X | _____ |
| Mr. Cuccio | X | _____ |
| Mr. Feldmann | X | _____ |
| Mr. Millar | X | _____ |
| Mrs. Poulas | X | _____ |
| Mrs. Scott | X | _____ |
| Mr. Smith | X | _____ |
| Mr. Stewart <i>(arrived @ 6:31pm)</i> | X | _____ |

D. BOARD RETREAT

- 6:03-6:55pm - Training on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) - Mrs. Denise Meehan, Director of Student Services. This training included directives on the roles, responsibilities and implications.
- **BOARD RETREAT – Conducted by: Mr. Paul Breda, Field Service Representative, New Jersey School Boards Association**

Eight (8) members of the Board of Education, the superintendent, the business administrator, and the assistant superintendent met for a Board Retreat on **Wednesday, August 17, 2011** to set both District and Board Goals for the 2011-2012 school year.

The outcome of the Board’s Self Evaluation was reviewed. Individual performance was rated higher than group performance. New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) is unable to compare the district results with others, as a state average is not compiled.

Based on individual Board member comments, there continues to be mistrust between members.

A couple of members voiced concern regarding how the Board was unaware of, the renewal process of the Superintendent’s contract.

The New Jersey School Boards Association representative stated that it is clear, as cited in QSAC documents, that the major responsibility of any Board to hire, reappoint, evaluate the Superintendent in a prescribed timeline.

Discussion then moved on to the District's accomplishments and challenges.

2010-2011 District Accomplishments

- Passed the budget
- No tax increase
- Settled three contracts
- Success of Professional Learning Communities
- Pre-K / Kindergarten curriculum changes
- Student intervention improvements
- Managed to maintain programs despite funding challenges
- Technology enhancements, increase in usage
- Math curriculum revisions
- New student information system
- Improvement in math scores

District Challenges

- Security
- Anti-bullying policy compliance
- Improve SAT scores
- College placement program
- Outdoor facilities
- Drug awareness, prevention
- Professional Learning communities: sustaining and further developing
- Professional Development
- Implementing new courses, common core standards
- Differentiated instruction
- Accountability by “walk-throughs”
- Student intervention
- Shrinking resources
- Community awareness: interest and participation in issues impacting the schools
- Effective communication to the public

The board then discussed the district board goals for the 2011-2012 school year:

Jefferson Township 2011 – 2012 Goals

(District)

The board adopts district-wide goals and performance measures that reflect that highest priority is given to student achievement.

1. Implement programs to improve school climate and develop the skills in students that make responsible, contributing citizens
2. Continue with initiatives that advance student achievement through curriculum implementation, professional development and application of technology
3. Increase focus and resources on student success after high school

Jefferson Township 2011 – 2012 Goals
(Board)

Board goals constitute a professional development improvement plan directed towards increasing knowledge and skills in policy making and governance for members of the board.

1. The board is committed to improving board teamwork, consensus-building and decision-making through board training workshops
2. Agree on indicators that can be measured and monitored over time to track student success after high school

Next Steps

- Goals are formalized, Action Plans developed by Superintendent and shared with the Board
- Board develops Action Plans to achieve Board goals
- Board formally adopts final version of Goals and Action Plans (by September)
- (No less than) quarterly updates on progress toward goals from Superintendent

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

G. ADJOURN

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Millar that the meeting adjourn at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dora E. Zeno
Board Secretary