

WINSLOW TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, December 6, 2023
Winslow Township Administration Building – Conference Room
7:00 p.m.
Minutes

I. **PUBLIC NOTICE** of this meeting was given to all Board Members and Associates in notices dated **12/1/2023**. Adequate and electronic notice of this Public Meeting has been provided specifying the time, place, and manner in which this meeting is being conducted. It was advertised in the Courier Post, posted in all schools, the Administration Office, the Municipal Building, the Library, Bud Duble Center, Edgewood Acres, Elm Town, and the Winslow Township Post Offices.

II. **MISSION STATEMENT**

The **Mission** of the Winslow Township School District, a large diverse and growing community, is to educate all students to become independent, life-long learners, critical thinkers and caring and confident members of their community. The District, in partnership with the community, and in a climate of cooperation and mutual respect, will provide an academic environment which values excellence and diversity, encourages students to strive for personal excellence, and assists them in acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to contribute positively to a rapidly changing world.

III. **ROLL CALL**

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Present: | Lorraine Dredde | Joe Thomas |
| | Rita Martin | Kelly Thomas |
| | Cynthia Moore | Julie Peterson, Vice President |
| | Rebecca Nieves | Cheryl Pitts, President |

Also Present: H. Major Poteat, Ed.D., Superintendent
Tyra McCoy-Boyle, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Christopher Long, Esq., Solicitor

IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

V. **2023-2024 DISTRICT GOALS**

(Ms. Pitts)

1. **Student Achievement** - Continue to implement best practices for delivering instruction to students utilizing all available and appropriate instructional models. This shall include:
 - a. Develop plans to increase the graduation rate
 - b. Decrease chronic absenteeism
 - c. Increase in benchmark scores in 4th Grade ELA (end of year)
 - d. Accountability for all district staff and stakeholders
2. **Increase Parent/Caregiver engagement in education:**
 - a. Provide opportunities for two-way communication with district stakeholders
 - b. Implement the culture/climate survey
3. **Market our strengths and achievements to all stakeholders to increase capacity for greater parent/caregiver/community support:**
 - a. Work with communications consortium
 - b. Continue with our public relations/marketing plan
 - c. Continue to work with the various advisory committees in the district
 - d. Focus on refining our communication methods and messages to better market our school district

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Time Limited)

The Winslow Township Board of Education highly values the input of citizens in making important decisions that affect the children of our community. We also believe in the rights of citizens to observe Board Meetings. To ensure that all of our citizens have the opportunity to attend School Board Meetings and offer comment, and to ensure that the Board can conduct the important business of the District, we ask that speakers follow the guidelines for making public comments.

Notation of Public Comments on Agenda Items – The Board President or Board Secretary will recognize those individuals in the audience who wish to make comment.

Please respect the following procedures:

1. All members of the public attending School Board Meetings must treat each other and the Board with respect.
2. State your full name and address.
3. Please limit your comments to **four minutes**.
4. Submit your questions to the Board of Education with your name, address and telephone number where you can be contacted. Your questions will be answered within a reasonable time.
5. Individuals offering citizen comment are not permitted to make personal attacks on any District employee, Board Member, other testifier or member of the public.

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Peterson, to open the meeting for Public Comments at 7:03 p.m.

Voice Vote: All in favor

No public participation.

VII. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Peterson, to close the meeting for Public Comments at 7:04 p.m.

Voice Vote: All in favor

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Peterson, to approve adoption of Executive Resolution and adjournment to Executive Session at 7:05 p.m.

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.) requires all meetings of the Winslow Township Board of Education to be held in public, except as set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) which provides for nine (9) types of matters that may lawfully be discussed in "Executive Session," i.e. without the public being permitted to attend; and

WHEREAS, the Winslow Township Board of Education has determined that certain issues set forth below are permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) to be discussed without the public in attendance shall be discussed during an Executive Session to be held on December 6, 2023 at 7:05 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the nine (9) exceptions to public meetings set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) are listed below, and the items to be privately discussed that fall within such exceptions shall be identified and written, and after each exception is a space where additional information that will disclose as much information about the discussion as possible without undermining the purpose of the exception as follows:

"(1) Any matter which, by express provision of Federal law, State statute or rule of court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from public discussion." The legal citation to the provision(s) at issue is: _____ and the nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____;

“(2) Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government.” The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____;

“(3) Any material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as any records, data, reports, recommendations, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including but not limited to information relative to the individual's personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly.” The nature of the matter, described as specifically, as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____;

“(4) Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body” The collective bargaining contract(s) discussed are between the public body and _____;

“(5) Any matter involving the purchase lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed.” The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____;

“(6) Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection. Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law.” The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____;

“(7) Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer.” The parties to and docket numbers of each item of litigation and/or the parties to each contract discussed are M.D. and M.G. and nature of the discussion, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is M.D. and M.G. litigation settlement;

“(8) Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting.” The employee(s) and/or title(s) and nature of the discussion, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality are: _____;

“(9) Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility.” The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____;

WHEREAS, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be ---- minutes after which the public meeting shall reconvene and proceed with business.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Winslow Township Board of Education will go into Executive Session for only the above stated reasons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) will be made public at a time when the need for confidentiality no longer exists, or the public's interest in disclosure is greater than any privacy or governmental interest being protected from disclosure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Board Solicitor, shall read aloud enough of this resolution so that members of the public in attendance can understand, as precisely as possible, the nature of the matters that will privately discussed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary, on the next business day following this meeting, shall furnish a copy of this resolution to any member of the public who requests one at the fees allowed by N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

| | | | |
|----------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| Roll Call: | | | |
| Ms. Dredde | Yes | Mr. Thomas | Yes |
| Ms. Martin | Yes | Ms. Thomas | Yes |
| Ms. Moore | Yes | Ms. Peterson | Yes |
| Ms. Nieves | Yes | Ms. Pitts | Yes |
| Motion Carried | | | |

IX. ADJOURNMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Peterson, to close the meeting of the Executive Session at 7:21 p.m.

Voice Vote: All in favor

X. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY’S REPORT

I. Approve to settle matters of litigation with M.D. and M.G.

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Peterson, to approve the settlement of litigation with M.D. and M.G.

| | | | |
|----------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| Roll Call: | | | |
| Ms. Dredde | Yes | Mr. Thomas | Yes |
| Ms. Martin | Yes | Ms. Thomas | Yes |
| Ms. Moore | Yes | Ms. Peterson | Yes |
| Ms. Nieves | Yes | Ms. Pitts | Yes |
| Motion Carried | | | |

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. All Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyra McCoy-Boyle
Business Administrator/Board Secretary