

WINSLOW TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Board of Education Meeting
Winslow Township Middle School (Cafeteria)
30 Coopers Folly Road
Atco, NJ 08004

Wednesday, June 4, 2014
6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

I. **PUBLIC NOTICE** of this meeting was given to all Board Members and Associates in a notice dated **05/29/2014**. It was also advertised in the Courier Post, Philadelphia Inquirer and posted in all schools, the Administration Office, the Municipal Building, the Library, Bud Duble Center, Edgewood Acres, Elm Town and 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 – In roll call the following Board members were noted present:**

Present:	Larry Blake arrived 6:25 p.m.	Gail P. Watkins
	Ewuniki Brown	Hassan Wilcox
	Lorraine Dredden	Julie A. Peterson, Vice President
	Gulab Gidwani	Cheryl Pitts, President
	Carlos Vascos	

Also Present: H. Major Poteat, Ed.D., Superintendent
Dorothy Carcamo, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent

IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

V. **BOARD OF EDUCATION – TEAM CHARTER**

Mr. Gidwani -

1. **At all Times:** Maintain confidentiality; Follow the chain of command; Maintain an open-mind; Listen and speak with respect for others.

Ms. Watkins -

2. **Before a Meeting:** Be prepared for board meetings by reading packets prior to board meetings; Refuse to become involved (collectively, as individuals, or in our communities) in micro-management; Get the answers to questions and concerns prior to the board meeting.

Ms. Dredden -

3. **During a Meeting:** Listen and speak with respect for others at all times; Vote with conviction; Align our actions as closely as possible to stated goals and objectives; Create an open, problem-solving management climate in which differences and problems are met head-on and clarified rather than swept under the rug or smoothed over; Promote mutual involvement and interdependency rather than selfish competition or subversive rivalry.

Ms. Peterson -

4. **After a Meeting:** Develop trust; Uphold all decisions made by the Board; Periodically follow-up on district, board and CSA goals; Understand and respect the separate roles and responsibilities of the board and the administration to confine activities within the boundaries of those roles.

If any board member feels that another board member has violated any provision of this agreement, that board member shall personally talk with the offending board member in an attempt to resolve the issue. If the attempt fails, the board member who feels that another board member has violated this agreement shall bring the matter to the attention of the entire board. Any grievances that arise should be dealt with at the earliest practical opportunity.

Mr. Wilcox -

VI. 2013-2014 DISTRICT GOALS

1. Continue to review and assess in a systematic manner, using data, the district curriculum and students' needs to raise student achievement.
2. Create a positive school environment/culture conducive to teaching and learning for all stakeholders.
3. Continue to expand communication to all stakeholders to increase the capacity for greater parent/caregiver and community support.

Ms. Pitts – The Board has called this Special Meeting for the purpose of addressing concerns voiced by the community at our last meeting on May 28, 2014. Several suggestions and recommendations were put forth by members of the public relating to the newly revised Dress Code Policy. One such recommendation concerns the color of pants, skirts etc. to be worn by our students. The Board and Administration listened and it is my understanding that the Building Principals have reversed their previous decisions.

Therefore, the color of pants, skirts, etc. worn by all students will be **navy blue or khaki pants**. Another issue raised concerns the dress code for physical education in our elementary schools. Page 8 under the Uniform Dress Code for physical education. Students will follow this procedure for physical education days and classes in elementary school:

- Elementary School students will be asked to wear sneakers on their physical education days.
- Sweatpants or gym shorts may be worn on gym days (grey or dark green).

The wording will be changed to “dark green” for shirts in the policy.

Strike out “plain grey” and replace it with “grey” in the policy.

Dr. Poteat – The Administration is in support of the Dress Code Policy and we are looking forward to a smooth transition into this policy in September. We are hoping that the parents in the community, after today, are receptive to where we are and that we continue to educate our young people and it does not become an issue for us on a day to day basis.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Time Limited)

A motion was made by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Ms. Peterson to open the meeting for Public Comments.

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

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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 five 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.

Voice Vote: All in favor

Michelle Johnson – Parent

Just want to clarify that the uniforms can now be khaki, navy pants, skirts or shorts and the shirts can be dark green, white and grey for boys and girls elementary through high school. Also the acceptable form of income should be “and” not “or” because you will have people coming to you with eight paystubs or this, or this.

Gwendolyn Bowman – Parent

I just want to piggy back on what Michelle just said in regards to the forms of income. When you talk about saying it can be a tax return or a W2 I think you are setting yourself up in the sense that I might work and only make \$250/month but you are not seeing the full tax return where my husband is also making \$70,000/year. I think it is important to ask for that instead of asking for just one or the other so that we are not taken advantage of. There are a lot of things in this District that still need to happen on top of this \$100,000 we are spending to subsidize people for their uniforms. That is my opinion. I hope I don't get tomatoed on my way out. I have to ask about shoes because you tell a child you have to be in a polo, pants etc. but you can wear whatever shoes you want. Because looking today when we had field day, they all looked great. I am looking at them with polos, khakis and sneakers that are all different colors and twenty five different colored socks. I think it looks ridiculous. I feel if you are in a uniform it should be head to toe. I am not saying go out and get green shoes or chestnut brown, I am saying a basic black sneaker, a basic white sneaker, a basic brown sneaker, something along those lines.

Ms. Pitts – The policy remains the same. It does not say you have to wear a polo shirt.

Dawn Mallough – Parent

I just wanted again, to agree with Michelle. The income guidelines are
When will the policy be posted on the website?

Dr. Poteat – With the changes which will be done prior to school closing. We will

make sure you have it before the summer. I would say on or before that last day. I would rather take the time and do it right than to come back again.

Dawn Mallough - Are you planning to mail?

Dr. Poteat – We try to use every vehicle available to us and of course elementary through middle school we try to backpack. We will have it on our website. High school we may have to mail. We will put it on face book.

Terri Davis – Parent

It still disturbs me that this suggestion was brought up about two years ago, it has taken two years and it is still kind of a mess. I would hope in the future when you are making policies that maybe somebody can be given that responsibility because it shouldn't be the responsibility of the citizens to point out all of those errors in the policy. If I worked for a company for two years and I presented something like this I would be reprimanded or fired and just because you are a Board ...doesn't mean you have the right to....

- Are dresses an option for uniforms?
- Do they wear their polo shirt or their blouse for gym or will they give us a grey tee shirt like the middle or high school?
- Ms. Pitts – The gym clothes, according to the policy, they will wear the regular clothes with sneakers.
- They can wear tee shirts on gym day.
- The colors for the jumpers are khaki and navy.
- Cardigans are allowed.
- Dresses are allowed.
- Jackets can be worn during the day in the appropriate is acceptable.
- Small logo on the clothes is acceptable.
- Regular clothes can be worn on picture day.
- Confidentiality will be maintained with regards to receiving reimbursement.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A motion was made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Blake to adjourn the meeting for Public Comments.

Voice Vote: All in favor

Ms. Pitts – They will go through the whole policy and change it to dresses/jumpers.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A motion was made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Ms. Watkins to approve the Dress

Code Policy Discussion.

A. THE SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING ACTION ITEM:

1. Dress Code Policy Discussion

<i>Roll Call:</i>			
Mr. Blake	Yes	Ms. Watkins	Yes
Ms. Brown	Yes	Mr. Wilcox	Yes
Ms. Dredden	Yes	Ms. Peterson	Yes
Mr. Gidwani	Yes	Ms. Pitts	Yes
Mr. Vascos	Yes		
Motion Carried			

X. ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Ms. Watkins to adjourn the meeting. All Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted

Dr. Dorothy Carcamo
Assistant Superintendent