

**WINSLOW TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Board of Education Meeting – Administrative Personnel Contract**  
**6:00 p.m. Thursday, January 20, 2022**  
**Minutes**

**I. PUBLIC NOTICE** of this meeting was given to all Board Members and Associates in notices dated **01/14/2022**. 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:	Larry Blake	John M. Shaw, Jr.
	Lorraine Dredden	Kelly Thomas (Via Phone/WebEx)
	Rita Martin	Julie Peterson, Vice President
	Cynthia Moore (Via Phone/WebEx)	Cheryl Pitts, President
	Rebecca Nieves	

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

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**V. 2021-2022 DISTRICT GOALS**

1. Student Achievement – Continue to implement best practices for delivering instruction to students utilizing all available and appropriate instructional models. This shall include:
  - a. Ensuring articulation at all grade levels throughout the district
  - b. Focus on innovative classroom instruction at all grade levels
  - c. Ensuring all students have equal access to equipment and resources needed to facilitate and promote student learning in any setting
  - d. Evaluation and updating all district programs, including athletics and extra-curricular activities
  - e. Accountability of all district staff
2. Continue to foster a positive school environment that is conducive to teaching and learning
  - a. Focus on building relationships among staff and families that will result in increased learning and more effective instruction
  - b. Emphasis on collaboration with all district stakeholders
  - c. Promote an inclusive, diverse, and compassionate learning environment

- 3. Market our strengths and achievements to all stakeholders to increase capacity for greater parent/caregiver/community support.
  - a. Continue with our public relations/marketing plan
  - b. Continue to work with the various advisory committees in the district
  - c. Examine communication methods utilized by district

**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to approve adoption of Executive Resolution and adjournment to Executive Session at 6:15 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 January 20, 2022 at 6:15 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 \_\_\_\_\_ and nature of the discussion, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is \_\_\_\_\_;

“(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 is:

Discussion pertaining to the Superintendent’s Contract;

“(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 30 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:			
Mr. Blake	Yes	Ms. Nieves	Yes
Ms. Dredden	Yes	Mr. Shaw	Yes
Ms. Martin	Yes	Ms. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Moore	Yes	Ms. Peterson	Yes
		Ms. Pitts	Yes
Motion Carried			

**VII. PERSONNEL MATTERS**

1. Administrative Personnel Contract

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A motion was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to close the meeting of the Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.**

Voice Vote: All in favor

**A motion was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Martin, to approve the following resolution:**

**RESOLUTION OF THE WINSLOW TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REOPEN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Employment Contract Between the Winslow Township Board of Education and Dr. H. Major Poteat, Superintendent of Schools, a five (5) year contract beginning on July 1, 2017, is set to expire on June 30, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20.1 provides that at the conclusion of the term of a Superintendent’s contract, the Superintendent shall be deemed automatically re-appointed for another contracted term of the same duration and under the same terms, as the previous contract unless the board notifies the superintendent in writing otherwise, provided that such notification shall be given prior to the expiration of the first or any subsequent contract by a length of time equal to 30 days for each year in the term of the current contract; and

**WHEREAS**, the Employment Contract similarly provides an automatic renewal provision in Article 9, Section D; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education wishes to reopen contract negotiations with the Superintendent on a new contract, rather than exercise the automatic renewal clause in the Employment Contract and as provided by law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Winslow Township Board of Education hereby authorize the Board Solicitor and Board President to renegotiate a new Employment Contract with the Superintendent; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Winslow Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board Solicitor to provide all necessary legal notices and take and necessary actions in accordance with Article 9, Section D of the contract and N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20.1.

Roll Call:			
Mr. Blake	Yes	Ms. Nieves	Abstain
Ms. Dredden	Yes	Mr. Shaw	Yes
Ms. Martin	Yes	Ms. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Moore	Yes	Ms. Peterson	Yes
		Ms. Pitts	Yes
Motion Carried			

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Time Limited)**

**A motion was made Ms. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to open the meeting for Public Comments at 6:09 p.m.**

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.

Voice Vote: All in favor
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Ms. Shamecca Bernardini

Ms. Bernardini wanted to appeal a decision that had been made in regards to her son to the Board. She had been directed by Ms. Natasha Palmer to do so, but she was not certain if this was the correct forum. Dr. Poteat responded that this is not a matter that should be discussed during public session. He requested Ms. Bernardini return to the January 26, 2022 Board meeting, where she will be given the opportunity to share her concerns with the Board during executive session.

**X. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**A motion was made Ms. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Martin, to close the meeting for Public Comments at 6:14 p.m.**

Voice Vote: All in favor
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**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. All Ayes.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyra McCoy-Boyle  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary