

WINSLOW TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Reorganization Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, January 5, 2022
7:02 p.m. – (Live Stream Meeting)
Minutes

I. MEETING OPENED BY SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

II. PUBLIC NOTICE of this meeting was given to all Board Members and Associates in a notice dated **08/27/2021**. 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.

III. 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.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. ELECTION RESULTS

Members of the Local Board of Education – Three (3 Year Terms)

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| ○ Rebecca Nieves | 5,618 votes |
| ○ Cheryl Pitts | 5,572 votes |
| ○ Kelly Thomas | 5,526 votes |

VI. INSTALLATION OF BOARD MEMBERS – ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE

The oath of office was administered to Rebecca Nieves, Cheryl Pitts, and Kelly Thomas by Howard Long, Esq., Solicitor.

VII. ROLL CALL

Present:	Larry Blake	Julie Peterson
	Lorraine Dredden	Cheryl Pitts
	Rita Martin	John M. Shaw, Jr.
	Cynthia Moore	Kelly Thomas
	Rebecca Nieves	

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

VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO NEXT REORGANIZATION MEETING IN JANUARY 2023

A. The Board Secretary Opens the Floor for Nominations for Board President:

Nominated: Cheryl Pitts

Move: Ms. Martin

Second: Mr. Shaw

Nominate: Julie Peterson

Move: Mr. Blake

Second: ---

Ms. Peterson declined the position of Board President.

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to close Nominations for Board President.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Ms. Peterson, to elect Ms. Cheryl Pitts as President of the Winslow Township Board of Education for 2022.

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

{Board President is seated and assumes direction of the meeting}

B. The Board President Opens the Floor for Nominations for Vice President:

Nominated: Julie Peterson

Move: Ms. Dredden

Second: Ms. Thomas

Nominate: John Shaw

Move: Ms. Moore

Second: Mr. Blake

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Mr. Blake, to close Nominations for Board Vice President.

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

Mr. Long explained a best practice when there are multiple nominations. He suggested when a Board Member's name is called they should state who they vote for and that the majority carried will be the candidate who wins.

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Dredden, to have Board Members cast their vote for Vice President during Roll Call.

Roll Call:			
Mr. Blake	Shaw	Ms. Peterson	Peterson
Ms. Dredden	Peterson	Ms. Pitts	Peterson
Ms. Martin	Peterson	Mr. Shaw	Abstain
Ms. Moore	Shaw	Ms. Thomas	Peterson
Ms. Nieves	Shaw		
Ms. Peterson has won the nomination for Board Vice President. Motion Carried.			

C. Appointment of Board Secretary:

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Moore, to appoint Ms. Tyra McCoy-Boyle as the Board Secretary of the Winslow Township Board of Education for 2022.

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

IX. BUSINESS & OPERATIONS

A motion was made by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Ms. Peterson, to approve items A, B & C under the Business & Operations section.

A. Conduct of Board of Education Meetings

1. Parliamentary Authority

Approve the Conduct of Board of Education Meetings according to the Parliamentary authority established by Robert’s Rules of Order.

Note: The Board of Education Bylaw Conduct of Board Meetings #0164.

2. Standing Sub-Committees

Approve the following Standing Sub-committees of the Board of Education through Reorganization January 2023:

- Athletic Committee
- Citizens Advisory Committee
- Education Committee
- Equity/Equality Committee
- Marketing Committee
- Negotiations Committee
- Operations Committee
- Policy/HR Committee

B. Schedule of 2022 Board of Education Meetings (Jan. 2022 – Aug. 2022)

Approve a schedule of Board of Education Meetings for January 2022 through August 2022:

<i>Regular Mtg.</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Regular Mtg.</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Wed., January 12, 2022	7:00 p.m.	Live Stream	Wed., January 26, 2022	7:00 p.m.	WTMS
Wed., February 9, 2022	7:00 p.m.	WTMS	Wed., February 23, 2022	7:00 p.m.	WTMS
Wed., March 9, 2022	7:00 p.m.	WTMS	Wed., March 23, 2022	7:00 p.m.	WTMS
Wed., April 13, 2022	7:00 p.m.	WTMS	Wed., April 27, 2022	7:00 p.m.	WTMS
Wed., May 11, 2022	7:00 p.m.	WTMS	Wed., May 25, 2022	7:00 p.m.	WTMS
Wed., June 8, 2022	7:00 p.m.	WTMS	Wed., June 22, 2022	7:00 p.m.	WTMS
Wed., July 13, 2022	7:00 p.m.	WTMS	Wed., July 27, 2022	7:00 p.m.	WTMS
Wed., August 10, 2022	7:00 p.m.	WTMS	Wed., August 24, 2022	7:00 p.m.	WTMS

Note: The remaining 2022 dates will be determined after the 2022-2023 school district calendar has been approved.

C. Board Member Code of Ethics

Approve the adoption of the Code of Ethics governing board behavior.

Note: Approval is required pursuant to Bylaw 0142.

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

X. **APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES AND BOARD COMMITTEES BY THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to approve the appointment of Delegates, Board Committees and School Representatives.

- A. NJ School Boards Association Representative: Ms. Pitts
- B. Camden County School Boards Representative: Ms. Peterson
- C. NJ Urban Boards Committee Representative: Ms. Martin
- D. Camden County Educational Services Representative: Ms. Peterson
- E. Athletic Committee
Chairperson: Mr. Shaw
Member: Mr. Blake
Member: Ms. Moore
- F. Citizens Advisory Committee
Administrative Advisor: Ms. Martin
Member: Ms. Nieves
- G. Education Committee
Chairperson: Ms. Peterson
Member: Ms. Martin
Member: Ms. Thomas
Member: Mr. Blake
- H. Equity/Equality Committee
Chairperson: Ms. Thomas
Member: Ms. Peterson
Member: Ms. Pitts

- I. Marketing Committee
 - Chairperson: Mr. Blake
 - Member: Ms. Moore
 - Member: Ms. Pitts
 - Member: Ms. Nieves

- J. Negotiations Committee
 - Chairperson: Ms. Peterson
 - Member: Ms. Dredden
 - Member: Ms. Martin

- K. Operations Committee
 - Chairperson: Ms. Dredden
 - Member: Mr. Shaw
 - Member: Ms. Thomas

- L. Policy/HR Committee
 - Chairperson: Ms. Pitts
 - Member: Ms. Dredden
 - Member: Ms. Martin
 - Member: Ms. Nieves

- M. Adopt a School Representative:

School	Board Member
School No. 1	Mr. Blake
School No. 2	Ms. Moore
School No. 3	Ms. Peterson
School No. 4	Ms. Nieves
School No. 5	Ms. Martin
School No. 6	Ms. Thomas
Middle School	Ms. Dredden
High School	Mr. Shaw

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

XI. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Peterson

Ms. Peterson reminded the Board that they previously discussed hosting a mid-year review for the Superintendents Evaluation. She recommended having the review on February 23, 2022 during Executive Session.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

XIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Dr. Poteat

Dr. Poteat shared that students are currently in a full-remote status until Friday, January 14, 2022. Face-to-face instruction will resume on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. He explained that over 70 teachers and support staff called out sick as of Sunday night, as well as four administrators. Early Monday morning the total number of bus drivers that were out went from 16 to 21. He stated that it's the District's intent to remain open but when we cannot provide a safe and healthy environment we have no choice but to go to remote instruction. Hopefully, those that are out for Covid-19 related reasons will have time to recover for return on January 18, 2022. Dr. Poteat also explained that due to the uncertainty of the virus we may end up returning to full remote status again in the future. As of today, New Jersey has one of the highest positivity rates. He implored everyone to continue to follow safe protocols.

Dr. Poteat announced that free breakfast and lunch will be available during remote instruction. Meals were available today for pick up at the High School and School #3 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and again at School #3 only from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Next week meals will be available for pick up on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at both the High School and School #3. Due to a shortage of staff we will not be able to make home delivery.

Free Covid-19 vaccines and boosters will be available at the Cherry Hill Mall Nordstrom from January 14-16, 2022. They will be available on Friday from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm and on Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Vaccines and boosters are available to everyone including the general public.

There has been difficulty in getting tested for Covid-19 so Camden County College will be offering free testing on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

The District has decided to offer insurance for Chromebooks. The optional insurance will cost about \$30.00 - \$40.00 per Chromebook. Those that opt out of the insurance can pay for whatever costs are associated with damage. Based on the estimated cost for the insurance the District will have to go out for bid.

Dr. Poteat shared that the District's quarantine requirements are still the same despite the CDC's new recommendation. The 5-day quarantine has not been adopted by the New Jersey Department of Health and the schools. We are maintaining that a positive Covid-19 test requires a 10-day quarantine. A close contact will need to quarantine for 10 days, or 7 days with a negative test taken at 5-7 days after exposure. This practice will remain until we hear from the Camden County Department of Health.

The students will be receiving their scores from the Strong Start Assessment in mid-January and a presentation will be held during the first Board meeting in February. This does not replace the State Test but provides a benchmark as to the skill set of the students.

Ms. Peterson

Ms. Peterson asked the Board if there could be a plaque or recognition given to Ms. McClendon for her service to the Board. Dr. Poteat replied that the District is not able to pay for or provide a plaque. Board members have taken collection in the last 3-4 years to cover costs such as these. Discussion was had about the Sunshine fund that was established for such things and about the process to get the plaque made.

Mr. Blake

Mr. Blake requested clarification on the quarantine requirements. Dr. Poteat reiterated the practice in place for close contact quarantine and vaccination status.

Mr. Blake also asked for clarification about the requirement for students to wear uniform shirts during the current remote instruction. Dr. Poteat replied that he believes that the test results that will be distributed this month were very discouraging and implied that students were not taking remote learning seriously. The District is enforcing uniform shirts to create a more serious educational environment at home and to put students in an education mindset. He explained that students were dressed inappropriately during remote instruction last year and he is trying to ensure it doesn't continue. He also explained this is not an extension of remote learning from last year and the students should be preparing themselves the same as if they were attending school in person, since this is only temporary. Mr. Blake asked about consequences. Dr. Poteat said he wants parents and teachers to hold the students accountable. He felt he wasn't asking too much since students already have the shirts and would be wearing them in person.

Ms. Nieves asked for clarification about the policy for uniforms during remote statue and Dr. Poteat explained that it is not a policy but was his recommendation to the principals. Ms. Nieves shared that she thought it was an added stress to the parents that were already struggling to ready their children for remote school. Dr. Poteat responded with his reasoning for asking this of parents and students and explained again that he didn't think he was asking too much.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Time Limited)

A motion was made by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Ms. Peterson, to open the meeting for Public Comments at 8:18 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

Stephanie Simmons

Ms. Simmons congratulated Ms. Nieves on her appointment and shared that the Proud Parents of Winslow would like to sponsor the plaque for Ms. Abena McClendon.

Tina Marshall

Ms. Marshall congratulated Ms. Nieves. She also wanted to follow up on Dr. Poteat requiring uniform shirts. She does not feel students should be required to wear them or be punished at this time. She does not see the correlation between uniform shirts and student performance. She believes we need to do better as a District, as parents and as a community.

Sonia Inman

Ms. Inman thanked Dr. Poteat and the Board for going full remote as result of staff shortages, the increase in Covid-19 cases, and the lack of availability for testing in the community. She also commented on the directive to wear uniform shirts. She understands the reasoning to wear uniforms during remote learning but does not agree that the punishment should include removing students from the remote classroom if they do not obey. She would like Dr. Poteat to reconsider enforcing it.

Emily Walker

Ms. Walker does not believe students should be required to wear uniform shirts. She suggested that the High School and older students wear them but that students that require help with preparing for the day, such as the elementary students, should not be required. She believed the Board would understand what parents and families are going through since Covid-19 is impacting the District too. She also referenced that the recent Uniform Survey proves that parents are against uniforms.

Cindy Skurnik

Ms. Skurnik understands that the test numbers were poor but does not understand how taking a student out of the remote classroom will help those numbers. She also inquired about the Before and After School program and reimbursement. Dr. Poteat replied that he will discuss refunding parents with Dr. Mills.

Debbie Scullin

Ms. Scullin does not agree with the uniform shirt requirement. She also believes that everything should be explained more clearly and that communication should be more consistent. She explained that she's had emails to teachers and the principals go unanswered and she's seen other parents scrambling on social media trying to find out what the requirements are and to get assistance with accessing the classrooms. She said that education should be first and the teachers and students should be enabled.

LaShawn McMichael

Ms. McMichael requested clarification on the notification of family members when a child tests positive. She was told that only children that are unvaccinated are being notified. Dr. Poteat explained that all children identified as a close contact are being notified. He explained that only unvaccinated children need to quarantine. Ms. McMichael asked where she can find the policies and regulations that the District is following. Dr. Poteat told her where to find the information and explained that if there is a discrepancy between different schools and the notification process it will be revisited with all of the school nurses to make sure the correct process is being followed.

XV. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Peterson, to close the meeting for Public Comment at 8:38 p.m.

Voice Vote: All in favor

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None at this time.

Each Board Member shared a Happy New Year and congratulations to all that were elected for the Board for 2022. They also shared their goals for this year as Board Members. Dr. Poteat also shared his intentions to do the best by the students and parents this year.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT A motion was made by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Ms. Martin, to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. All Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyra McCoy-Boyle
Business Administrator/Board Secretary