

**WINSLOW TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Board of Education Meeting – Town Hall Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 16, 2022**  
**Winslow Township Middle School – Cafeteria**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

I. **PUBLIC NOTICE** of this meeting was given to all Board Members and Associates in notices dated **02/18/2022 and 3/11/2022**. 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	Rebecca Nieves
	Lorraine Dredden	Kelly Thomas
	Rita Martin	Cheryl Pitts, President
	Cynthia Moore	

Absent: John M. Shaw, Jr.  
Julie Peterson, Vice President

Also Present: H. Major Poteat, Ed.D., Superintendent  
Dorothy Carcamo, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent  
Tyra McCoy-Boyle, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

After the Pledge of Allegiance Ms. Pitts introduced members of Winslow Township that would be joining the Town Hall: Ms. Marie Lawrence, Deputy Mayor, Mr. Ray Watkins, Township Committee Ward 3, Mr. Chuck Flamini, Township Committee Ward 4, and Mr. John Wilson, Township Committee Ward 4.

Dr. Poteat introduced the Administrators present.

Ms. Pitts shared that We Are Winslow Heart and Soul, the Citizens Advisory Committee, and Mr. Virgil Carman were also a part of the audience.

Ms. Pitts presented Mr. Blake, Chairperson of the Marketing Committee, who began the Town Hall.

**V. 2021-2022 DISTRICT GOALS**

(Ms. Nieves)

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. TOWN HALL MEETING**

**Mr. Blake opened with a respectful statement about The Lenape to honor them as the indigenous people of the area.**

***Public Forum for Open Conversation*** - Township of Winslow residents, parents, guardians, caregivers, school district staff, and current and former students, are invited to join the Board of Education for this open conversation.

The purpose of this forum is to provide our district stakeholders with an extended opportunity to present feedback to the Board on what is working well within our school district, present and discuss opportunities for improvement, ask questions on policy or procedure, voice concerns and offer solutions to all areas within the school district and the district's day-to-day operations.

The Board of Education is committed to listening to all feedback and taking action as appropriate.

**Dr. Poteat**

Dr. Poteat provided the following information items:

Students that are 6 years old or younger will be offered virtual health screenings, including hearing, vision and developmental screenings. Parental consent must be obtained in order for the students to receive the services. The screenings will take place in May and Schools #1-4 will receive additional information.

After school tutoring will begin March 29, 2022 on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a minimum of 1 hour. Older students are being recommended by teachers and principals and they've already received information. Based on the limited availability of staff only a certain number of students can be serviced. Snacks will be provided.

District testing began on March 14, 2022 with the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment. This assessment is required by the New Jersey Department of Education for all 11<sup>th</sup> graders starting 2023, 2024 and 2025. The New Jersey Learning Assessment begins for all students, starting with 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, April 25, 2022 through June.

The Winslow Township High School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Open House Expo will be on March 17, 2022 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the High School Gymnasium. The flyer the 8<sup>th</sup> Graders received is on the High School website. Topics included are graduation requirements, state testing requirements, course offerings, sustainable NJ, STEAM/CTE Courses, NCAA Clearing House updates and extracurricular activities and clubs. Parents and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Dr. Poteat also wanted to share with the parents that the High School stage will be complete the first week of April. He is hopeful that we can have the Spring Play.

**Mr. Joe Thomas**

Mr. Thomas, a 1983 Edgewood Graduate, shared comments about the success the District has seen with it's football team, track team and as a Green Ribbon School District. He wanted to know what the District can do to continue to keep this upward momentum and growth.

Dr. Poteat replied that parents should continue to partner with the District and the community. Parental encouragement plays a huge role in the Districts' success.

**Ms. Tiffany Scurry**

Ms. Scurry shared that this is her children's first year in the District. Her daughter's teacher is amazing. She shared that Ms. Giuliani and Ms. Flemington are a great team and work together very well. She is concerned though because her daughter was punched in the face at school today and she would like to know that the staff and administration are addressing it, as well as mental health for the students.

Dr. Poteat replied that we have mental health services available in all of the schools. He asked that parents seeing any issues or concerns notify the school so services can be provided. He provided further information about looking into the unacceptable behavior.

**Caller Mr. Jeff Black**

Mr. Black shared that his daughter has experienced disruptions and unacceptable behavior from another student in her class at School #1 and that he noticed that the behavior does not seem to have been addressed and has continued to be disruptive for several weeks. He wanted to share that he has heard the services offered to students are not sufficient and wanted to give the Board and administration the perspective from his daughter's view point as a student.

Dr. Poteat replied that student discipline is administered, but that as the other parent they will not be informed. He wants parents to know that even through information is not shared it does not mean that appropriate action has not been taken.

**Ms. Murphy**

Ms. Murphy has several children in the District and despite the negative topics that always get discussed she wanted to share that the children are still learning amazing things. She also wanted to discuss an athletic program concern. Her daughter is a freshman who is excited about her third sport. They are in a difficult conference, playing teams like Shawnee, Lenape and Washington Township that has resulted in a lot of loses. The only two games that were won were teams that were not in our conference. She believes the program can be reviewed to find a "happy medium" for the teams that are not able to compete in an Olympic Conference. She is also concerned that communication about some topics are being sent home through the students. She has found out about athletic requirements through her children that the school and teams did not inform her of.

Dr. Poteat responded that the athletic program and conference have been a concern for years. The conference is determined by the size of the school, not the size of the team or level of success. He explained that there is a lengthy process to request to switch to another conference without the guarantee that it will be approved. He believes more students should be involved with the sports earlier on. He also shared that we will continue to try and improve the communication process through all avenues.

**Mr. Carman**

Ms. Pitts asked Mr. Carman to come up and discuss Men Empowering Nations. He shared that Men Empowering Nations has been in existence for almost 15 years. Mr. Carman shared his experience with founding the 501c3 organization and what they hope to accomplish. Mr. Virgil (his son) also came up and shared information about Men Empowering Nations and an upcoming event.

**Ms. Leann Nieves**

Ms. Nieves shared that she was concerned that students are learning revisionist history. Currently, her class is learning about Christopher Columbus discovering North America but she shared that the history surrounding it is more complicated than is being taught.

Mr. Carman also thanked his son's teacher Ms. Wilson.

Ms. Unnamed Speaker thanked Mr. Blake for starting the meeting in an inclusive way. She shared that it is important that we all be more inclusive and that it means a lot to parents.

**Ms. Pitts**

Ms. Pitts commented that this meeting has brought us back to the Board's Mission Statement. She shared again "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."

Mr. Joe Thomas shared information about We Are Winslow and the members present. Ms. Desiree Bryant won a \$25.00 gift card raffle.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Dredden, to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. All Ayes.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Tyra McCoy-Boyle  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary