

**CLINTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – February 25, 2008

TIME AND PLACE: The regular meeting was held on February 25, 2008, by the Board of Education of the Clinton Township School District, Hunterdon County, in the All-Purpose Room of the Patrick McGaheran School, 63 Allerton Road, Lebanon, New Jersey 08833.

**PUBLICATION
OF NOTICE:**

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Laws of 1975, the Clinton Township Board of Education has provided adequate notice of the date, time, and location of this meeting. Such notice has been posted on the district website, in the Clinton Township Board of Education Office and each of the district schools, has been filed with the Clinton Township Clerk, and was faxed to the *Hunterdon County Democrat*, *Hunterdon Review*, *Courier News*, *Star Ledger* and *Express Times* on January 30, 2008.

CALL TO ORDER: Board Vice-President Jim Dincuff called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Jim Dincuff, Vice President
Michelle Cresti
Donna Gregory
Mark Kaplan

Janette LaVigne
Charles Many
Thomas Roskoski
Debra Weiss

Absent:

Roger Straight, President

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS

PRESENT:

Elizabeth A. Nastus, Superintendent of Schools
Daria A. Wasserbach, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Nastus welcomed Patrick McGaheran School Principal Mary Postma who introduced Ms. Erin Chassey and the 3rd Grade McGaheran Chorus. The Board enjoyed a concert by the newly formed chorus of more than 130 3rd grade students. Mr. Dincuff thanked Ms. Postma, Ms. Chassey and the chorus for the performance.

In addition to the monthly report on pupil enrollment and suspension, Dr. Nastus informed the Board that the Star-Ledger's report on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under No Child Left

Behind was based upon preliminary data. The NJ Department of Education has confirmed that Clinton Township has achieved AYP in all areas.

**RECOGNITION
OF THE PUBLIC:**

- Donna Hogrebe – Encouraged the board to reinstate in the 0809 proposed budget all co-curricular and athletic programs that have been eliminated in recent years.
- Jenny Plassche – Hunterdon Musical Arts requesting consideration of a waiver of facility use fees for the 0809 school year. The matter was referred to the Facilities/Finance Committee for consideration. The committee will report back to the board with a recommendation.
- Franklyn Isaacson – School board elections and 0809 preliminary budget; Accept no preschool tuition students; One shared principal for CTMS and SRS campus; No vice-principal

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action 08-306:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2008. Motion by J. Dincuff, seconded by D. Gregory. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Action 08-307:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the Executive Session Minutes of January 28, 2008. Motion by J. Dincuff, seconded by D. Weiss. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Wasserbach announced that only one petition had been filed for the three available seats on the school board. The petition was filed by Debbie Weiss.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Board of Education and Public Hearing on the 0809 Proposed School Budget will take place on Monday, March 24, 2008 at 7:30 PM in the Round Valley School. The Board directed Mrs. Wasserbach to revise the March 10 meeting from a committee session to a special public meeting as a Committee of the Whole to discuss the 0809 proposed school budget. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. No action may be taken to change or amend the school budget until the public hearing on March 24.

Mrs. Wasserbach reminded the Board that on Tuesday, March 18, the Leadership Team will host public presentations on the proposed 0809 school budget throughout the day beginning at 9:00 AM and concluding at 8:00 PM. Dr. Nastus will email broadcast the day's schedule to Clinton Township parents and will post it on the district website.

Correspondence:

- January 11, 2008 Letter from Hunterdon County ESC, re: Purchasing Cooperative Savings Summary
- January 22, 2008 Letter from G.R. Murray, re: ERIC West – NJSBAIG Regional Sub Fund
- January 31, 2008 Letter from Community Diversity Council of Hunterdon County, NJ, re: Thank you for use of CTMS Auditorium
- February 9, 2008 Letter from Franklyn Isaacson, re: Need for Vice-Principal
- February 9, 2008 Letter from Franklyn Isaacson, re: One Principal for One School Campus
- February 12, 2008 Note from John Scott, re: Thank you for well wishes
- February 16, 2008 Letter from Franklyn Isaacson, re: Eliminate Parent-Paid Pre-Kindergarten

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES/FINANCE:

Chuck Many – Facilities Chair, Tom Roskoski – Finance Chair, Jim Dincuff, Debbie Weiss

Mr. Many reviewed the Facility/Finance Committee Minutes of February 11, 2008. He thanked Clinton Township and the Recreation Commission for the field upgrades at Patrick McGaheran School and the outdoor basketball courts at Clinton Township Middle School. Mr. Many led a discussion regarding the newly proposed/revised traffic pattern at Spruce Run School which would divert parent pick-up and drop-off during normal arrival and dismissal times away from Belvidere Avenue and up the CTMS access road. The new pattern would begin in early March and would continue through the remainder of the school year, at which time the process would be reviewed and assessed. Further recommendation would be made for the 0809 school year.

Action 08-308:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the revised traffic pattern for Spruce Run School as presented. Motion by C. Many, seconded by T. Roskoski. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 6; nays, 2 (Dincuff, Gregory).

Action 08-309:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves payment of bills in the amount of \$1,890,896.55 for the period ending February 25, 2008. Motion by C. Many, seconded by T. Roskoski. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Action 08-310: RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the following CTMS and School Renovation Capital payments:

<u>Ch #</u>	<u>Vendor (Payee)</u>	<u>Check Line Comments</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1366	Seacoast Builders	App #27, BOE appd 1/28/08	\$116,000.00
1367	Town of Clinton	Water Engineers	\$2,935.00
1368	Nickerson Corp	CTMS Wireless Scoreboard	\$4,900
1369	Grafas Painting Contractors	RVS Renovations	\$81,289.21
	TOTAL		\$205,124.21

Motion by C. Many, seconded by T. Roskoski. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Action 08-311: RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the following grants from the Clinton Township Foundation of Educational Excellence:

<u>Grant Applicant(s)</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ellen Jacobsen, Polly Glowatz	RVS	Fitness Equipment	\$2,913.96

Motion by C. Many, seconded by T. Roskoski. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Action 08-312: RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts a donation from Glenn and Jackie Cocchiola of 200 tennis balls valued at \$100 for the Clinton Township Middle School. Motion by C. Many, seconded by T. Roskoski. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Action 08-313: RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves change order #1 with Underground Utilities Corporation in the amount of \$4,900 for 2 additional gate valves required to maintain adequate water pressure to the fire suppression system at the Clinton Township Middle School. Motion by C. Many, seconded by T. Roskoski. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Action 08-314: RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorize the following signatures on the accounts maintained by the Board of Education for the 2007/2008 school year:

1) *Clinton Township School Activities - Commerce Bank (2 signatures required)*

*Authorized Signatures Patrick McGaheran School:
Mary Postma/Donna Daku/Daria A. Wasserbach*

2) *Clinton Township School District Petty Cash - Commerce Bank (2 signatures required)*

*Authorized Signatures Patrick McGaheran School:
Mary Postma/Donna Daku/Daria A. Wasserbach*

Motion by C. Many, seconded by T. Roskoski. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Action 08-315: RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby abandons the 2008/2009 Kindergarten EXPO Program due to financial reasons. Motion by T. Roskoski, seconded by D. Weiss. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Action 08-316: RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby reinstates the Work Family Kindergarten Wraparound Program for 2008/2009 with a facilities rental fee in the amount of \$15,000. Motion by T. Roskoski, seconded by D. Weiss. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Action 08-317: RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the following request(s) for dual transportation in accordance with Policy and Regulation No. 3541.1 "Transportation Routes and Services"

*M.R. Spruce Run School
R.R. Spruce Run School*

Motion by T. Roskoski, seconded by J. Dincuff. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Action 08-318: RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, A5 was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence in school boards by providing for various school district accountability measures; and

WHEREAS, A5 requires that as a condition of receiving State aid, a school district shall examine all available group options for every insurance policy held by the district, including any self-

insurance plan administered by the New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group on behalf of districts, and that the district shall participate in the most cost effective plans;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Clinton Township has, in accordance with A5, examined their group options for every insurance policy held by the district, including any self-insurance plan administered by the New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group on behalf of districts; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Clinton Township has specifically examined the Clinton Township's current insurance obligations with the New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group and have found the coverage's and savings to be more than satisfactory and also the most cost effective; specifically \$200,722; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Clinton Township has determined that the plan offered by the New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group is the most cost effective plan; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Clinton Township hereby determines to enter into the following insurance agreements in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A:

Multi Peril Package (Liability, Crime and Automobile)

Property

School District Legal Liability

Workers Compensation

Umbrella Excess Liability

Motion by T. Roskoski, seconded by D. Weiss. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Mr. Roskoski reported that the Facilities/Finance Committee has met on several occasions to review the 2008/09 budget and is prepared to make recommendation to the board for adoption. The proposed budget as presented includes reductions in various line items as well as the addition of a .5 world language teacher and 3.4 additional special education teacher assistants. The total budget increase is 1.19% over 2007/08. The general fund tax levy increase is 2.8% over the current year.

Mr. Dincuff apologized for missing the Finance Committee meetings and expressed concern that this budget is below the NJ Department Education "cap".

Action 08-319:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 2008/2009 tentative budget includes sufficient funds to implement the proposed planning process as described in this district's Annual Report pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A -11 and to provide curriculum and instruction which will enable all students to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Clinton Township Board of Education approves the tentative 2008/2009 budget in the amount of \$28,066,334 and authorizes its submission to the Hunterdon County Superintendent of Schools for approval as follows:

<i>General Fund.....</i>	<i>\$24,327,820</i>
<i>Special Revenue Fund.....</i>	<i>\$664,314</i>
<i>Debt Service Fund.....</i>	<i>\$3,074,200</i>
<i>Total Base Budget.....</i>	<i>\$28,066,334</i>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the submission of the tax levy cap calculation as follows:

<i>Prebudget year adjusted tax levy, including weighted increases for enrollment, inflated by 4%</i>	<i>\$21,966,894</i>
<i>Adjustment for Reduction in Total State Aid From Prebudget Year, Issued with State Aid Notices</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Adjustment for Increase in Health Care Cost</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Adjustment for Districts Spending Above Adequacy, with General Fund Levy Greater than Local Share and State Aid Increase Greater than CPI</i>	<i>(\$115,899)</i>
<i>Request to the Commissioner for Waivers:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Increase in Capital Outlay</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Increase in Special Education Costs over \$40,000 per pupil</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>New School Costs</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Increase in Energy Costs</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Increase in Insurance Costs</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Increase in Transportation Costs for Hazardous Routes</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Increase in Tuition Costs</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Failure to Meet CCCS under QSAC</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Non-recurring General Fund Revenues</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Other Waiver requests</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Total Tax Levy Cap:</i>	<i>\$21,850,995</i>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to acknowledge that the 2008/2009 budget as described above results in a general fund tax levy in the amount of \$21,712,445, and a debt service tax levy in the amount of \$2,987,434.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with Board of Education Policy No. 9250, "Expenses" the maximum travel allowance for the 2008/2009 school year shall be established at \$100,000.

Motion by T. Roskoski, seconded by C. Many. On a roll call vote resolution was DEFEATED as follows: ayes, 4; nays, 4 (Cresti, Dincuff, Gregory, Kaplan).

A discussion ensued as to the elimination and restoration of \$26,100 for co-curricular and athletic activities.

Action 08-320: RESOLUTION

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the 2008/2009 tentative school budget with the restoration of \$26,100 for co-curricular and athletic activities. Motion by J. Dincuff, seconded by D. Gregory. On a roll call vote resolution was DEFEATED as follows: ayes, 2; nays, 6 (Cresti, Gregory, Kaplan, LaVigne, Roskoski, Weiss).

Considerable discussion continued. The Board will consider making changes to the proposed budget at the public hearing following the March 10 meeting and additional public input.

Action 08-321: RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 2008/2009 tentative budget includes sufficient funds to implement the proposed planning process as described in this district's Annual Report pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A -11 and to provide curriculum and instruction which will enable all students to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Clinton Township Board of Education approves the tentative 2008/2009 budget in the amount of \$28,066,334 and authorizes its submission to the Hunterdon County Superintendent of Schools for approval as follows:

<i>General Fund.....</i>	<i>\$24,327,820</i>
<i>Special Revenue Fund.....</i>	<i>\$664,314</i>
<i>Debt Service Fund.....</i>	<i>\$3,074,200</i>
<i>Total Base Budget.....</i>	<i>\$28,066,334</i>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the submission of the tax levy cap calculation as follows:

<i>Prebudget year adjusted tax levy, including weighted increases for enrollment, inflated by 4%</i>	<i>\$21,966,894</i>
<i>Adjustment for Reduction in Total State Aid From Prebudget Year, Issued with State Aid Notices</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Adjustment for Increase in Health Care Cost</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Adjustment for Districts Spending Above Adequacy, with General Fund Levy Greater than Local Share and State Aid Increase Greater than CPI</i>	<i>(\$115,899)</i>
<i>Request to the Commissioner for Waivers:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Increase in Capital Outlay</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Increase in Special Education Costs over \$40,000 per pupil</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>New School Costs</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Increase in Energy Costs</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Increase in Insurance Costs</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Increase in Transportation Costs for Hazardous Routes</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Increase in Tuition Costs</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Failure to Meet CCCS under QSAC</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Non-recurring General Fund Revenues</i>	<i>\$0</i>

<i>Other Waiver requests</i>	\$0
<i>Total Tax Levy Cap:</i>	\$21,850,995

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to acknowledge that the 2008/2009 budget as described above results in a general fund tax levy in the amount of \$21,712,445, and a debt service tax levy in the amount of \$2,987,434.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with Board of Education Policy No. 9250, "Expenses" the maximum travel allowance for the 2008/2009 school year shall be established at \$100,000.

Motion by D. Gregory, seconded by D. Weiss. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Action 08-322: RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Amendment #2 to the Engineering Services Contract for the Round Valley School Wastewater Treatment Plant with Applied Water Management, 2 Clerico Lane, Hillsborough, NJ not to exceed \$7,350. Motion by C. Many, seconded by T. Roskoski . On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

PERSONNEL/NEGOTIATIONS:

Michelle Cresti – Chair, Donna Gregory, Jim Dincuff, Janette LaVigne

Action 08-323: RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the following requests for graduate course approval:

<i>Employee</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>Course</i>	<i>Credits</i>
<i>Kelly Helmstetter</i>	<i>Spring 2008</i>	<i>Teaching Students w/Learning Disabilities</i>	<i>4</i>

Motion by M. Cresti, seconded by J. LaVigne. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 7; nays, 1 (Roskoski).

Action 08-324: RESOLUTION

*BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts, with regret, the Notice of Intent to Retire from **Loisann Russo**, Secretary to the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, effective September 1, 2008. Motion by M. Cresti, seconded by J. LaVigne. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 7; nays, 1 (Roskoski).*

Action 08-335: RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the 2008/2009 Tentative School Calendar. Motion by J. Dincuff, seconded by J. LaVigne. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Action 08-336: RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the 2007/2008 out-of-district sending tuition and one to one aide agreement with UMDNJ, 671 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08855 for the period of January 7, 2008 through June 30, 2008 at an annual rate of \$84,000, prorated. Motion by J. Dincuff, seconded by J. LaVigne. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Action 08-337: RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the Bedside Instruction agreement with UMDNJ at a rate of \$55 per hour. Motion by J. Dincuff, seconded by J. LaVigne. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Action 08-338: RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the second reading and adoption of Procedure No, P6114 "Emergency and Disaster Preparedness. Motion by J. Dincuff, seconded by J. LaVigne. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Action 08-339: RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the first reading of revised Policy No. 5111 "Admission". Motion by J. Dincuff, seconded by J. LaVigne. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

Action 08-340: RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the first reading of the following regulations and procedures:

*Regulation R1312..... Community Complaints and Inquiries
Regulation R2120.....The Leadership Team
Regulation R2131..... Chief School Administrator*

Motion by J. Dincuff, seconded by J. LaVigne. On a roll call vote resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 8; nays, 0.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Donna Gregory – Chair, Michelle Cresti, Mark Kaplan, Janette LaVigne

