

**CLINTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

MINUTES

**Special Meeting October 3, 2011 at 7:30 pm
Clinton Township Middle School Auditorium**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Dincuff called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

**PUBLICATION
OF NOTICE:**

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Laws of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was provided through the annual public notice on August 30, 2011:

- a. Faxing to four newspapers designated by the Board – Hunterdon County Democrat, Hunterdon Review, Star-Ledger and Express Times
- b. Posting on the District Website, the main bulletin board in the Administration Office and in each Clinton Township School
- c. Filing with the Clerk of Clinton Township

ROLL CALL

Present:

Board Members:

Jim Dincuff, President	Mark Kaplan
Michelle Cresti, Vice President	Rachel McLaughlin
Marc Freda	Kevin Sturges
Maria Grant	Michelle Sullivan
Grace Hoefig	

Present:

District Administrators:

Mr. Kevin J. Carroll, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Patricia A. Leonhardt, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE:**

Mr. Dincuff led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS/REPORTS

Mr. Dincuff explained the format for this evening's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Mr. Lomuscio spoke of the topography of the Grayrock Road area.

Mr. Komoroski spoke of the water problems on his property, which backs up to the vacant lot.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

• **SOLAR PRESENTATION:**

- Kevin Settembrino of BSA & A presented an overview of the plans for the placement of solar panels in the district.

Questions were then asked:

- Board member Ms. Sullivan questioned if solar on the land across from Clinton Township Middle School could be credited to the district's project. Mr. Settembrino stated it could be.
- Board members Mr. Kaplan and Ms. Hoefig asked questions regarding projected electric rates, which are tied to the SREC market.
- Board member Mr. Sturges asked of the district's responsibilities in the project. (Mr. Settembrino responded that while the district determines placement, the PPA Provider does all of the work.)
- Board member Ms. Grant asked additional questions regarding solar panel placement.
- Mr. Lomuscio asked questions of Architect Kevin Settembrino regarding cost to the district (\$0) and the safety of the panels, including the load bearing weight of the school's roofs (a structural engineer has completed an analysis).
- Ms. Switlyk discussed the fact she thought the ground mounts canopies were unattractive.
- Ms. Fuhrmann asked questions regarding the safety of the panels including in the event of a fire.
- Ms. Vogel expressed concerns regarding the number of pavement penetrations required by ground mounts, as well as the need to illuminate the supports (Mr. Settembrino responded that in turn there would be some reduction in maintenance due to less plowing; structures are illuminated from underneath.)
- Mr. Lomuscio asked question regarding the safety of the cars underneath the panels and stated that Stevens Institute has experienced problems.
- Mr. Komoroski spoke of the unattractiveness of the installation and the difficulty in plowing.
- Board member Mr. Freda asked further questions regarding panel placement. Mr. Settembrino spoke of the preferred order considered for the placement:
 - Roof mounts
 - Ground mounts
 - Canopies
- Ms. Angel spoke of sledding at Spruce Run School and her desire that panels not be placed there.
- Ms. Lipshitz spoke of the aesthetics of the Grayrock Road area and the scheduling of the process.

- Mr. Corcodilos questioned the scope of the 2003 referendum and whether the Clinton Township Fire Company had been consulted. Mr. Settembrino stated that the Planning Board will distribute the plans as a matter of practice to fire, police and Office of Emergency Management.
- Mr. Lomuscio asked why all of the panels are not being placed on the land across from the Clinton Township Middle School. It was explained that panels across from the Clinton Township Middle School can only offset Spruce Run School and Clinton Township Middle School utility rates.
- Mr. Komoroski asked about potential reflection coming off the solar panels.
- Mr. Chu asked about the use of batteries for energy storage.

Mr. Dincuff stated that it is anticipated that there will be a motion on the October 17th agenda to commence the process to obtain proposals under Competitive Contract.

- **LAND USAGE ACROSS FROM CLINTON TOWNSHIP MIDDLE SCHOOL**
 - Mr. Carroll spoke about the vacant 17 acres across from CTMS. Due to a need to move CTMS further back on its lot at construction time, planned athletic fields had to be eliminated from the plans. Therefore, athletic fields is one potential use of the land, as is using it for solar panels. A third potential use is a land lease.
 - As a potential land lease partner, the YMCA presented.
- **YMCA PRESENTATION**
 - Alex Van, Board Chair of the Hunterdon County YMCA, opened the presentation. Mr. Bruce Black, Hunterdon County YMCA CEO, presented a plan along with Engineer Bill Hill.

Questions were then asked:

- Board member Ms. McLaughlin asked about the number of parking spots in the plan (approx. 200).
- Board member Mr. Kaplan asked of the water problems, which engineer Bill Hill said would certainly be addressed. One possibility would be water storage under fields.
- Board President Mr. Dincuff asked which athletic fields were planned. (2 softball and soccer fields)
- Board member Ms. McLaughlin asked of pedestrian traffic from CTMS, which has not yet been addressed.
- Board member Mr. Sturges asked of the schedule. Mr. Black spoke of the need to raise capital.
- This is probably a 3-5 year project and that the engineer acknowledged that the first step would be to address the storm water issue.
- Board member Ms. Sullivan asked of the plans for the YMCA's Round Valley facility. (They would not operate both.)
- Board member Mr. Freda asked of the studies which would be conducted.
- Board member Ms. Sullivan asked about the Park and Ride, which is no longer included.

- Mr. Lomuscio asked the YMCA what other sites they are investigating. They mentioned that they are reviewing several possibilities. Mr. Lomuscio stated his concerns regarding the athletic field placement. Board member Mr. Kaplan responded, explaining that this might address a number of issues, including the water problems. Board member Ms. Hoefig supported the need to present this concept with drawings.
- The engineer for the YMCA provided a further explanation of the drawings including the fact that the tree line would remain. In addition, the needs of the residents were considered regarding the placement of the roadway entrance. Mr. Hill again stated that, should this project move forward, the first order of business would be to alleviate the water issues.
- Mr. Majorski asked of the zoning and his thought that a YMCA is a tremendous attribute for the community.
- Ms. Fuhrmann stated that a YMCA would be a wonderful alternative to some of the other possibilities, i.e., Park and Ride.
- Ms. Angel asked if the YMCA had approached the DEP yet. The engineer felt that this was probably not necessary at this point. The resident spoke of a prior meeting with the DEP and her belief that nothing can be built on the land. The YMCA will pursue.
- Ms. Weaver spoke of her concern regarding traffic.
- Ms. Switlyk asked questions regarding the programs the YMCA would be offering (not yet determined).
- Mr. Engelhart asked questions regarding hours of operation (they explained that outdoor programming is not expected after dark), and concerns with increased traffic.
- Mr. Komoroski discussed the frequency of the 100 year flood and the need for capacity in excess of that. He asserted that the district is “in violation”.
- Mr. MacIsaac felt that there were not enough studies done prior to this evening. Board member Mr. Kaplan suggested that it is best to gauge the community’s reaction prior to large expenditures. The studies would be at the expense of the YMCA, once they are sure that the Clinton Township School District is seriously interested in partnering. Ms. MacIsaac felt that only one driveway is inadequate.
- Mr. Corcodilos stated that he wouldn’t support anything on the site without the proper details and obtaining the proper approvals. However, if this could occur, he would support it.
- Mr. Rivers supported that the board should move forward with considering the YMCA on the site.
- Mr. Chu asked why the entrance could not be off of Rt. 31. It was explained that it probably would not be allowed. The traffic on Grayrock Road has led him to not support the project.
- Board member Sturges continued the conversation regarding the obstacle to creating a Rt. 31 entrance.
- Ms. Lipschitz spoke of the need for a community center, but suggested that it should not be in a residential area.
- Mr. Sherblom asked about a sidewalk from the Deer Meadow development to the YMCA and how to transport students from the Clinton Township Middle School to the location.

Mr. Dincuff thanked all for their presentation and assured the YMCA that the Board will consider this option and be in touch.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Grant discussed the increased state aid awarded over the summer. The Communications Committee is working on a Q & A to address the topic. The Committee committed to having the document completed by the next Board of Education meeting. In addition, it will be placed on the district's website.

Mr. Freda discussed the recent interest from other school districts regarding their attendance here. While he suggested a rebuttal to the newspaper articles, the board did not decide to do so. The board decided that this topic would need to be studied further. It was decided that annually the board should review capacity vs. enrollment, as well as an evaluation of the effect on our other services. Mr. Dincuff suggested that one member from each of the board's four committees form an ad hoc to review this topic in depth. The suggestion was made that these approaches go through the Superintendent's office and only when something real and definite is proposed will the Board be involved.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC – N/A

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Carroll recommended that moving forward all board meetings be held in the Clinton Township Middle School Auditorium. It was requested that the table be set as a horseshoe or crescent. While the Board agreed, it was determined that the tables need to be placed as a horseshoe (or at the least a crescent) to enable board members clear sight of each other.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Resolved by the Board of Education of Clinton Township as per Chapter 231, P. L. 1975:

- a. That it is hereby determined that it is necessary to meet in Executive Session on Monday, October 3, 2011 to discuss negotiations, Business Administrator interviews, and Superintendent search.*
- b. The matter discussed will be made public if and when confidentiality is no longer required and action pursuant to said discussion shall take place only at a public meeting.*
- c. The length of the meeting is thought to be approximately twenty (20) minutes.*
- d. Action will not be taken upon return.*

Motion by M. Kaplan, seconded by M. Grant. On a roll call vote, the resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 9; nays, 0.

ADJOURNMENT

Action 12-AJ-007:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education adjourns this meeting at 11:56 pm. Motion by M. Kaplan, seconded by M. Cresti. On a roll call vote, the resolution was ADOPTED as follows: ayes, 9; nays, 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Leonhardt, Business Administrator /Board Secretary

Minutes Prepared: 10/4/11

Minutes remain unofficial until Board of Education approval

Board of Education Approved:

Frank "Jim" Dincuff Board President

Date