

WEST MILFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
46 Highlander Drive  
West Milford, NJ 07480  
(973) 697-1700  
[www.wmtps.org](http://www.wmtps.org)

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES  
REORGANIZATION/ETHICS/SPECIAL ACTION MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2021

DISTRICT GOALS - 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

- *To develop a plan to advance communication and consistent methods of communication, and to enhance branding throughout the District.*
- *Continue to revise and implement the District's hybrid learning model and phased re-entry plans with coordinated adherence to student and staff safety, as well as flexible instructional expectations.*
- *Build a District support system for students and staff for the purpose of social-emotional well-being.*
- *Continue to identify, enhance, and monitor fiscal practices that enable the District to maximize efficiency.*

Ms. Barbara Francisco, Board Secretary, called to order the Reorganization/Ethics/Special Action Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m., on January 5, 2021, in the Westbrook School Media Center. She led the flag salute, read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement, and reminded everyone in attendance to silence or turn off their cell phones and note the locations of the emergency exits.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT**

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, a public notice of this meeting has been sent to Board Members, all District schools, the Herald News, the Suburban Trends, the Record, the Messenger, West Milford Town Hall, the County Superintendent's Office, the Board Attorney, Cablevision of Warwick, and West Milford TV77; and posted in the Administration Building. Copies of the Board Meeting Calendar Resolution were provided to all local media, Town Hall, Township Library, and all district schools.

**MS. BARBARA FRANCISCO, BOARD SECRETARY, CALLED THE ROLL:**

| ADMINISTRATION        | POSITION                               | ATTENDANCE |
|-----------------------|--|------------|
| Dr. Alex Anemone      | Superintendent of Schools              | Present    |
| Ms. Barbara Francisco | Board Secretary/Business Administrator | Present    |
| Mr. Daniel Novak      | Director of Education                  | Present    |
| Dr. Elizabeth McQuaid | Director of Special Services           | Present    |
| Andrew Brown, Esq.    | Board of Education Attorney            | Present    |

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Minutes for the Reorganization/Ethics/Special Action Meeting of January 5, 2021

**VI. BOARD SECRETARY REPORTS ON ELECTION RESULTS OF NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

| <u>Board Member - Three Year Term</u> | <u>Votes</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Debbie O'Brien                     | 8,914        |
| 2. Lynda Van Dyk                      | 8,806        |
| 3. Raymond Guarino                    | 8,734        |
| 4. Michelle Buntzen                   | 4,177        |
| 5. William Cytowicz                   | 3,919        |
| 6. Write-Ins                          | 176          |

**VII. OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED BY BOARD ATTORNEY, ANDREW BROWN, ESQ.:**

Mr. Brown, Board Attorney, administered the Oath of Office to Mrs. Debbie O'Brien, Mrs. Lynda Van Dyk and Mr. Raymond Guarino.

**VIII. REMARKS BY NEWLY ELECTED BOARD TRUSTEES**

The new Board members addressed the public.

**IX. ROLL CALL BY MS. BARBARA FRANCISCO, BOARD SECRETARY:**

| <b>TRUSTEE</b>  | <b>ATTENDANCE</b> | <b>TRUSTEE</b> | <b>ATTENDANCE</b> | <b>TRUSTEE</b> | <b>ATTENDANCE</b> |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Mr. Stillman    | Present           | Mrs. Dwyer     | Present           | Mrs. O'Brien   | Present           |
| Mr. Conklin     | Present           | Mr. Ofshinsky  | Present           | Mr. Guarino    | Present           |
| Mrs. Stephenson | Present           | Mrs. Romeo     | Present           | Mrs. Van Dyk   | Present           |

**X. ELECTION OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

Ms. Francisco, Board Secretary, called for Nominations for the Office of Board President.

Mr. Guarino nominated Mrs. Van Dyk, seconded by Mr. Stillman.

Motion by Mr. Ofshinsky, seconded by Mrs. Stephenson, to close Nominations for Board President.

**VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE FOR MRS. VAN DYK FOR BOARD PRESIDENT:**

| <b>TRUSTEE</b>  | <b>VOTE</b> | <b>TRUSTEE</b> | <b>VOTE</b> | <b>TRUSTEE</b> | <b>VOTE</b> |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Mrs. Romeo      | Yes         | Mrs. Dwyer     | Yes         | Mrs. O'Brien   | Yes         |
| Mr. Guarino     | Yes         | Mr. Conklin    | Yes         | Mr. Stillman   | Yes         |
| Mrs. Stephenson | Yes         | Mrs. Van Dyk   | Yes         | Mr. Ofshinsky  | Yes         |

Ms. Francisco confirmed and certified the election of Mrs. Van Dyk as Board President.

Mrs. Van Dyk assumed the seat of the Board President.

**X. ELECTION OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT - Continued**

Mrs. Van Dyk, Board President, addressed the Board and the public thanking her fellow Board members for their endorsement, and looks forward to working with them and the administration.

**XI. ELECTION OF THE BOARD VICE PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Van Dyk called for nominations for the Office of Board Vice President.

Mr. Guarino nominated Mrs. Dwyer, seconded by Mrs. Stephenson.

Motion by Mr. Guarino, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to close nominations for Board Vice President.

**VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE FOR MRS. DWYER FOR BOARD VICE PRESIDENT:**

| TRUSTEE         | VOTE | TRUSTEE      | VOTE | TRUSTEE       | VOTE |
|-----------------|------|--------------|------|---------------|------|
| Mrs. Romeo      | Yes  | Mrs. Dwyer   | Yes  | Mrs. O'Brien  | Yes  |
| Mr. Guarino     | Yes  | Mr. Conklin  | Yes  | Mr. Stillman  | Yes  |
| Mrs. Stephenson | Yes  | Mrs. Van Dyk | Yes  | Mr. Ofshinsky | Yes  |

Ms. Francisco confirmed and certified the election of Mrs. Dwyer as Board Vice President.

Mrs. Dwyer assumed the seat of the Board Vice President and addressed the Board and the public.

**XII. ETHICS PRESENTATION**

Kathy Helewa, New Jersey School Boards Association, congratulated the new Board members. She provided the Board with an information packet and presented on Ethics for School Officials 2021.

She reviewed the School Ethics Act, Board member mandated training, the School Ethics Commission (SEC), SEC jurisdiction, and penalties in violation of the Act. She spoke about Advisory Opinion A13-20 by the SEC, the Code of Ethics, 2020 SEC/Commissioner Decisions on violations, conflicts of interest as a Board member, hiring/personnel, and collective bargaining. She also spoke about the Doctrine of Necessity, NJ School Ethics Advisory Opinions on volunteerism, interview committees, and provided the Board with points to consider.

**XIII. MOTION BY MRS. O'BRIEN, SECONDED BY MR. OFSHINSKY, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA, AS PRESENTED.**

**VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION BY MR. OFSHINSKY, SECONDED BY MRS. DWYER, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS A CONSENT AGENDA, AS PRESENTED.**

**VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.**

**XIV. BOARD REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS**

Motion by Mr. Ofshinsky, seconded by Mrs. Stephenson, to adopt and approve the following Board Reorganization Resolutions, items #1 through 12:

**DISCUSSION:** Mrs. Romeo spoke about items #1 and #2, and the remainder of this school year regarding a change in location of the Board meetings. Board members had discussion on the use of other buildings.

Ms. Francisco explained that the microphones are in the process of being replaced. She also has concerns the High School auditorium may not be available during months when High School events are taking place under a normal schedule.

Mrs. Van Dyk stated that a Board meeting can be advertised to be held at a different location, if needed. Board members continued discussion on location, Winter sports and the High School musical, and Wi-Fi connection issues that are being addressed. Board members and administration also had discussion with Nathan Bedford of Highlander Productions, on filming the Board meetings at other locations.

1. **RESOLVED**, that on the third Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise stated below, the Board of Education shall hold a Workshop Meeting for the purpose of, but not limited to, all public presentations, Committee information, and Budget development, commencing at 7:00 p.m.;

**RESOLVED**, that on the fourth Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise stated below, the Board of Education shall hold a Regular Meeting for the purpose of acting upon regular agenda items, and which will commence at 7:00 p.m.;

**RESOLVED**, that the following shall supersede any prior resolution addressing the **BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE** of Workshop and Regular Meetings of the Board of Education for the 2021 calendar year. These meetings are to be held at the Westbrook School Media Center with the exception of the location of certain meetings, which will be advertised during the school year, and are not to progress past 11:00 p.m., unless extended by a 2/3 vote of those present. Trustees are asked to contact the Board President and Board Secretary if they are unable to attend the meeting;

| DATE OF MEETING    | TYPE OF MEETING                             |
|--------------------|---|
| January 5, 2021    | Reorganization/Ethics/Special Action        |
| January 19, 2021   | Workshop/Special Action                     |
| January 26, 2021   | Budget/Regular                              |
| February 16, 2021  | Workshop/Special Action                     |
| February 23, 2021  | Budget/Regular                              |
| March 9, 2021      | Preliminary Budget Hearing/Special Action   |
| March 23, 2021     | Workshop/Regular                            |
| April 20, 2021     | Workshop/Special Action                     |
| April 27, 2021     | Regular/Public Budget Hearing               |
| May 25, 2021       | Workshop/Regular                            |
| June 8, 2021       | Staff & Student Recognitions/Special Action |
| June 22, 2021      | Workshop/Regular                            |
| July 20, 2021      | Workshop/Regular                            |
| August 24, 2021    | Workshop/Regular                            |
| September 21, 2021 | Workshop/Regular                            |
| October 19, 2021   | Workshop/Regular                            |
| November 16, 2021  | Workshop/Regular                            |
| December 14, 2021  | Workshop/Regular                            |

XIV. BOARD REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS - Continued

1. (Continued)

The Regular Meetings will have rotating Committee Reports.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of the Board be hereby directed to post, mail/fax or e-mail to newspapers, the Township Clerk, and Township Librarian the above stated schedule within seven (7) days from the date hereof, in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act."

NOTE: The Board reserves the right to act upon any agenda item. Agenda and reports will be available 48 hours prior to meetings to the extent then known.

2. **WHEREAS**, there shall be an **OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER** designated for the official publication of correspondence and notices required by law to be published by the Board of Education of the Township of West Milford; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no newspaper published in the Township which meets the requirements of N.J.S.A. 35:1-2.2; and

**WHEREAS**, a newspaper should be designated to publish correspondence and notices of the Board; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Herald News shall be the official newspaper to publish said meeting notice and correspondence through December 31, 2021; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the following newspapers may be used where additional publication as required:

Record  
Star Ledger  
Suburban Trends  
The Messenger; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Record may also be used to publish the Preliminary Budget, approved by the County Superintendent of Schools, when the Secretary needs a daily newspaper to meet required publication dates.

3. **WHEREAS**, each School Board Member is responsible to read and become familiar with the **CODE OF ETHICS** for School Board Members, the Code of Ethics became part of the School Ethics Act on July 26, 2001. Questions about the Policy should be directed to the District Board Secretary. If the Board Secretary is unable to answer the question, you may be directed to the School Ethics Commission from whom you may request an advisory opinion; and

**WHEREAS**, the following Code of Ethics (Bylaw No. 0142) for Board Members is set forth as a guide to conflict-of-interest situations and unethical activity for Board Members:

- a. I will uphold and enforce all laws, State Board Rules and Regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.

XIV. BOARD REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS - Continued

3. (Continued)

- b. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.
- c. I will confine my Board action to policymaking, planning and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the Board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- d. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow Board Members, to see that they are well run.
- e. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board of Education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the Board.
- f. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or the gain of friends.
- g. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. But in all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow Board Members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.
- h. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the Chief Administrative Officer.
- i. I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties.
- j. I will refer all complaints to the Chief Administrative Officer and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that each Board Member shall abide by the Code of Ethics and has signed an Acknowledgment of Receipt to confirm that they have received a copy of the Code of Ethics for School Board Members contained within the School Ethics Act, C.178, P.L. 2001 (C.18A:12-21). Failure to sign this Acknowledgment does not relieve a Board Member of the responsibility to understand and adhere to the Code of Ethics.

4. **RESOLVED**, each Board Member shall be responsible for abiding by the following **TEAM CHARTER** set forth as a commitment to valuing education, showing good character and strong leadership to the students, staff and community.

**BEFORE MEETINGS:**

- a. Plan to be present at and prepared for every meeting.
- b. Use available resources to investigate the issues.

XIV. BOARD REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS - Continued

4. (Continued)

- c. Expect proactive communication on matters of immediate concern from the administration, as appropriate.
- d. Information provided to the board should be sufficiently clear, especially to new board members.
- e. Board members will accept and promptly return inquiries from other Board members.

**DURING MEETINGS:**

- a. Demonstrate respect for the administrators and board members at all times, tolerate and encourage questions; do not interrupt, and no individual grandstanding or monopolizing of the board's time.
- b. Stay focused on the topics at hand.
- c. Stay focused on matters that advance board goals and student achievement, within financial constraints.
- d. Remember that the board's role is one of establishing goals, policy and proper oversight - not management.
- e. Committee-of-the-whole meetings are dedicated to group discussion of future action and asking questions.
- f. Honor the public's right to understand the issues being discussed.

**AFTER MEETINGS:**

- a. Demonstrate respect for decisions made by the board through the process of respectful group deliberation.
- b. Demonstrate respect for the chain of command, and the role of the administration in running the district.
- c. Look forward and be prepared to address future issues and board goals - not past decisions.
- d. Communicate with, seek guidance from, and follow-up appropriately with district administration and board leadership.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, if any board member feels that another board member has violated any provision of this agreement, that board member shall personally talk with the offending board member in an attempt to resolve the issue. If the attempt fails, the board member who feels that another board member has violated this agreement shall bring the matter to the attention of the entire board. Any grievances that arise should be dealt with at the earliest practical opportunity.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that members of this Board of Education and Superintendent agree to abide by these objectives as a commitment to valuing education, showing good character and strong leadership to our students, staff and community.

- 5. **RESOLVED**, that the Workshop, Regular, and Special Meetings shall be conducted in a manner consistent with Resolution #1 using the following **MEETING PROTOCOLS**; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all Board Trustees will adhere to the following protocols for Board Public Meetings and Executive Sessions:

Trustees will hold confidential all matters discussed in Executive Session and other confidential matters pertaining to the School District.

XIV. BOARD REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS - Continued

5. (Continued)

Trustee's debate will be conducted through the Chair; address all questions and comments to the Chair who will acknowledge your turn to comment.

Individual comments from the audience, with the exception of Public Comment, are inappropriate and will be addressed by the Chair. Additionally, it would be inappropriate for Trustees to make comments directly to individuals in the audience.

State statute requires all meetings to start no later than 8:00 p.m. Trustees are asked to inform the Board Secretary and Board President if they anticipate any lateness, absence, or the need to leave the meeting early. This will help ensure that a quorum will be present, and that business can be acted upon.

The Board President will make every effort to move the agenda in a quick and efficient manner while providing a balance for the individual Trustees to express their views. However, if the meeting runs late, Trustees are expected to remain at the meeting until adjournment.

Whenever possible, Trustees may direct questions and comments regarding the Agenda to the appropriate Administrator prior to the meeting so that questions can be answered and/or necessary backup can be brought to the meeting, keeping in mind the public's right to know. Additional questions may be raised at the meeting.

Trustees should address an issue no more than twice during a discussion per Robert's Rules of Order. Time may not be donated to other speakers.

Board meetings will automatically end at midnight. (Note: Good judgment fades as the members become exhausted.)

Trustees should refrain from contacting the Board attorney directly without approval of the Board President.

Trustees should preface public comments made outside of public Board meetings to specify that they are not speaking on behalf of the Board, but as a citizen.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that general rules of parliament are used for every Board meeting. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Board at the meeting. The order of business shall be on the agenda; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to Board Bylaw 0166, the Board Trustees shall place utmost importance upon confidentiality related to matters discussed in Executive Session and to written documentation provided to Board Trustees, which is not for public distribution. Breach of confidentiality by a Board Trustee shall be considered grounds for action by the Board.

6. **RESOLVED**, that **WORKSHOP/SPECIAL ACTION MEETINGS** shall be conducted in a manner consistent with Resolutions #1, #3, #4, and #5, and the following agenda format.

XIV. BOARD REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS - Continued

6. (Continued)

**CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER**

**INVOCATION**

**FLAG SALUTE**

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT**

**ROLL CALL**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Formal Reports  
Special Presentations  
Recognitions

**SPECIAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF THE BOARD SECRETARY/  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR**

Adoption of the Minutes  
Financial Reports  
Formal Reports & Presentations  
Reading of Correspondence

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS**

This portion of the meeting is open to members of the public for the purpose of addressing resolutions on this agenda only. Members of the public who have requested to speak prior to the meeting will be recognized by the chair first. Each speaker will be given five (5) minutes, for a period of thirty (30) minutes; and then time permitting, other public comment limited to five (5) minutes per speaker will be allowed, until the thirty (30) minute period transpires. All members of the public speaking during this public comment period are asked to address topics listed in the agenda. All speakers are asked to sign the register provided and to give their full name, spell their last name, group affiliation, if appropriate, and provide their address. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board. All comments will be considered and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate.

The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and respectful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged, and the Board and the Administration will not respond to them. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded to them by the laws of New Jersey. The Board is not responsible and is not liable for any comments made by members of the public. Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments. Members of the public are reminded that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

XIV. BOARD REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS - Continued

6. (Continued)

**SPECIAL ACTION AGENDA:**

Education  
Personnel/Student Affairs  
Operations & Finance  
Policy  
Negotiations  
Legislative

**WORKSHOP AGENDA:**

**EDUCATION**

Reports and/or recommendations for items related to Education items as outlined under Resolution #9.

**PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Reports and/or recommendations for items related to Personnel/Student Affairs as outlined under Resolution #9.

**OPERATIONS & FINANCE**

Reports and/or recommendations for items related to Budget & Finance/Transportation/Operations/Capital Improvements as outlined under Resolution #9.

**POLICY**

Reports and/or recommendations for items related to Policy as outlined under Resolution #9.

**NEGOTIATIONS**

Reports and/or recommendations for items related to Negotiations as outlined under Resolution #9.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

This portion of the meeting is open to members of the public having a legitimate interest in the actions of the Board for the purpose of addressing any subject matter pertinent to and/or directly related to the operation of the West Milford Public School District. Members of the public who have requested to speak prior to the meeting will be recognized by the chair first. Each speaker will be given five (5) minutes, for a period of thirty (30) minutes; and then time permitting, other public comment limited to five (5) minutes per speaker will be allowed, until the thirty (30) minute period transpires. All speakers are asked to sign the register provided and give their full name, spell their last name, group affiliation, if appropriate, and provide their address. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board. All comments will be considered and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate.

XIV. BOARD REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS - Continued

6. (Continued)

**PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS (cont'd)**

The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and respectful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged, and the Board and the Administration will not respond to them. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded to them by the laws of New Jersey. The Board is not responsible and is not liable for any comments made by members of the public. Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments. Members of the public are reminded that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT** (To be no later than 11:00 p.m., unless otherwise voted upon.)

The Board reserves the right to act on all agenda items.

7. **RESOLVED**, that the **REGULAR MEETINGS** shall be conducted in a manner consistent with Resolutions #1, #3, #4, and #5, and that the Agenda will be as follows:

**CALL TO ORDER BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER**

**INVOCATION**

**FLAG SALUTE**

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT**

**ROLL CALL**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Formal Reports

Special Presentations

Monthly Progress toward District Goals

Recognitions

Student Representative Report

**DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION'S REPORT**

**SPECIAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF THE BOARD SECRETARY/**

**BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR**

Adoption of the Minutes

Financial Reports

Formal Reports & Presentations

Reading of Correspondence

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS**

This portion of the meeting is open to members of the public for the purpose of addressing resolutions on this agenda only. Members of the public who have requested to speak prior to the meeting will be recognized by the chair first. Each speaker will be given five (5) minutes, for a period of thirty (30) minutes; and then time permitting, other public comment limited to five (5) minutes per speaker will be allowed, until the thirty (30) minute period transpires. All members of the public speaking during this public comment period are asked to address topics listed in the agenda.

XIV. BOARD REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS - Continued

7. (Continued)

**PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS (cont'd)**

All speakers are asked to sign the register provided and to give their full name, spell their last name, group affiliation, if appropriate, and provide their address. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board. All comments will be considered and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate.

The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and respectful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged, and the Board and the Administration will not respond to them. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded to them by the laws of New Jersey. The Board is not responsible and is not liable for any comments made by members of the public. Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments. Members of the public are reminded that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**REPORTS:**

**EDUCATION**

Reports and/or recommendations for items related to the Committee functioning as outlined under Resolution #9.

**PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Reports and/or recommendations for items related to the Committee functioning as outlined under Resolution #9.

**OPERATIONS & FINANCE**

Reports and/or recommendations for items related to the Committee functioning as outlined under Resolution #9.

**POLICY**

Reports and/or recommendations for items related to the Committee functioning as outlined under Resolution #9.

**NEGOTIATIONS**

Reports and/or recommendations for items related to the Committee functioning as outlined under Resolution #9.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/LIAISONS**

**PARKS & RECREATION**

**SAFETY**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S ROUNDTABLE**

**PASSAIC COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

**NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

**LEGISLATIVE**

**TECHNOLOGY OVERSIGHT**

**TOWNSHIP/BOARD OF EDUCATION JOINT COMMITTEE**

**WEST MILFORD MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

XIV. BOARD REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS - Continued

7. (Continued)

**PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

This portion of the meeting is open to members of the public having a legitimate interest in the actions of the Board for the purpose of addressing any subject matter pertinent to and/or directly related to the operation of the West Milford Public School District. Members of the public who have requested to speak prior to the meeting will be recognized by the chair first. Each speaker will be given five (5) minutes, for a period of thirty (30) minutes; and then time permitting, other public comment limited to five (5) minutes per speaker will be allowed, until the thirty (30) minute period transpires. All speakers are asked to sign the register provided and give their full name, spell their last name, group affiliation, if appropriate, and provide their address. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board. All comments will be considered and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate.

The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and respectful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged, and the Board and the Administration will not respond to them. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded to them by the laws of New Jersey. The Board is not responsible and is not liable for any comments made by members of the public. Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments. Members of the public are reminded that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT** (To be no later than 11:00 p.m., unless otherwise voted upon.)

The Board reserves the right to act on all Agenda items.

8. **RESOLVED**, that **SPECIAL MEETINGS** of the Board shall be called in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-3.1, as follows:
  - a. The secretary of the district board of education shall call a special meeting of the district board of education whenever:
    - i. requested by the president of the district board of education to do so; or
    - ii. when presented with a petition signed by a majority of the full membership of the district board of education requesting the special meeting.
  - b. Public notice of such special meeting shall be made pursuant to law and regulation. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:10-6, the public notice shall include the date, time, location, and purpose(s) of the special meeting.
9. **RESOLVED**, that the President of the Board shall, following his/her election, be empowered to establish **COMMITTEES** for the following purposes:

XIV. BOARD REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS - Continued

9. (Continued)

- a. EDUCATION: The primary responsibility of this area is to foster policy making, planning, and appraisal in matters related to activities concerned with all proposals and reports dealing with Regular and Special Education curriculum, curriculum development, educational goals and objectives, approval of courses of study, adoption of textbooks, class size and student placements after appropriate consultation and review. Committee activities focus on dealing with/or aiding in the teaching of students, improving the quality of teaching, and the provision of special services for the students of the district and their families.
- b. PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS: The primary responsibility of this area is to foster policy making, planning, and appraisal in matters related to activities concerned with the appointment, training, attendance, promotion and discipline of district employees and pupil personnel including:
  - i. Attendance and Health Services - consisting of oversight for those activities which promote the improvement of attendance at work or school through the enforcement of contracts, policies, rules, regulations, and compulsory attendance laws. This area shall oversee and recommend the development of policy effecting the health and welfare of all district employees and pupil personnel.
  - ii. Student Affairs - consisting of oversight review of student suspensions and discipline policies, including the review of student discipline referrals, per Board of Education Policy, based on the Code of Student Conduct using Core Ethical Values. Further, the oversight of the review of student personnel services and activities such as: guidance services to students, interscholastic athletics, enrichments, extra-curricular programs, and other activities for the student body that are not part of the regular instructional program.
  - iii. Staff Development - consisting of oversight for the promotion, development and implementation of positive staff development training programs.
- c. OPERATIONS & FINANCE: The primary responsibility of this area is to foster policy making, planning, and appraisal of matters related to fiscal and support service affairs of the district including:
  - i. Budget - to conduct Preliminary Budget development with the Superintendent and Business Administrator/Board Secretary, commencing with the initial Budget presentation, but no later than January 31, to meet the district's financial obligations; to meet with the school district auditors once annually to maintain Board audit responsibilities for all bank records, practices and methods employed in fiscal control; and to review general liability and other insurance policies including contracts related to medical, dental, and other employee fringe benefit plans; activities related to fixed charges including State Retirement Fund, Social Security, property insurance, employee insurance, liability insurances, bonds of officers and employees, rentals, tuition, and others of a similar category as prescribed by the Board.

XIV. BOARD REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS - Continued

9. (Continued)

- ii. Finance - consisting of those activities dealing with the appropriate expenditure according to the approved Budget, the Audit Report, request for funds, and the approval of bills for payment, expenditures of a generally recurrent nature which are not readily allocable to other expenditure accounts; investment of funds; financing of district capital equipment though debt, lease purchase, or other financing methods and communication with the public.
- iii. Debt Service - consisting of expenditures for the retirement of debt and expenditures for interest on debts, except principal and interest of current loans (money borrowed and paid back during the same fiscal year);
- iv. Transportation - consisting of those activities which have as their purpose the conveyance of pupils to and from home and school, athletic events, and extra-curricular activities; other activities concerned with transportation policies, approval of bills, transportation negotiations, bidding, legal actions, safety liaison correspondence, and formal petitions as well as others as prescribed by the Committee. The Committee shall serve as liaison between the Board of Education and Township of West Milford Joint Safety Committee.
- v. Operations - consisting of the housekeeping activities concerned with keeping the physical plant open, safe, and ready for use. These activities include cleaning, disinfecting, heating, lighting, communications, power, moving furniture, handling stores, caring for grounds, Parks and Recreation Department, and other housekeeping activities as are repeated somewhat regularly on a daily, weekly, monthly, or seasonal basis. Operation of plant does not encompass the repairs and replacement of facilities or equipment for accounting purposes.
- vi. Food Services - oversight of the National School Lunch Program and Operations to ensure that there is proper control and regulation of the school lunch program and operation of food services.
- vii. Capital Improvements - function will consist of those activities concerned with construction programs, policy, approval of bills, legal actions, correspondence, formal petitions, building needs, roads, sites, selection of architects and professional engineers, and other activities as prescribed by the Committee.
- viii. Staff Development - to ensure that positive staff development programs are being implemented.
- ix. General Services - consisting of Board activities, concerned with operations policy, approval of bills, legal actions, administration personnel, policy, correspondence, formal written petitions, legal action, school budget, community services, approval of bills, finance, and debt service; correspondence, formal petitions, repair, replacements, and other activities as prescribed by the Committee.

XIV. BOARD REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS - Continued

9. (Continued)

- d. NEGOTIATIONS: The primary responsibility of this area is to foster policy making, planning, and appraisal of matters related to negotiations of collective bargaining agreements between the West Milford Board of Education and its bargaining units.
- e. POLICY: The primary responsibility of this area is to foster policy development, planning, and appraisal in matters related to activities concerned with the formulation of rules setting the direction and administration of the school district and how the Board will function.
- f. COMMITTEE REPORTS/LIAISONS: The Board President shall appoint one Board member to be the liaison to special groups and/or committees and file a report to the Board at the monthly Workshop Meeting, as needed. Special groups and/or committees shall include, but not be limited to, Parks & Recreation, Technology, Safety, Superintendent's Roundtable, New Jersey School Boards Association, Passaic County School Boards Association, Legislative, Township/Board of Education Joint Committee, and West Milford Municipal Alliance. The primary responsibility of the legislative liaison is to foster policy making, planning, and appraisal in matters related to activities concerned with the review and making of recommendations as to existing, proposed and new legislation. The Board will keep informed on appropriate matters related to legislation and the Chairperson shall be designated the delegate of the Board to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a regular monthly committee meeting time and place shall be established by the Board. Liaisons to special committees will establish their respective meeting schedules in concert with the administration.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board will be charged with conducting long range planning in all areas as part of its basic function.

10. **RESOLVED**, that the Board may create **ADVISORY COMMITTEES** and for the same shall:

- a. Adopt the Committee organization it deems appropriate to the assignment at hand;
- b. Approve the appointments of members to serve;
- c. Appoint the Superintendent or his designee(s) as ex-officio member(s) of the Advisory Committees;
- d. Define the Committee charge in writing;
- e. Set a date for Preliminary and Final Reports.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that upon the Committee completing its assignment, it shall be dissolved. Advisory Committees shall not reduce the authority or responsibility of the Board, which shall be free to accept or reject any recommendations made.

**XIV. BOARD REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS - Continued**

11. **RESOLVED**, that there be continued in full force and effect of all bylaws, policies, regulations, and administrative directives of the **DISTRICT POLICY MANUAL** as of the date hereof. The Board reserves the right after review, to amend, supplement or rescind any said bylaws, policies, regulations and administrative directives. The Chief School Administrator is hereby responsible for the implementation of said bylaws, policies and regulations.

12. **WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey, Government Records Council, enacted the Open Public Records Act (**OPRA**), N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq., to establish the public's accessibility to view and copy government records maintained by public agencies in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, the Government Records Council's review of the statute concludes that use of the Request for Public Records Form is required for all requestors; and

**WHEREAS**, general compliance with this rule has been consistent practice of the Township of West Milford Board of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, every citizen of this State shall have the right, during such regular business hours and under the supervision of the custodian or his designee, to copy such records by hand, and shall also have the right to purchase copies of such records; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, copies of such records shall be made upon payment of the actual cost of duplicating the record set annually by the Business Administrator as follows:

|                                     |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Letter sized pages and smaller      | \$0.05 per page |
| Legal sized pages and larger        | \$0.07 per page |
| Audio Tape, Video Tape, CD, or DVD  | \$0.60 per unit |
| Electronic Records (e-mail and fax) | No Charge       |

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education may charge, in addition to the actual cost of duplication, a special charge that shall be reasonable and based on the cost for any extensive use of information technology, or for the labor cost of personnel providing the service that is actually incurred by the Board for the programming, clerical, and supervisory assistance required, or both; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education directs the custodian of record to fully comply with the terms and intent of N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that an official record of all Requests for Public Records be maintained on file in the Board of Education Office and be available for public review.

**ROLL CALL FOR BOARD REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS, ITEMS #1 THROUGH #12:**

| TRUSTEE         | VOTE | TRUSTEE       | VOTE | TRUSTEE      | VOTE |
|-----------------|------|---------------|------|--------------|------|
| Mrs. Romeo      | Yes  | Mrs. Dwyer    | Yes  | Mrs. O'Brien | Yes  |
| Mrs. Stephenson | Yes  | Mr. Stillman  | Yes  | Mr. Guarino  | Yes  |
| Mrs. Van Dyk    | Yes  | Mr. Ofshinsky | Yes  | Mr. Conklin  | Yes  |

The **MOTION PASSED**.

**XV. OLD BUSINESS**

Motion by Mr. Ofshinsky, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to close Old Business.

**VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.**

**XVI. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Guarino spoke about Mr. Stillman having conversations with the Parks and Recreation Department and the BMX track proposal. Ms. Francisco will follow up on the proposal.

Motion by Mr. Guarino, seconded by Mr. Ofshinsky, to close New Business.

**VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.**

**XVII. PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS (PLEASE SIGN IN)**

This portion of the meeting is open to members of the public having a legitimate interest in the actions of the Board for the purpose of addressing any subject matter pertinent to and/or directly related to the operation of the West Milford Public School District. Members of the public who have requested to speak prior to the meeting will be recognized by the chair first. Each speaker will be given five (5) minutes, for a period of thirty (30) minutes; and then time permitting, other public comment limited to five (5) minutes per speaker will be allowed, until the thirty (30) minute period transpires. All speakers are asked to sign the register provided and give their full name, spell their last name, group affiliation, if appropriate, and provide their address. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board. All comments will be considered and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate.

The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and respectful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged, and the Board and the Administration will not respond to them. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded to them by the laws of New Jersey. The Board is not responsible and is not liable for any comments made by members of the public. Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments. Members of the public are reminded that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

Motion by Mr. Ofshinsky, seconded by Mr. Guarino, to close Public Comment.

**VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.**

**XVIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION**

The Board determined there was no need to go into Executive Session.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Ofshinsky, seconded by Mrs. Romeo, to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

VOICE VOTE:

All in Favor.

MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Francisco  
Board Secretary