

KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Office of the Superintendent

AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING – March 22, 2021

Notice of Meeting

The New Jersey Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of, and to attend the meetings of, public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Knowlton Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted with The Express-Times and The Star Ledger and distributed to the Knowlton Township Elementary School, the Delaware Post Office, and the Knowlton Township Municipal Building. This meeting will commence at 7:00 P.M. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will be held remotely. The public will be able to access the agenda, as well as electronically view and participate in the public portion of the meeting via a link posted on the District's website at www.knowltonschool.com or by dialing in using the following phone numbers: 929-205-6099 Webinar ID: 832 8125 4039 Passcode: 870320943. Any members of the public wishing to submit written comments prior to the start of the meeting must email such comment to the attention of the Board Secretary at brennanm@knowltonschool.com. Any such comments that are received by Monday, March 22, 2021 at 12 noon will be read aloud at the meeting for three minutes.

Call to Order

Flag Salute

Roll Call

Mission Statement

We are committed to provide an engaging, comprehensive education aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in a healthy, safe and nurturing environment in which all students are encouraged to be critical thinkers and self advocates. Instilling a passion for learning will inspire and guide students to become responsible and compassionate citizens in a constantly changing world. Students have the opportunity to achieve their maximum academic potential both here and in their future education while developing confidence, competence and character.

Public Participation

Correspondence

Superintendent's Report

Vice Principal's Report –

Board Secretary's Report-Mr. Brennan will give an overview of the 2021-2022 Preliminary Knowlton Township Budget

Committee Reports

- *Community Outreach
- *Facilities
- *Finance
- *Instructional
- *Policy

Presentations– Mrs. Tate – Virtual Art Show

Mrs. Carroll - Knowlton Knight Awards/Staff Spotlight/All Star Band

MOTIONS

1. Accept Retirement

A motion was made by _____ seconded by _____
to accept the retirement of Terri Kwasnik, third grade teacher, with regret, effective June 30, 2021.

Motion

2. Accept Retirement

A motion was made by _____ seconded by _____
to accept the retirement of Cindy Casanova, personal aide, with regret, effective June 30, 2021.

Motion

3. Approve Substitute Nurse

A motion was made by _____ seconded by _____
to approve Brianne Wheatley as a substitute nurse for the 2020-2021 school year, pending completion of required paperwork.

On roll call, motion

4. Mileage Reimbursement

A motion was made by _____ seconded by _____
to approve the mileage reimbursement at a rate equal to the current OMB circular rate for all contracts pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 (maximum travel expenditure amount of \$1,500 per employee).

On roll call, motion

5. ACES participation

A motion was made by _____ seconded by _____
to approve Cooperative Pricing System Agreement #E8801 in order to continue participation in ACES (NJSBA) Cooperative Pricing System.

On roll call, motion

6. Approve Practicum student

A motion was made by _____ seconded by _____
to approve Stephanie Garcia, a student at Emerson College, to complete required practicum/observation hours alongside Stephenie Neufeld, PROMPT therapist as recommended by the Superintendent.

Motion

7. Approve Resolution

A motion was made by _____ seconded by _____
to urge relief from increased costs to school districts resulting from the implementation of
“Chapter 44,” the 2020 School Employee Health Benefits Reform Law:

WHEREAS, P.L.2020, c.44 (“Chapter 44”) requires the School Employees’ Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) to offer plans, beginning on January 1, 2021, for medical and prescription benefits coverage including the New Jersey Educators Health Plan (NJEHP); as adopted and implemented by the School Employees’ Health Benefits Commission; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 44 established reduced premium contributions for any employee who selects, or is placed into, the NJEHP as his or her health care coverage option; and

WHEREAS, The SEHBP applies to the following employers who elect to participate in the SEHBP: local school district, regional school district, county vocational school district, county special services school district, jointure commission, educational services commission, state-operated school district, charter school; and

WHEREAS, The provisions of Chapter 44 also apply to these same employers even if they do not elect to participate in the SEHBP; and

WHEREAS, Many school districts had previously negotiated health benefit agreements with lower net costs compared to the plan design and cost-sharing requirements under “Chapter 44,” and/or have staff that previously declined coverage but now are choosing to enroll in the NJEHP due to its low employee cost-sharing provisions; and

WHEREAS, A significant number of school districts will experience a net increase in their health care costs because the NJEHP premiums are higher than the premiums for the collectively bargained plans previously offered by the district, which is further exacerbated by reduced employee contributions under Chapter 44; and

WHEREAS, Other school districts will experience a net increase in their overall health care costs even if the NJEHP premiums are lower than that of the previous plan offerings because the reduction in employee contributions will offset any overall premium savings, resulting in increased net costs to the district; and

WHEREAS, The low employee contribution requirements under NJEHP encourage employees who had previously waived or declined coverage to enroll thereby increasing the districts’ health benefit costs for the balance of fiscal year 2021, continuing into fiscal year 2022 and likely beyond; and

WHEREAS, These costs may exceed districts’ ability to address within their budgets owing to the limitations of the 2% property tax levy cap; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 44 was a well-intentioned proposal that aimed to generate hundreds of millions of dollars in savings for school districts, school employees and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, While some school districts may indeed be realizing savings due to the provisions of Chapter 44, many are experiencing the opposite effect and witnessing an increase in their health care costs, which may result in cuts to critical programs, services and staff in order to balance their budgets; and

WHEREAS, Since Chapter 44 essentially froze the level of health benefits and employee contributions for the seven-year period following the law’s effective date, districts are unable to control cost increases through the traditional collective bargaining process; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the Legislature and Governor to address and correct the unintended financial consequences districts are experiencing due to Chapter 44 and ensure that all districts share in the anticipated savings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Knowlton Board of Education requests that the State Legislature and Governor provide relief from the increased health care costs experienced by school districts due to the implementation of Chapter 44; and be it further

RESOLVED, that relief from Chapter 44 should include direct, short-term assistance from the state to ensure that all school districts are held financially harmless in both the current and subsequent fiscal years; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Legislature and Governor should expeditiously begin to explore long-term structural reforms that reverse the unintended consequences of Chapter 44 and generate lasting savings for school districts, employees and taxpayers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any proposals to amend or revise Chapter 44 include input from all affected stakeholders before moving forward, including feedback from representatives of local boards of education, school business administrators, superintendents, building-level supervisors and school employees; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Phil Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; and the 24th Legislative District’s representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Motion

8. Approve Policy 2000

A motion was made by _____ seconded by _____
to approve updates to Policy 2000, Concepts and Roles in Administration: Goals and Objectives.

Motion

9. Approve Policy 2121

A motion was made by _____ seconded by _____
to approve updates to Policy 2121, Line of Responsibility.

Motion

10. Approve Policy 2255

A motion was made by _____ seconded by _____
to approve updates to Policy 2255, Action Planning for State Monitoring NJQSAC.

Motion

11. 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget Adoption

A motion was made by _____ seconded by _____
to submit the 2021-22 proposed budget to the Warren County Department of Education for review and approval. The proposed budget includes sufficient funds to provide curriculum compliance with N.J.S.A. and N.J.A.C. Title 6 and 6A. The proposed budget includes the following revenues and expenditures:

Revenues:

General Fund

Local Tax Levy	\$3,088,052
Tuition	18,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	2,428
Cap Reserve Interest	300
State Aid	715,660
Budgeted Fund Balance	361,560
Withdrawal from Capital Reserve	100,000
Federal Revenue-Special Projects	57,458
Total Revenues	\$4,343,458

Expenditures:

Fund 10 Transfer to Charter School	145,395
Fund 11 Current Expense	4,040,305
Fund 12 Capital Outlay	100,300
General Fund Total	\$4,286,000
Fund 20 Special Revenue	57,458
Total Expenditures	\$4,343,458

On roll call, motion

12. Approve Bills

A motion was made by _____ seconded by _____
to approve the bills for payment as follows: Monthly bill list \$359,434.98 and Cafeteria bill list \$2,384.19.

On roll call, motion

Monthly Certification

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c) 3, I certify that no budgetary line item account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a) as of February 28, 2021 (Policy 6820).

Board Secretary

Date

13. Accept Report of the Secretary and Report of the Treasurer

A motion was made by _____ seconded by _____
to accept the monthly A-148 Secretary's Report for the month ended February 28, 2021 and the A-149 Treasurer's of School Monies Report for the month ended February 28, 2021 in compliance with the NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c). The Board of Education, after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, certifies that no major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c).

On roll call, motion

14. Approve Minutes

A motion was made by _____ seconded by _____
to approve the Regular Session minutes of February 22, 2021.

Motion

Old Business

New Business

Upcoming Dates

- April Board Meeting Dates
 - Board Workshop – 4/12/21
 - Regular Meeting – 4/26/21 at 7pm

Adjournment

A motion was made by _____ seconded by _____
to adjourn the meeting at _____ p.m.

Motion