

**BERKELEY HEIGHTS BOARD OF EDUCATION
CONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

The Conference Meeting of the Berkeley Heights Board of Education was called to order on Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Clausen Administration Building by the Board President, Mr. Beisser.

ROLL CALL

A roll call indicated the presence of the following members:

Mr. Beisser, Dr. Crisonino, Mr. Reinstein, Mr. Sincaglia, Mr. Smalley, Ms. Walsh and Mrs. Williams. Also present were Mrs. Rattner, Mrs. Qualshie and Mrs. Felezzola. Mrs. Kirsch was absent.

STATEMENT

Mr. Beisser read the following statement:

On April 28, 2008, this body by resolution adopted the schedule for this meeting. The time, date and location of this meeting were accurately set forth therein.

On April 29, 2008, a copy of said schedule was posted at the Town Hall, the Public Library, the Railroad Station and the Administration Building. On the same date a copy was mailed to the Independent Press, Courier News, all PTO Presidents and delivered to the BHEA President, all schools, all Supervisors and filed with the Municipal Clerk. The meeting was also announced on the District Sign at Columbia Middle School.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Mr. Smalley and seconded by Mr. Reinstein that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session,

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A.10:4-1 et seq.) expressly provide that a public body may move into Executive Session and exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which the public body discusses any of the nine areas set forth in N.J.S.A.10:4-12b; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Heights Board of Education has determined it necessary to move into Executive Session to discuss the following subjects, all of which are included in the aforesaid exceptions:

Personnel, Construction Contracts, Student Matter, Employment Contracts and Negotiations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Berkeley Heights Board of Education that it does hereby move into Executive Session pursuant to N.J.S.A.10:4-12b to discuss the aforesaid matters; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the aforesaid discussions shall be made public either at the Public Meeting following said Executive Session or at such time as any litigated or personnel matters are concluded; or upon conclusion of any negotiations or related discussions; or as otherwise specified; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect pursuant to law.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

It was moved by Mr. Sincaglia and seconded by Mr. Reinstein that the Board of Education return to Public Session. Motion carried.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:00 PM in the Columbia School Multi Purpose Room.

FLAG SALUTE

Mr. Beisser led the Board and the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes on the agenda and indicated they should be presented at the next public meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Felezzola indicated the correspondence as listed on the agenda had been provided to the Board for their review and information.

- A. Card from J. Rattner, Re: Thank you
- B. Card from P. Beisser, Re: Thank you
- C. Letter from S. Johnson, Governor Livingston PTO, Re: Project Graduation

REPORT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Wendy Lin reported on Junior College Night.

John McNamara reported on Penny Wars and February Events.

Wendy Lin reported on FBLA Competition yesterday and the Science Competition next week.

John McNamara gave an update on the ice hockey team, the bowling team and Super Saturday.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Rattner congratulated Wendy Lin on her acceptance to Yale University.

Mrs. Rattner announced that she and Kevin McGrath will be attending the ceremony honoring Susan Poage as a recipient of the Recognizing Educational Achievement & Leadership Presidential Award for Excellence in Math & Science in Trenton tomorrow.

Mrs. Rattner stated that the state aid information will likely be delayed.

Mrs. Rattner reported that the state has released Final Accountability Regulations.

Mrs. Rattner shared information regarding Random Drug and Alcohol Testing of Students. The Board discussed these articles which gave historical prospective, presented current information and practical implications. Mrs. Rattner explained the process of random drug testing for students.

The Board had questions regarding current procedures.

Mr. Beisser summarized the information and asked the Board to consider if this something we should pursue. Mr. Beisser discussed his concerns regarding random drug testing.

Dr. Crisonino stated that he is not supportive of the idea and that the current practices are effective.

Ms. Walsh agreed with Mr. Beisser and expressed concern for parental rights and violating trusts. She believes we should continue our efforts to educate parents.

Mrs. Williams agreed with Ms. Walsh and felt that there was not a significant problem that needed to be addressed.

Mr. Reinstein expressed his opinion and agreed that the district should not pursue random drug testing.

Mr. Sincaglia expressed concern regarding the district adopting another role and the concerns of privacy.

Mr. Reinstein stated that parent education is important.

Mr. Smalley stated that he agreed with education component. Mr. Smalley reported that parents that he knows are supportive of the idea. He suggested looking for trends and continuing to evaluate the relevance of the topic.

John McNamara suggested educating middle school students and parents.

Mr. Smalley announced that UCSBA will sponsor a drug testing meeting on February 25, 2009

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Smalley reported that the Environmental Commission was working on their Sustainability Program including green products, recycling in the schools and Arbor Day.

Ms. Walsh reported that the PTO Area council gave positive feedback regarding parent notification.

FACILITIES REPORT

Mrs. Felezzola reported on ROD grant projects and additional projects to be included in the referendum.

PRELIMINARY CITIZENS HEARING

Mrs. Johnson of Chestnut Hill Dr. stated that she supported the Board decision regarding not implementing random drug testing. Parents she knows are not supportive of the testing.

ADMINISTRATION

The Board reviewed the administration items on the agenda and indicated they should be presented at the next public meeting.

EDUCATION

The Board reviewed the education items on the agenda and indicated they should be presented at the next public meeting.

BUSINESS

The Board reviewed the business items on the agenda and indicated they should be presented at the next public meeting.

FINANCE

The Board reviewed the finance items on the agenda and indicated they should be presented at the next public meeting.

FINAL CITIZENS HEARING

Mr. Ivancich of Arden Court asked for follow-up information regarding fund raising at the high school and stated that he did his own investigation.

Mr. Beisser and Mrs. Rattner stated that the Board has completed their investigation and the attorney is reviewing the final report.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to be presented.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Reinstein and seconded by Mr. Sincaglia that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Felezzola
School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary