

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
Borough of Manasquan

*The Special Meeting of the Manasquan Board of Education was held in the Manasquan High School Media Center on Friday, January 16, 2015.*

*The Board President, Mr. Thomas Pellegrino, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and read the Opening Statement.*

**1. Call to Order**

Opening Statement: Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-10, notice of this meeting has been provided by publication in the Asbury Park Press, the Coast Star and posted in the Borough Hall of Manasquan and in the schools within the time limits prescribed by law.

*Mr. Pellegrino requested that everyone join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Roll Call**

Eugene Cattani  
Kenneth Clayton  
Linda DiPalma  
Mark Furey (Belmar)

Erik Gardner (SLH)  
Heather Garrett-Muly – arrived 3:09  
Thomas Pellegrino  
Colleen Smith

Alfred Sorino  
Tedd Vitale (Brielle)  
James Walsh  
Patricia Walsh – absent

*Also Present: Dr. Frank Kasyan, Superintendent of Schools; Lynn Coates, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Michael Gross, Board Attorney; Sandi Freeman, Recording Secretary*

*Mr. Pellegrino asked that the minutes reflect that Mr. Furey arrived during Roll Call.*

*Mr. Pellegrino read the Mission Statement and Statement to the Public.*

**4. Mission Statement**

Manasquan School District's mission is to empower students to reach their potential and become life-long learners. We strive to ensure that students play an active role in their education, are guided by rigorous academic standards aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, and function within the community that regards student, educators, and parents as full participants in the educational process. We dedicate ourselves to the realization of a supportive learning environment that nurtures growth, personal integrity and mutual respect.

**5. Statement to the Public**

Often times it may appear to members of our audience that the Board of Education takes action with very little comment and in many cases by unanimous vote. Before a matter is placed on the agenda at a public meeting, the administration has thoroughly reviewed the matter with the Superintendent of Schools. If the Superintendent of Schools is satisfied that the matter is ready to be presented to the Board of Education, it is then placed on the agenda at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. The members of the Board work with the administration and the Superintendent of Schools to assure that they fully understand the matter. After the Committee of the Whole approves the matter, it is placed on the agenda for action at a public meeting. In rare instances, matters are presented to the Board of Education for discussion at the same meeting that final action may be taken.

Call to Order

Pledge of  
Allegiance

Roll Call

Mission  
Statement

Statement to  
The Public

*Mr. Pellegrino opened the Public Forum on Agenda Items and read the following statement.*

**6. Public Forum on Agenda Items**

Time may be allocated for public comment at this meeting. Each speaker may be allotted a limited time when recognized by the presiding officer. In the event it appears the public comment portion of the meeting may exceed 45 minutes, the presiding officer may limit each statement made by a participant to 3-5 minutes duration. Individuals wishing to address the Board shall be recognized by the presiding officer and shall give their names, addresses and the group, if any, that they represent. Although the Board encourages public participation, it reserves the right, through its presiding officer, to terminate remarks to and/or by any individual not keeping with the conduct of a proper and efficient meeting. During the public participation portions of this meeting, the Board will not respond to questions from the public involving employment, appointment, termination of employment, negotiations, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any specific or prospective or current employee. This public forum is limited to comment on items included in this agenda only.

*Mr. Pellegrino said that the Board would entertain comments on any matter at this time.*

*Peter O'Neil, 324 Perrine Boulevard, Manasquan – Mr. O'Neil introduced himself as the founding president of Manasquan Inline Hockey and provided his background in coaching various ice hockey teams. He provided an example, based on his numerous hours of coaching at the wall arena and the position of the players' bench and the coach, of how an action such as a kick by the coach to a player to get them to move down the bench or get up for their shift, could be misconstrued as something more by someone observing from a distance. He said he has kicked his players, some numerous times during a single game. He spoke highly of Mr. Dowd and referred to him as a gentleman, great coach and an ambassador for hockey. He said that he knows the game and Manasquan hockey shines bright with Mr. Dowd at the helm.*

*Norman Pier, attorney for Mr. Dowd, thanked Mr. O'Neil for his kind remarks and did not make any statement at this time.*

*Gene Ross, 1303 Nersita Drive, Point Pleasant Beach – Mr. Ross said that his son is a member of Mr. Dowd's team and the only reservation he has about Mr. Dowd is that he does not come back and that something like this prevents him from staying with the program.*

*Chris Dougherty, 52 Clark Street, Manasquan – Mr. Dougherty said that this is a complete joke.*

*Dan Murray, 507 Forman Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach – Mr. Murray spoke in support of Mr. Dowd and said that he has made weak teams stronger and made teammates friends. He said that the players respect him because he respects them. He said there are more parents that should be on trial than coaches. He said hockey is a passionate game and the kids need to be pushed. He said Mr. Dowd's integrity for the sport and the kids cannot be questioned.*

*Anthony Foglia, 42 N. Main Street, Manasquan – Mr. Foglia spoke in support of Mr. Dowd who has coached three of his children. He spoke of his experience with Mr. Dowd as a person, a mentor, and a coach. He said there is no better mentor, teacher and coach than Mr. Dowd and he has never seen him do anything to harm a kid and finds this totally ridiculous. He said Mr. Dowd teaches the kids how to be respectful, responsible and accountable and he is a mentor way beyond hockey.*

*Chris Rudo, 425 Euclid Avenue, Manasquan – Mr. Rudo, current president of Manasquan in-line hockey, spoke in support of Mr. Dowd and attested to his character. He said that Mr. Dowd has*

*reached the pinnacle of his sport and is a resource for the community and we should treasure his contribution to our youth.*

*Mr. Pellegrino closed the Public Forum seeing no further questions or comments from the public.*

*Mr. Pellegrino asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session and read the following statement.*

*Prior to approving the motion, Mr. Gross said he has spoken to both Mr. Gardner and Mrs. DiPalma about the executive session and they have informed him that due to the subject matter that may be discussed in the executive session this afternoon they believe there may be a potential for a conflict of interest and both will recuse themselves from participation in the executive session discussion.*

*Motion was made by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. Garrett-Muly, and approved by voice vote of all those present in favor to enter into Executive Session at 3:26 p.m.*

**7. Executive Sessions**

**WHEREAS**, the Sen. Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq.*, (the “Act”) provides that the Manasquan Board of Education may hold an “Executive Session” from which the public is excluded to discuss matters that are confidential or are one of the nine (9) subject matters listed in Section 12(b) of the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recommended by the Superintendent that the Manasquan Board of Education go into Executive Session on this date in, Manasquan, New Jersey, to discuss matters that are permissible for discussion in Executive Session; and

**WHEREAS**, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be sixty (60) minutes after which the public meeting of the Board shall reconvene and proceed with business; and

**WHEREAS**, that the Board hereby declares that its discussion of the following subject(s) will be made public at a time when the public’s interest in disclosure is greater than any privacy or governmental interest being protected from disclosure.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Manasquan Board of Education that the Board shall go into Executive Session to discuss the following items:

- \_\_\_ 1. Confidential Matters per Statute on Court Order
- \_\_\_ 2. Impact Rights to Receive Federal Funds
- \_\_\_ 3. Unwarranted Invasion of Individual Privacy
- \_\_\_ 4. Collective Bargaining
- \_\_\_ 5. Acquisition of Real Property or Investment of Fund
- \_\_\_ 6. Public Safety Procedures
- \_\_\_ 7. Litigation or Contract Matters or Att./Client Privilege
- X 8. Personnel Matters
- \_\_\_ 9. Imposition of Penalties Upon an Individual

**ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY RESULT IN BOARD ACTION WHEN THE BOARD RECONVENES TO PUBLIC SESSION.**

*Mr. Pellegrino reconvened the special meeting at 4:41 p.m. and asked for roll call.*

*Eugene Cattani  
Kenneth Clayton  
Linda DiPalma  
Mark Furey (Belmar)*

*Erik Gardner (SLH) - absent  
Heather Garrett-Muly  
Thomas Pellegrino  
Colleen Smith*

*Alfred Sorino  
Tedd Vitale (Brielle)  
James Walsh  
Patricia Walsh – absent*

Public Forum  
(continued)

Executive  
Session

Meeting  
Reconvened

Roll Call

*Also Present: Dr. Frank Kasyan, Superintendent of Schools; Lynn Coates, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Michael Gross, Board Attorney; Sandi Freeman, Recording Secretary*

**8. Old Business/New Business**

*Under New Business – Mr. Pellegrino asked Mr. Gross to read the following statement:*

*“This afternoon the Board of Education received a press release from the Monmouth County Prosecutor’s office through the Wall Township Police Department and I would like to read what that press release says.” “The Wall Township Police Department has concluded its investigation into the allegations against Manasquan Hockey Coach, Mr. James Dowd. As a result of that investigation, there will be no charges filed by the Wall Township Police Department. The investigation was initiated after a parent of a player signed a private citizen complaint against Dowd for simple assault while acting in his capacity of a Coach. The private citizen complaint summons for simple assault will be adjudicated at a later date in Wall Township Municipal Court.”*

*Mr. Gross said the above statement was received this afternoon.*

*Mr. Pellegrino made the following statement:*

*“The Board has received the consent of Mr. Dowd to advise you that we have discussed the issues raised involving Mr. Dowd’s coaching with Manasquan. After a review of the information supplied by the administration, as a result of their lengthy investigation, coupled with the press release from the prosecutor’s office about the charges, the Board is accepting the Superintendent’s determination to have Mr. Dowd immediately returned to his duties as head coach of the hockey team.”*

*Mr. Pellegrino opened the second Public Forum. Seeing no comments or questions from the public he closed the public forum.*

**9. Public Forum**

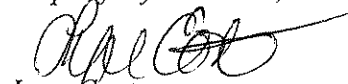
*Mr. Pellegrino asked for a motion to adjourn.*

*Motion was made by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. Garrett-Muly, and approved by voice vote of all those present in favor to adjourn the special meeting at 4:45 p.m.*

**10. Adjournment**

*Motion to Adjourn*

*Respectfully submitted,*



*Lynn Coates*

*School Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

Roll Call  
(continued)

Old Business /  
New Business

Reinstatement  
of Mr. Dowd,  
Manasquan  
High School Ice  
Hockey Coach

Public Forum

Adjournment