

February 28, 2012

The Board of Education of the Borough of Manasquan, Monmouth County, met for the Regular Open Business Meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., in the Manasquan Elementary School Cafeteria

Present for Roll Call: Trisha Brown, Jack Campbell, Michelle LaSala, Chris Muly, Jim Smith, Katherine Verdi and John Winterstella, Manasquan Board of Education Elected Members (MEB), Michele Degnan-Spang and Mark Furey, Sending District Representatives (SDR), Billy Acciavatti and Alec Lorenzo, Student Liaisons. Absent: Thomas B. Bauer, Linda DiPalma (MEB) and Julia Barnes (SDR).

Roll Call

Also Present: Geraldine Margin, Superintendent of Schools, Margaret M. Hom, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Mr. McOmber, Board Attorney, representatives of The Coast Star and members of the public.

Mrs. LaSala asked for a motion to enter into Closed Executive Session to conduct the Superintendent's evaluation.

On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Verdi, it was RESOLVED by voice vote of all those present in favor by the Manasquan Board of Education to adjourn to closed executive session to conduct the Superintendent's evaluation.

***Adjourn to
Closed Executive
Session***

Mrs. LaSala reconvened the Regular Open Business Meeting and asked for Roll Call.

***Meeting
Reconvened***

Present for Roll Call: Thomas B. Bauer, Trisha Brown, Jack Campbell, Michelle LaSala, Chris Muly, Jim Smith, Katherine Verdi and John Winterstella, Manasquan Board of Education Elected Members (MEB), Julia Barnes, Michele Degnan-Spang and Mark Furey, Sending District Representatives (SDR), Billy Acciavatti and Alec Lorenzo, Student Liaisons. Absent: Linda DiPalma

Roll Call

Also Present: Geraldine Margin, Superintendent of Schools, Margaret M. Hom, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Mr. McOmber, Board Attorney, representatives of The Coast Star and members of the public

Mrs. LaSala requested that everyone join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Pledge of
Allegiance***

The President, Mrs. LaSala, called the meeting to order and read the following opening statement: Pursuant to New Jersey Administrative Code, Title 10, Chapter 4, Subchapter 10, notice of this meeting has been provided by publication in the Asbury Park Press and the Coast Star and posted in the Borough Hall of Manasquan and in the schools within the time limits prescribed by law.

***Opening
Statement***

Mrs. LaSala read the following 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. Almost without exception, before a matter is placed on the agenda at a public meeting, the administration has thoroughly reviewed the matter with the Superintendent of Schools. When the Superintendent of Schools is satisfied that the matter is ready to be presented to the Board of Education for discussion it is placed on the work agenda. Only after a full discussion by the Board is action taken.

***Statement to
the Public***

all of the individuals who stepped up and assisted at the crisis center and with this process. Mrs. Tellone made a plea to the community to come together with a sense of community and a sense of responsibility. Mrs. Tellone said that she is very proud of the crisis team and that she is proud to be a community member of Manasquan and a faculty member at Manasquan High School. She said that it is important to stay strong and connected and committed to improve the mental health of the children. She said that we should parent as parents not friends and remain strong as teachers and committed to the education of the students and keep the school a place of support, control and structure.

*Presentations &
Reports
(continued)*

The Crisis Team was commended on the amazing job in setting up this service.

Mr. Barry Johnson, Director of the Monmouth County Mental Health and Addiction Services, commented that he was proud to be part of this group. He said that this group has done incredibly good work and the school district has over the last four years done excellent work and does stand as one of the top schools in the country in terms of being able to respond to these kinds of tragedies and preventing these types of tragedies in the future. He thanked and commended the many community volunteers who helped with this response. He recognized and introduced Denise Wegeman and commended her for her outstanding efforts and assistance. Mr. Johnson provided details on the support that was made available to individuals after this tragic event and steps they would like to take to assist in prevention activities for the future. He commended and congratulated the school for an outstanding job in addressing these matters.

Mrs. Margin continued her report. She reported that she was notified by Mr. Art Gordon, the DECA advisor, on Sunday, February 26, that eight students competed in the State Leadership Conference in Cherry Hill, two of which are the student liaisons. She reported that along with the student liaisons to the Board, Billy Acciavatti and Alec Lorenzo, the following students competed in the program: Spencer Arnold, Tyler Dwyer, Andrew Trengrove, Kelly Petillo, Allison Peters and Alexandra Wilson. She reported the following achievements: Billy Acciavatti finished in the top 10 of his group and came in 2nd overall in one of his role playing activities; Tyler Dwyer finished in the top ten in his group and made it to the final round and Spencer Arnold came in first overall and qualified for the ICDC in Salt Lake City, Utah, April 28 – May 1. Mrs. Margin congratulated the students on their achievements.

Mrs. Margin provided the following Random Drug Testing report: As of February 28, eleven RSDT tests were administered and 228 students were randomly tested. Of those tested, 219 students were negative and 9 were positive – 9 for marijuana. 35 mandatory tests were given and 26 came back negative and 7 came back positive – 5 for marijuana and 2 for alcohol.

*Random Drug
Testing Report*

Mrs. Margin announced that we have 8 elementary students attending Monmouth County Arts Middle School and 7 high school students attending the Arts High School. She said that these students had to apply and then compete to be accepted into this program. She commended these students who have met the criteria to participate in this gifted and talented program offered by Monmouth County. She reported that these students will be recognized at a future Board Meeting.

Mrs. Margin asked the Board to review the enrollment figures as specified in **Document A**. She reported an enrollment as of January 31, 2012 in the Manasquan Elementary School of 681 and in the Manasquan High School of 964 full time students and 45 shared-time students, for a total high school enrollment of 1009, bringing the district enrollment to a total of 1690. She also reported the average daily attendance of 94.3% in the high school and 95.4% in the elementary school. She asked the Board to refer to the suspension report and fire drill and bus emergency evacuation drill reports for the high school and elementary school which the district is required by law to report at an open meeting, as specified in **Document B**. She also referred to **Document C**, which itemizes the HIB incident report for December 2011.

*Enrollment Report
Document A
Suspension, Bus
& Fire Drill
Reports
Document B
HIB Incident
Report
Document C*

Mrs. Margin asked for a motion to approve her report.

Mrs. Margin addressed a question asked by Mr. Smith on how many of the nine positive tests for marijuana were repeat offenders. Mrs. Margin reported that these students were first time offenders.

On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Brown, it was RESOLVED by voice vote of all those present in favor by the Manasquan Board of Education to accept the Superintendent's Reports and Information Items, as specified in **Documents A, B and C**.

*Acceptance of
Superintendent's
Report*

Mrs. Margin reported that last week a preliminary report was given on the 2012-2013 school district budget to both the Board and the public. She said that it was noted that state aid numbers and the second download which provides different calculations and information were not available at that time. She said that on Thursday this information was made available and the budget has been recalculated with this new information. She pointed out that the second download did provide the calculation for the adequacy number and explained what factors contributed to the adequacy number. She reported that based on the calculation that is made by the state, it was determined that the Manasquan taxpayers, in order to provide an adequate education for Manasquan students, should raise \$12,773,146 in taxes. Mrs. Margin said that the proposed budget from last week was below adequacy and reported on the areas that were reduced in the budget and areas of resources to increase revenues. She spoke on banked CAP and explained how this can be applied in the budget. She reported that in order to bring the budget to adequacy it will be recommended that part of the banked CAP be used to increase the budget in order to meet the adequacy number set by the state.

*2012-2013
School District
Budget Report*

Mrs. Margin turned the meeting over to Mrs. Hom. She reported that initially the budget had a 2% increase in the tax levy that would be considered as the base budget. She explained how the district acquired the banked CAP number of \$465,661.00. She explained the banked CAP process and different strategies on how to solve the budget problems. She mentioned that there was conversation on charging for sports; however, it was felt that in a town where a large majority of the students in the high school were from sending districts and are charged tuition, it was decided that this may not be the best avenue. She said that being below adequacy was of major concern. She explained that the adequacy adjustment that was looked at in the budget was \$357,928.00, which was the number needed to bring the budget equal to adequacy. She reported that money was allocated to the budget from reserves: \$232,649 from surplus; \$150,000 from tuition reserve; \$850,000 from maintenance reserve. She explained how the maintenance reserve money would be used for the high school roofing project. She went over the proposed cuts and reductions and also the positions and projects that are being recommended to be restored if approved by the Board. Mrs. Hom pointed out that this is a preliminary budget and explained that the purpose of this budget is to present it to the County Office for evaluation to see if there are any discrepancies that they feel need to be resolved before a final budget is presented to the public. She reported that she feels this is a comprehensive budget and it does include cuts in order to get to CAP. She said that if approved tonight, the documents will be submitted to the County Office. She pointed out that this budget can be changed anytime between now and the public hearing on March 27th so the Board can continue to discuss this budget at both March meetings and revise the budget anytime up until the public hearing.

Mrs. LaSala asked for clarification that the process used that enabled the district to restore items in the budget was accomplished with the use of banked CAP. Mrs. Hom said that after the receipt of the second download the adequacy information was made available and once it was realized that we were below adequacy it was decided that this was a reasonable recommendation.

Mrs. LaSala commented that in an effort to be fair to the public the use of banked CAP has an impact on their taxes.

Mr. Smith commented that below adequacy is based on a formula given by the state and based on the goals that the students are achieving and test scores he said that he personally would consider the district above efficiency. He said that based on the tax money that is being raised and how the district is spending money we certainly are achieving the goals of the students. He commented on the money that was found last year, the decision made for a zero tax increase a year ago and putting money into a surplus fund. He said that this year a zero tax increase was also being looked at but instead we are going to the maximum 2%, which is allowed by moving the election to November. He said that in addition to the 2% we are now going to ask the taxpayers to pay an additional \$357,000. He feels that we are not keeping our word by not having a 2% tax increase and actually going above one and one half times that amount. He feels that the Board should tighten the belt in other areas. He said that he has a problem going from 0% to basically 5%.

Mrs. Brown asked if the proposed cut of seven paraprofessionals was mainly focused at the elementary school or split. Mrs. Hom said that it was split between the two schools and actually based on IEP's and the need due to a scheduling change.

Mrs. LaSala said on behalf of the Finance Committee that this matter had been discussed when presented to the committee. She said that Mr. Smith makes a very valid point that is well taken. She did want to express why the Finance Committee is recommending that the proposed budget be approved by the Board. She pointed out that some of the factors that the committee had to look at in order to make this decision were falling below adequacy, the cutting of the certified staff, and consideration for implementing the Pay to Play program. She said that by going into the banked CAP the district does not have to go with Pay to Play. She said that the biggest factor for the Finance Committee members was that they did not feel it was appropriate to take any money from the outside counseling services.

Mr. Smith said once again that his concern is saying that it would be 0% then 2% and now actually closer to 5%.

Mrs. LaSala said that this is an excellent point but the only thing she asks people to keep in mind is that this is not an easy decision and none of the members wanted to make this change. She said that weighing the pros and cons it was the recommendation of the majority of the Finance Committee that this was something that we had to do with the below adequacy concerns. She said that although it is only a term if one was trying to sell a house right now or in real estate that is a term that one might not want to hear.

Mrs. Hom said that the tax impact on a \$550,000 house would be \$205.70 in a year.

Mrs. Margin pointed out that when the district loses certified staff it does impact program. She said that the district has been just at adequacy for the last two years and it is important to maintain programs. She complimented the staff on the fantastic job in both schools and said that if we lose staff members we are going to lose program and also lose ground on what has been accomplished. She agrees that the counseling provided to the students has made a significant difference and there is a need to continue to support them.

Mr. Bauer questioned if the Pay to Play involved not only sports but all extra-curricular activities. Mrs. LaSala said that initially only sports was being looked into with no further investigation in the other areas; however, she said if the Board had decided to go with this it would have been across the board. Mr. Bauer also asked what number was being projected when the Finance Committee looked at this item. Mrs. LaSala said that an overall dollar amount was not established since it was only preliminarily discussed by the committee. She said that it was the decision of the committee not to go further with this and instead address other areas that needed to be weighed that the committee already

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had direction on for a recommendation. She also pointed out that these are recommendations from the committee but certainly this is the Board's decision.

**2012-2013
School District
Budget Report**

Mrs. LaSala read the following statement prior to opening the Public Forum for discussion on agenda items:

Public Forum

Time may be allocated for public comment at this meeting. Each speaker may be allotted a time when recognized by the presiding officer. 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 in keeping with the conduct of a proper and efficient meeting. The Board will not respond to questions during the public participation portion of this meeting involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, negotiations, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any specific, prospective or current employee. This public forum is limited to comment on items included in this agenda only.

Nancy Hayduk, 809 Central Avenue, Spring Lake Heights said that she was here as a parent of Manasquan High School students and as the PTO of Manasquan High School. She thanked the Board for the work that they do for the children. She said that the reason she was here to share good news about Manasquan High School because it is a phenomenal school. She spoke on the Healthy Heart collection that took place in the high school and commended Mr. Fagan and Mr. Minutoli for always winning the contest. She also thanked Susan Tellone for assisting her son while in India when he became ill. She read a very inspirational note that her son received from his teacher, Amy Boss, regarding his homeroom winning the Healthy Heart contest. She said that this inspired her to have the PTO start a Teacher of the Month program with nominations being made by the parents and students. She said that Ms. Boss would be the first teacher selected and she would be honored with flowers and candy. She said that the teachers need to be thanked for the good they are doing and know that they are making a wonderful impact on the students' lives. She also spoke of other projects that the PTO and students are involved in that will promote all of the school's staff to be thanked for their service and also to provide assistance to those in need.

Mr. Coppola thanked Mrs. Hayduk for her help and the support the PTO gives to the school. He spoke on the yearly process involved in selecting the Teacher of the Year and the difficulty in choosing just one individual for this honor. He thanked everyone in the community, along with Mrs. Tellone, Mrs. Wegeman and the school staff, for their support over the break.

Mrs. LaSala asked the Student Liaisons to present their reports at this time.

**Student Liaison
Reports**

Billy Acciavatti, Student Council President, provided a report on the following activities:

- Environmental Club's trip to India
- Fund raising project for the American Heart Association that raised \$1700 through the sale of ribbons and hearts on the classroom doors. He thanked the Health Careers Club for their assistance with this project.
- Student Council members providing assistance with Back to School Night.
- A trip in March to the College of NJ for a Leadership Conference with the National Honor Society.
- National Honor Society tutoring program for the second semester.

Alec Lorenzo, Key Club President, provided a report on the following activities:

- Big Hearts and Little Hearts program within the next month.
- Assisting with the April Fool's Run

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- He distributed flyers for Squan-A-Thon and welcomed everyone to attend to see the efforts of the students. He said that donations are welcome until the day of the event.

*Student Liaison
Reports
(continued)*

Mrs. Margin encouraged the members of the Board to attend this very wonderful event. She reported that last year they raised over \$41,000. She commended Mr. Battaglia, Mrs. McKenzie and the students for a fabulous job in organizing this event. She also opened the invitation to members of the community to stop by and experience the efforts of the students.

Mrs. Margin thanked the students for their reports.

Mrs. LaSala closed the Public Forum seeing no additional questions or comments from the public.

Mrs. LaSala asked for a motion to approve Motions 02/28-03 through 02/28-11.

*Manasquan
Motions
02/28-03 –
02/28-11*

On a motion by Mr. Winterstella, seconded by Mr. Campbell, it was RESOLVED by roll call vote of all those present in favor by the Manasquan Board of Education to approve the following recommendations on the Manasquan Motions 02/28-03 through 02/28-11 (MEB).

- Approval of the Elementary School Personnel, as specified in **Document D**. 02/28-03
- Approval of the Elementary School Professional Days and Field Trips, as specified in **Document E**. 02/28-04
- Approval of a bilingual Learning Evaluation to be conducted by Marc Seidenstein at a rate of \$500.00 for student #121008 (MES) as part of a Child Study Team Evaluation. 02/28-05
- Approval of a bilingual Speech & Language Evaluation to be conducted by Monmouth Ocean Educational Services commission at a rate of \$275.00 for student #121008 (MES) as part of a Child Study Team Evaluation. 02/28-06
- Approval to appoint and contract with Birdsall Services Group to provide mechanical and electrical engineering services for the Proposed Boiler Replacement at the Manasquan Elementary School in an amount not to exceed \$24,000.00. 02/28-07
- Approval to advertise to solicit bids for the elementary school boiler replacement project.
- Approval of transportation contracts and agreements for the 2011-12 school year as specified in **Document F**. 02/28-09
- Approval of Jill Takacs to provide a workshop for Coordinator/Training for Teacher Presenters for a fee of \$500.00. 02/28-10
- Approval of acceptance of the following Financial Reports, Elementary School Central Funds Report and Payment and Confirmation of Bills (Capital Expense) as noted in
 - A) Secretary's Financial & Investment Report – **Document G**
 - B) Elementary School Central Funds Report – **Document H**
 - C) Bills and confirmation of Bills (Capital Expense)

*E.S. Personnel
Document D*

*E.S. Prof. Days &
Field Trips
Document E*

*Learning Eval/
M. Seidenstein*

*Speech & Language
Eval/ M-OESC*

*Birdsall Service
Group – Engineer
Svcs.-E.S. Boilers*

*Advertise Bids for
Boiler Replacement*

*Transportation
Document F*

*J. Takacs – Training
Workshop*

*Financial
Reports
& Bills*

The Business Administrator/Board Secretary certified that as of January 31, 2012, no budgetary appropriations account has obligations and payments, which in total

*Secretary's
Certification*

exceed the amount appropriated by the Board of Education of the Borough of Manasquan.

Secretary's Certification (cont.)

It was RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2A.10(d), the Board of Education of the Borough of Manasquan, accepts the Business Administrator/Board Secretary's certification as of January 31, 2012, that no budgetary appropriations account has obligations and payments, which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Borough of Manasquan Board of Education.

Acceptance of Secretary's Certification

The Board of Education further recommended the acceptance of the Secretary's Financial & Investment and the Treasurer's Reports for the month ending January 31, 2012, as specified in **Document G**. (The Treasurer of School Moneys Reports for the month of January 2012 is on file in the Business Office and is in balance with the Secretary's Report.)

Secretary's Financial & Investment Report Document G

That pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2A.10(e), the Board of Education of the Borough of Manasquan, County of Monmouth, after having reviewed the Report of the Secretary and upon consultation with the appropriate officials, certifies that as of January 31, 2012 it is to the best of its knowledge that no major account or fund has been over-expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year, and that the Board of Education further approved the transfers made within line item accounts of the current expense portion of the 2011-2012 budgets for January and February, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, as specified in **Document G**.

Budget Certification Document G

The Manasquan Board of Education further recommended the acceptance of the elementary school Central Fund Report for the month ending January 31, 2012, as specified in **Document H**.

E.S. Central Fund Report Document H

It was further RESOLVED to approve Bills (Capital Expense) in the amount of \$355.00 for the month of February 2012 be approved. Record of check (#1260) and distributions are on file in the Business Office.

Bills Capital Expense

The Manasquan Board of Education also confirmed Bills (Capital Expense) for January 2012 in the amount of \$26,300.00 and checks (#1259). 02/28-12

Confirmation of Bills Capital Expense

Mrs. LaSala asked for a motion to approve Manasquan/Sending District Motions 02/28-12 through 02/28-18.

Prior to the roll call vote on Motion 02/28-16, Mrs. Brown asked if the January 28th in-service date could be moved to February 18th since the district does not have off on President's Day. Mrs. Margin explained that the reason for the January in-service date is due to the block scheduling at the high school. She said the January date is when the break in the semester occurs and this day is needed to transition to the new semester.

On a motion by Mr. Bauer, seconded by Mr. Campbell, it was RESOLVED by roll call vote in favor by the Manasquan Board of Education to approve Motions 02/28-12 through 02/28-18. (MEB/SDR)

Manasquan/Sending District Motions 02/28-12 - 02/28-18

Roll Call Vote as follows:	Mrs. Barnes – yes	Mr. Furey – yes
	Mr. Bauer – yes	Mrs. LaSala – yes
	Mrs. Brown – yes	Mrs. Muly – yes
	Mr. Campbell – yes	Mr. Smith – yes
	Mrs. Degnan-Spang – yes	abstain – 02/28-12
	Mrs. DiPalma – yes	Mr. Verdi – yes
		abstain – 02/28-12
		Mr. Winterstella – yes

- Approval of the High School personnel, as specified in **Document 1**. 02/28-12

H.S. Personnel Document 1

- Approval to authorize Faridy Veisz Hopkins Duthie, P.C., to submit project documents for roof replacement at the Manasquan High School to the NJDOE, as specified in **Document 10**. 02/28-23
- Approval to contract with Accuscan for digital archiving services, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00. Accuscan will handle all aspects of this project from pick up through scanning and acquiring the required certification by NJDARM. 02/28-24
- Approval to contract with Safeguard Document Destruction Inc., for on-site shredding and disposal of records in accordance with NJDARM, in the amount not to exceed \$800.00. 02/28-25
- Approval to contract with Maximus, to conduct a fixed assets inventory, in an amount not to exceed \$7,000.00. 02/28-26
- Approval to dispose of the following un-repairable equipment as specified in **Document 11**. This equipment is obsolete and no longer operational or repairable. 02/28-27
- Approval of the 2nd reading and adoption of the revised Manasquan Board of Education Bylaws and Policies as listed below and available at the Board of Education office:
Bylaws: 0155 – Board Committees
Policies: 2438 – Student in Good Standing 02/28-28
- Approval to advertise bids for the high school wiring project. 02/28-29
- The Manasquan Board of Education recommended the acceptance of the high school Central Fund Report for the month ending January 31, 2012, as specified in **Document 12**.

*Faridy Veisz Hopkins
Duthie – H.S. Roof
Document 10*

*Accuscan – Digital
Archiving services*

*Safeguard Document
Destruction Inc.
Shredding Services*

*Maximus – Fixed
Assets Inventory*

*Obsolete Equipment
Disposal
Document 11*

*2nd Reading &
Adoption – Revised
Bylaws & Policies*

*Advertise Bid – H.S.
Wiring Project*

*H.S. Central Fund
Report
Document 12*

It was further RESOLVED to approve Purchase Orders for the month of February 2012, as specified in **Document 13**.

*Purchase Orders
Document 13*

It was further RESOLVED to approve the acceptance of the Cafeteria Report for the month ending January 31, 2012, as specified in **Document 14**.

*Cafeteria Report
Document 14*

It was further RESOLVED to approve Bills (Current Expense) in the amount of \$1,322,548.27 for the month of February 2012. Record of checks (#30302 through #30441), and distributions are on file in the Business Office.

*Bills
Current Expense*

The Manasquan Board of Education also confirmed Bills (Current Expense) for January 2012 at \$3,003,936.65 and checks (#30164 through #30301). (MEB/SDR) 02/28-30

*Confirmation of
Bills – Current
Expense*

Mrs. LaSala asked if there were any matters of Old or New Business.

*Old Business /
New Business*

Mrs. Margin reported that the Board received a series of policies that were revised by Strauss Esmay. She said that although the Board has not had the opportunity to discuss these policies at this time, she would like to bring to the Board's attention an application from one homeschooled student to participate in athletics. She said that spring tryouts start this Friday and there has not been time for discussion of this policy and the impact of this policy. She asked for input from the Board since she will need to let the student know the outcome of his application.

Mrs. Margin addressed Mr. Winterstella's question on the Board's past policy and replied that the district has not allowed participation by homeschooled students

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because it is difficult to determine if they have achieved the credits each year because they are not held to any standard as to how they are homeschooled.

***Old Business /
New Business
(continued)***

Mr. Smith suggested that this will have to be somehow tied in to how we handle the students that attend the academy schools because he is concerned with the random drug testing policy. He said that he feels that our students are subject to the policy and pointed out the problem of how the homeschooled student would be tested as well as the academy school students.

Mrs. Verdi agreed with Mr. Smith's comments. She asked for clarity on the process involved or mandate as to the subject matter a homeschooled student has to follow. Mr. McOmber addressed her question and said that it is his understanding that New Jersey does not have any set requirements. He suggested that the Board should have a clearly defined and well thought out policy.

Mrs. LaSala commented that putting this matter on tonight's agenda is not in the Board's best interest and said that this matter would require further discussion and thought.

Mr. McOmber addressed Mr. Smith's question as to whether this student was being taught by a certified professional and replied that we are not permitted to ask for this information.

Mrs. Margin addressed Mrs. DiPalma's question on whether this student ever attended the Manasquan Schools and replied that she believed the student attended the high school for one year.

Mrs. Margin commented that there are many questions that need to be answered and suggested that the Board not set a precedent prior to really discussing this further and deciding what policy will be used going forward.

Mrs. Margin addressed Mr. Bauer's question if Strauss Esmay has a policy on homeschooling and replied that they do but basically it just lists options and the Board has to select the appropriate options for the district.

Mrs. Margin addressed Mrs. Muly's question on whether NJSIAA has any requirements on this matter and replied that they also left it up to the districts to make their own decisions.

Mr. McOmber said that the policy should address all areas not just athletics.

Mrs. LaSala said that she provided in the Board folders a list of the ad hoc committee members and chairperson. She said that Mrs. Margin was also asked to post this information on the district's website. She suggested that Board Members submit any questions to the chairperson and that she would also be providing the dates of the committee meetings so questions can be submitted prior to the meeting date.

Mrs. Brown asked why a sending district representative is designated as a chairperson of the wiring committee when the wiring is for the elementary school. Mrs. LaSala said that she referred to the previous committee structure and said that it was felt that Mr. Furey had the most amount of experience. Mr. Furey said that he did not mind working with the elementary school.

Mrs. LaSala announced the following committee meetings: Buildings and Grounds Committee on March 7th at 9:00 a.m. and Negotiations Committee on March 12th at 9:00 a.m.

Mrs. LaSala referred to a conversation she had with the County Business Administrator, Mr. Passiment, regarding how the board was instructed that they could not

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speak out of committee to other Board members. She reported that he informed her that this is not accurate and information can be shared in between meetings, however, not in a quorum and this information must stay confidential to the Board until it is disclosed to the public.

*Old Business /
New Business
(continued)*

Mrs. LaSala asked Mrs. Hom how long the district has used the current auditor. Mrs. Hom replied that the district has used the current auditor for around twenty years and that she did solicit proposals from two other auditors prior to this appointment. Mrs. Hom addressed her question on what the process would be if the Board wished to change auditors. She said that it would not be necessary to vote on this process and the Board would just need to instruct her to do so; however, this would have to wait until the reorganization in January. Mrs. LaSala suggested that it would be a good business practice to get a fresh set of eyes every three or four years. Mrs. Hom said that she currently works with two different auditors as the Business Administrator of two districts and it does not matter to her if the Board wishes to make a change in January.

Mrs. Hom said that she would have to check with the County Business Administrator as to when the services of the new auditor would take effect.

A discussion took place on when new appointments would begin with the change in the election date and reorganization of the Board. Mrs. LaSala said that we could get clarity on the auditor and when new appointments need to be made from Mr. Passiment.

Mrs. Brown asked with all due respect to Mrs. LaSala, that since we are bringing up clarity and since we are bringing up that she met with Mr. Passiment, Mrs. Brown asked for some transparency about two meetings that Mrs. LaSala attended with the acting Commissioner of Education and with the Monmouth County Superintendent. Mrs. Brown reported that she has had several members of the community ask her about these meetings because her name was mentioned and she said that she really thinks that since board members and administration were discussed that Mrs. LaSala should provide some clarity as to what exactly was discussed at the meetings. Mrs. Brown also said that she would like to know what other board members knew about the meetings and if there are any possible RICE violations since Mrs. LaSala is a sitting Board Member and that she was discussing our staff. Mrs. Brown said that she would like to suggest that Mr. Passiment come and discuss with the Board some of the things that Mrs. LaSala discussed with him. Mrs. Brown said that she would like this on the agenda and would like some transparency also.

Mrs. LaSala said that he would come and would that she would address Mrs. Browns request for transparency at this time. She pointed out that when she spoke to Mr. Hespe at the Department of Education and Mr. Passiment at the County Office, she went with her experience as a Board Member of ten months for clarity on items that she felt she needed clarification on as to whether the Board was doing things properly, procedurally or not. Mrs. Brown asked if she went by herself and Mrs. LaSala said that she went with a community member and she would not provide his name because he was not in attendance. Mrs. LaSala said that she did not throw anyone under the bus and only spoke about her experiences and asked for what was right or wrong. She said that as far as RICE or anything else, she asked what she was allowed to ask. She said that the member of the community was not present when she spoke about anything that may have been Board related and she asked if she was allowed to do this and she got permission from Mr. Hespe and Mr. Passiment that she was not in any violation.

Mrs. LaSala said that she would invite Mr. Passiment to meet with the Board.

Mrs. Barnes pointed out that as a member of the New Jersey School Boards Association, where we are mandated to pay dues, this is the organization that should be used for reference for these questions. Mrs. LaSala replied that she did go to them first. Mrs. Barnes further commented that New Jersey School Boards has been here to address questions, in addition to the attorney. She feels that this is the best resource and is

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perfectly appropriate, would avoid issues, and is perfectly appropriate. She said that she has never in her six years on a Board ever heard of anyone going to the County Superintendent on such issues.

*Old Business /
New Business
(continued)*

Mrs. LaSala said that she appreciates her comments but felt that she had exhausted all of her resources. She said that after going to New Jersey School Boards several times she felt that she needed help from somewhere else to find out if what the Board was doing was correct. She also said that she spoke about her experiences as a Board Member and not about any other individual's issues.

Mr. Smith asked if the Board would learn the topics of her discussion. Mrs. LaSala said that she will ask Mr. Passiment to come to a meeting and discuss the topics at that time.

There was no additional Old and New Business to be brought before the Board.

Mrs. LaSala opened the Public Forum.

Public Forum

Mr. Robert Honecker, introduced himself as an attorney representing Tom Flaherty. Mr. Honecker spoke on the January 25th release of Mr. Flaherty from his position as assistant basketball coach of the Manasquan High School girls' basketball team. He pointed out that Mr. Flaherty advised him that he was not given any reason for his release and Mr. Honecker felt that this was odd that in the middle of a basketball season an assistant coach was released without reason. Mr. Honecker pointed out that Mr. Flaherty could give him no reason for his release other than being told that he had to go by the Coach, Mr. Romero. Mr. Honecker said that he felt there should be some fairness in the system and found out that no one could provide him with a reason for his release. Mr. Honecker said that on February 21st, Mr. Flaherty was finally advised of some of the allegations that had been around since May 2010 and informed that these were the reasons for his release. Mr. Honecker thanked the Board of Education and the ad hoc committee for giving Mr. Flaherty, on February 27th, an opportunity to address these issues. Mr. Honecker pointed out that his purpose in being at tonight's meeting was because there is an issue of fundamental fairness when an individual who has passion for the game of basketball, a commitment to Manasquan High School and the community and a great deal of love and understanding for the girls that he coaches is released without any reason. Mr. Honecker pointed out that it is his opinion that Mr. Flaherty was judged guilty before any of these allegations were substantiated and to this day none of the allegations have been confirmed. He asked how someone could be let go from a position that they love and care about without the ability to have a fair hearing. He asked that since the Board appointed Mr. Flaherty to this position, shouldn't it have been the Board of Education's place to listen to those allegations and determine whether there was validity to them and either support the position of the administration or if found to be false then have the obligation to reverse the administration's decision at least until the charges were substantiated. Mr. Honecker respectfully requested that until this happens Mr. Flaherty should be reinstated to this position.

Mr. Roy Mabrey, 1205 Oakwood Road, Belmar, said that he was here in support of Tom Flaherty. He said that his daughters play basketball for Mr. Flaherty on Manasquan High School's girls' basketball team. He said that his daughters have played for Mr. Flaherty for years in addition to being a good close friend of Mr. Flaherty. He said that his comments may be considered subjective but he still spoke of his integrity and his unwavering commitment to any student who has shown an interest in basketball at Manasquan High School. He also commented on Mr. Flaherty's value system that is in his opinion based on fairness, equity and respect. He pointed out that this is what he would say but felt that he should let the other people present speak to confirm his beliefs in a more objective view. He felt that it is important to let the public and Board know what his daughter has accomplished as a McDonalds All American Player and that this accomplishment is a complete result of Mr. Flaherty. He asked others present to speak on Mr. Flaherty's behalf.

Michaela Mabrey, 1205 Oakwood Road, Belmar, Captain of the Girls' Basketball Team and a senior at Manasquan High School commented that her senior year has proven to be a disappointment to her. She spoke highly about Mr. Flaherty's coaching and said that although he is a tough coach, he also had rules. She said that she learned about Mr. Flaherty's release the day before her final exams and went into her exams not caring if she passed or failed. She said that she felt betrayed by this action and there was no reason for this to happen. She said that he helped everyone on the team get better all season. She commented that she hates Manasquan High School and she hates that the team worked so hard for so long and no one took that into account. She said that no one cared that he was giving 100%. She said that she believes that Mr. Kornegay wants the team to fail, that the principal could care less about the team and she also said that she does not know who Geri Margin is since she has never met her. She said that she has accomplished so much on and off the court at Manasquan High School but she feels betrayed. She said that she is the first shore conference player to become a McDonalds All American and still maintain a 94 average in school. She feels betrayed that the team has worked so hard to become the number two team in New Jersey and the Athletic Director fires our coach in the middle of a winning season the day before final exams. She said that the team deserves answers and respect. She asked what the Board planned on doing about this matter. She said that this is an emotional ride for the team and without Mr. Flaherty she believes that the team will not be able to accomplish what they had planned to accomplish which is the state championship.

Kevin Byrne, 912 Central Avenue, Spring Lake Heights, a graduate of Manasquan High School spoke on behalf of Mr. Flaherty and commented that if he could have had a coach like Tom Flaherty when he was in school he would have in a heartbeat. He said that he gives 100% of his time to the girls. He commented on a sign that says let the players play, let the coaches coach and the officials officiate and now we have an administrator stepping in where he should not step in. He said that 15 to 20 girls are grieving and want him back. He said that Mr. Flaherty is firm but he is also fair. He thanked the Board for listening and said that he hopes the right decision is made because an administrator made an off the wall decision to let a coach go that cares about the kids.

Jim Kelly, 3 Janet Court, Spring Lake Heights, whose daughter is a student trainer for the girls' varsity basketball team spoke on behalf of Mr. Flaherty. He said that although he does not have any players on the team he does enjoy watching the game. He said that since Coach Flaherty has come here with Coach Romero the program has gone from a secondary team to a very elite team because of the hard work and dedication of the coaches and players. He said that he thinks a mistake was made here and needs to be corrected and get Mr. Flaherty back to the team. He asked that he be reinstated immediately.

Patty Mabrey, 1205 Oakwood Road, Belmar, spoke on behalf of Mr. Flaherty. She said that she is an athletic director at St. Catharine's School and she understands the role of an athletic director. She said that when she hires a coach, she always backs her coach unless there is something really wrong. She also said that if there is something wrong she lets the coach know along with everyone else so the public also knows why. She said nothing was put out there until parents called and persisted on finding an answer and those answers were lies. She said that Mr. Flaherty has turned the girls into basketball players. She said that she wants to insure for her daughter that she will be treated with dignity and respect as the Board should be treating Mr. Flaherty. She alluded to accusations of cheating and said that they are not hiding and they are not cheating. She said that when a team becomes a powerhouse team you expect people to complain. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and hope that they have the courage to reverse the decision of Mr. Kornegay that was absolutely wrong.

Ellen Masonius, 215 Lorraine Avenue, Spring Lake, spoke on behalf of Mr. Flaherty. She said that her daughter transferred to Manasquan this year as a junior. She commented that her daughter went to the park during the summer and was welcomed with

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open arms by the players. She said that there is an equation of success at Manasquan and Tom is a big factor and it would be a positive thing if the Board reinstated him.

***Public Forum
(continued)***

Robert Hagaman, 304 Washington Boulevard, Sea Girt, also spoke on behalf of Mr. Flaherty. He said that he approached Mr. Flaherty to inquire about an avenue for his daughters to play basketball. He said that his daughters became committed to basketball and a lot of this has to do with Mr. Flaherty. He commended his support of the players and asked that the Board take a good look at this and figure out what is right and reinstate him.

Mrs. LaSala closed the Public Forum seeing no additional questions or comments from the public.

Mrs. LaSala read the following Sunshine Law Resolution.

***Sunshine Law
Resolution***

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b), the Board of Education may exclude the public from that portion of a public meeting at which the Board discusses any of the matters described at N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b) (1)-(9); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Manasquan Board of Education shall forthwith enter into closed session to discuss the following matter(s) concerning: Matters covered by the attorney-client privilege – (a report of the ad hoc committee concerning volunteer coach – 15 minutes or possibly longer).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said discussion may be disclosed to the public when reasons for discussing and acting upon it in closed session no longer exist and action may or may not be taken when the Board comes out of closed session.

Mrs. LaSala asked for a motion to adjourn to Closed Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. and reported that the Board would return and may take action.

On a motion by Mr. Bauer, seconded by Mrs. Verdi, it was RESOLVED by roll call vote of all those present in favor by the Manasquan Board of Education to go to Closed Executive Session.

***Motion to adjourn
to Closed Executive
Session***

The Board reconvened the Action Meeting.

Meeting Reconvened

Present for Roll Call: Thomas B. Bauer, Trisha Brown, Jack Campbell, Linda DiPalma, Michelle LaSala, Chris Muly, Jim Smith, Katherine Verdi and John Winterstella, Manasquan Board of Education Elected Members (MEB), Julia Barnes, Michele Degan-Spang and Mark Furey, Sending District Representatives (SDR).

Roll Call

Also Present: Geraldine Margin, Superintendent of Schools, Margaret M. Hom, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Mr. McOmer, Board Attorney.

Mrs. LaSala reconvened the meeting and said that the Board has decided not to take any action to reinstate Mr. Flaherty's position.

Mrs. LaSala asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Campbell, it was RESOLVED by voice vote of all those present in favor by the Manasquan Board of Education to adjourn the Regular Open Business Meeting.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret M. Hom
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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