

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
UPPER SADDLE RIVER, NEW JERSEY
SPECIAL MEETING – BOARD RETREAT
THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021
8:05 A.M.**

MINUTES

This Special Meeting - Board Retreat of the Upper Saddle River Board of Education was held at the Cavallini Media Center, 392 West Saddle River Road, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458 beginning at 8:05 a.m. Mrs. Johnston opened the meeting and stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with PL 1975, Chapter 232 and appropriate notice had been provided to the designated newspapers, the Borough Clerk and all interested parties requesting such notification.

Members present: Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Gandara, Mrs. Ginsberg, Mr. Quagliani, Dr. Verducci, Mrs. Wenberg

Members absent: None

Also present: Dr. Siegel, Mrs. Imbasciani

Mrs. Gandara made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Gray to begin the meeting at 8:05 a.m.

OPENING STATEMENT

Mrs. Johnston

Mrs. Johnston welcomed the Board to the meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Education & Curriculum Update

Dr. Siegel

- The Board discussed:
 - Community Circle
 - Push additional discussions to the Curriculum Committee.
 - How do you measure the success of this program?
 - Middle School Electives and academic support
 - K – 8 Enrichment
 - Northern Highlands Regional High School Math
 - Enrichment vs Gifted & Talented
 - Note/understand where difference in responsibility is
 - Enrichment Night to educate parents on how many children are being enriched in everyday classroom and de-emphasize Gifted & Talented
 - Work around to deal with high performing Math students going to Northern Highlands. How can we help facilitate this?
 - Are our Math students sufficiently challenged?
 - Summer Academy
 - Love of Learning vs. Grade
 - Special Education programs
 - Who are the “critical” positions?
 - Succession planning
 - Cyclical Review

- Teacher and administrative development (Growth)
 - Rotate PE teachers?
- Quad-District articulation and collaboration
 - Re-engage Post COVID

2. District Goals (2021-22)

- The Board began discussing potential goals for the 2021-22 school year.
- SWOT Exercise
- DEAC meeting results (shared)
- Suggested areas of focus:
 - Redo of 2020-21 Goals
 - Gap analysis for lost learning
 - Executive Functioning (included in a Wellness goal)
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - How to document & manage personnel for administrators (professional development)

3. Supervision and Evaluation

- The Board discussed:
 - Restructuring plans for 2022-23
 - Individual school plans
 - “Change reporting lines?”
 - Re-write and approve job description
 - What would this change entail and look like? (Personnel Committee)

4. Building on 2020-21 District Goals

- The Board discussed NJ Diversity mandates.

5. Navigating Controversial Issues

- The Board discussed ways to prepare and respond when drawn into political debates around curriculum.
- Navigating controversial issues
 - How do the administrators want to address holidays?
 - Celebrate/acknowledge all?
 - Community Circle Idea:
 - What holidays/cultural experiences do you enjoy (celebrating)?
- Create a Controversial Topics Ad Hoc Committee
- Teach teachers how to discuss controversial issues

6. The Board discussed the possibility of having Training: Governance vs Management led by an outside person at the next Board Retreat.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Mrs. Gray made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Ginsberg to convene into Executive Session at 2:45 p.m. Mrs. Johnston then read the following statement:

WHEREAS, the members of the Upper Saddle River Board of Education deem necessary to discuss personnel and legal matters, and

WHEREAS, the topics to be discussed are within the exemptions which are permitted to be discussed and acted upon in confidential session pursuant to PL 1975, Chapter 231,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting will be made public when the need for privacy no longer exists. Action may be taken.

Mrs. Gray made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gandara to adjourn Executive Session and return to Special Meeting – Board Retreat at 3:08 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Gray and seconded by Mrs. Gandara at 3:08 p.m.

Sincerely,

Dana Imbasciani
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

DRAFT