

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
UPPER SADDLE RIVER, NEW JERSEY  
SPECIAL MEETING - RETREAT  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019, 9:00 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

This Special Meeting/Board Retreat of the Upper Saddle River Board of Education was held at the Board of Education Administration Office, 395 West Saddle River Road, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458 beginning at 9:35 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, Mr. Amano Mrs. Gandara, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Pittman (left at 11:00 a.m.),  
Mr. Quagliani, Dr. Verducci

Members absent: None

Also present: Dr. Siegel, Mrs. Imbasciani

Mrs. Gandara made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Pittman to begin the Board Retreat at 9:00 a.m.

**OPENING STATEMENT**

**Mrs. Johnston**

Mrs. Johnston welcomed the Board to the meeting.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Ad Hoc Committees: Media Center and Transportation**

- **Media Center Committee – Mrs. Gandara and Dr. Verducci**  
Investigate options for renovating/improving the Cavallini and Bogert Media Centers
- **Transportation Committee – Mr. Amano and Mrs. Gray**  
Investigate costs and talk about long-term ways to improve driving/parking in the lots. (Not looking to change traffic flow – looking to make safer)

**Administrators' Passion Projects and Greenhouse Project**

- Mrs. Severs, Mr. Kaplan and Mrs. D'Ambola shared their passion projects with the Board members.
- Dr. Siegel explained that the Administrators did a service project this year which was the renovation of the greenhouse. The plan is to have the greenhouse working in order to have the students use the facility for hands-on learning.

**QSAC, Strategic Planning and Curriculum Updates**

- Dr. Siegel explained the QSAC process and expectations
- October 15, 2019 – Facility walkthrough
- January 23, 2020 – County Office will visit
- Mrs. D'Ambola gave a brief update on the Math and Language Arts Curriculum

**Thoughtexchange Results**

- Strategic Plan will be updated this year. We are going to do ours in-house, using this Thoughtexchange Program to help guide discussions.
- Dr. Siegel shared the results of the pilot program with Thoughtexchange.

**BOE Policy Update and Training (By-laws)**

- Dr. Siegel distributed specific policies that he wants the Board to review and recommend adjustments if necessary.

**SAC Coordinator – Roles & Responsibilities**

- Jason Grobowski (SAC Coordinator at Northern Highlands Regional High School) explained about the roles and responsibilities of a SAC Coordinator to the Board and discussed the benefits of having this position in the district.

**Crisis/Mental Health/Substance Abuse Intervention**

- Mrs. Johnston is in support of this because we have a lot of resources but need a coordinated plan.

**PERSONNEL:**

**Dr. Siegel**

**A motion was made by Mr. Quagliani and seconded by Dr. Verducci to approve Personnel Consent Agenda Item A and was approved by all in attendance, except Mrs. Pittman, who abstained.**

Dr. Siegel

- A. Revise the appointment of the QSAC Committee for the 2019/20 school year to complete the District Performance Review Indicators, as follows:

- Gianna Apicella, Dir. of Special Education
- Cayla Casey, Teacher
- Amy D’Ambola, Dir. of Curriculum & Instruction
- Dana Imbasciani, Bus. Admin./Bd.Secy.
- Michael Padilla, Supervisor of Special Projects
- Patricia Policastro, Member of the Collective Bargaining Unit
- Elizabeth Pittman, Board Member
- Devin Severs, Principal
- Brad Siegel, Superintendent

**FINANCE:**

Mrs. Imbasciani

**A motion was made by Dr. Verducci and seconded by Mr. Quagliani to approve Finance Consent Agenda Item A and was approved by all in attendance.**

- A. Approve Fulcrum Management Solutions, Inc. to provide one (1) Thoughtexchange Leader Room Service for the period October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020 at a cost of \$12,000.00.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Quagliani and seconded by Mrs. Gandara at 11:50 a.m.

Sincerely,

Dana Imbasciani  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary