

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HIGH POINT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
Board Retreat Special Meeting  
September 28, 2009**

A Board Retreat Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the High Point Regional High School District was held on Monday, September 28, 2009 at 6:03 P.M. at the High Point Regional High School Cafeteria on Pidgeon Hill Road, Wantage, New Jersey.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**      Mr. Edward Vander Berg, President  
                                 Mr. Thomas Case  
                                 Mr. Joseph Hoffmann  
                                 Mr. Garrett Link  
                                 Mr. Joseph Luna  
                                 Mr. Scott Mearkle  
                                 Mr. Charles Musilli, III  
                                 Mr. Walter Stumpf Jr.  
**MEMBERS ABSENT**      Mr. Harold Rowan, III

**Also Present:**      Dr. John W. Hannum, Superintendent; Mrs. Linda Alvarez, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and High School Principal Mr. Gregory Youngman. There were no members of the public or staff present.

Mr. Mearkle opened the meeting with the flag salute and the reading of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act Statement:

**Board Self-Evaluation.** Dr. Hannum and Mrs. Alvarez facilitated the review and discussion of plans for the board including completing the board self-evaluation forms based on the 2008-2009 school year. The results will be calculated and summarized for additional discussion at a future meeting.

**Committee Updates:** Each committee of the board discussed their individual goals and objectives including:

1. Building & Grounds (Mr. Musilli) successful referendum, January 2010 election, staff education and communication, community education
2. Finance (Mr. Hoffmann) \$22 million budget plus ARRA stimulus money – Hire Financial Officer for Special Education costs
3. Negotiations (Mr. Case) increase research and strategies. Seek advice of board attorney, health providers and insurance agents. Research techniques, alternatives, and processes.
4. Personnel & Policies (Mr. Stumpf) Staff outreach with board of education. Internal input needed for policies development and education. Continue Supervisor presentations of department status reports. Continue "one on one" with staff and board members
5. Regional Planning (Mr. Luna) continue and improve teacher articulation from elementary schools to high school. Standardize computer technology throughout regional sending districts.
6. Public Relations (Mr. Case) improve communication
7. Information Technology (Mr. Hoffmann) Improve business efficiencies with process mapping. Assess and maintain infrastructure of clocks, phones, and computer network
8. Transportation (Mr. Musilli) Improve route efficiency, expand fleet of buses, insure software achieves route improvements where possible

**Staff Spring Meeting with Board** – Mr. Musilli and Mr. Stumpf reviewed the comments shared by staff members from the spring meeting including:

1. Positive conversation, improved with acceptance from staff
2. Alternative education
3. Student discipline
4. Continue communication, rotate board member participation
5. More outlets for expression
6. Staff would appreciate feedback from suggestions/input/studies
7. Separation – chain of command – administrative authority

**District Goals & Objectives:** Dr. Hannum and Mrs. Alvarez facilitated discussion and development of district goals and objectives.

**District Goals:**

1. How to measure and assess on-going progress of board goals.
2. How to improve understanding of board policies
3. Mandated training – attend NJSBA programs
4. Other – Public Relations
  - a. Key communicators
  - b. Non-school community outreach

**Future Plans:** - Opportunities and challenges that are facing High Point over the next 5 years:

1. Regionalization – Junior High School, Child Study Team
2. Special Education Options
  - a. IEP process identification
  - b. High school influence on IEP development at elementary school level
  - c. Case Manager Looping from elementary school to high school
3. Shrinking Resources
  - a. State Aid funding
  - b. Alternative funding
    1. pay to play for sports and co-curricular activities
    2. health benefits contributions
    3. Alternative Education Program (virtual, on-line, accelerated learning)
    4. Foundation

**Final Goals:**

1. Communication
2. Initiatives
  - a. Senior year
  - b. Virtual/On-line learning
  - c. Alternative Education
  - d. Professional Development Academy
3. Building Project

**Code of Ethics:** Mrs. Alvarez facilitated discussion and review of the code of ethics. After discussion, each board member signed the acknowledgement of receipt of the code of ethics in compliance with the School Ethics Act, Chapter 178, Public Law 2001, 18a:12-24.1.

A school Board Member shall abide by the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members:

- a. *I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the Stat Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.*
- b. *I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.*
- c. *I will confine my board action to policy making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.*
- d. *I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.*
- e. *I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make not personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.*
- f. *I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for personal gain or for the gain of friends.*
- g. *I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its school.*
- h. *I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendations of the chief administrative officer.*
- i. *I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.*
- j. *I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints as public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.*

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975, also know as the Sunshine Law, authorizes a public body to meet in executive session under certain limited circumstances, and

WHEREAS, said law requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting before it can meet in such an executive and private session,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the High Point Regional High School District that it does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in executive session at this time to discuss personnel. The matters discussed will be made public if and when confidentiality is no longer required and action pursuant to said discussion shall take place only at a public meeting. The motion was presented by Mr. Chuck Musilli, and seconded by Mr. Ed Vander Berg to enter executive session at 8:20 p.m. The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

The Board meeting reconvened at 8:56 pm in the Cafeteria Annex with no change in attendance and a quorum confirmed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, duly seconded by Mr. Vander Berg, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:57 pm. The motion unanimously carried by a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Linda A. Alvarez  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary