

MINUTES

Open Session of the Metuchen Board of Education

Metuchen High School
400 Grove Avenue
Metuchen, NJ 08840

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

I. Flag Salute

II. Notice of Meeting

I hereby make this statement to indicate compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act known as Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of New Jersey, 1975, which became effective 90 days after enactment, January 19, 1976.

Notice of this meeting was given by providing the location, time and date of this meeting, and posting of the same on the front door of the Board of Education offices, by delivering copies to the Borough Hall and the Metuchen Public Library, The Home News and Tribune, The Sentinel, The Star Ledger, and by filing a copy with the Borough Clerk as prescribed by this law.

III. Roll Call

Mr. Benderly	P	Mr. Lifton	P
Ms. deVries	P	Ms. Matise	P
Mr. Flaherty	P	Ms. McGuire	P
Ms. Gibson	P	Mr. Small	P
Ms. Lanton	P		

IV. Showcase of Success

Two district students and a high school teacher have recently been honored. They will be presented to the Board and to the public:

- Edgar Middle School student Jordan Valiquette was the fifth grade winner of the sixth annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day Essay contest. The theme of the essay was "modern day leaders, who holding firm to their beliefs, displayed acts of courage in their lives in order to bring people together to make a difference in their community." Jordan chose Malala Yousafzai a Pakistani girl who courageously stood up for girls' rights in the face of Taliban threats.

- Edgar Middle School's Geographic Bee Champion Siri Uppuluri was honored. Siri won the Bee last year as well and her brother won it several years ago. Siri will now compete against other Middlesex county students to rise to the state level competition.
- The 2013 NJEA Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Award was presented to MHS Social Studies teacher Evan Robbins. Mr. Robbins was honored for his work in ending child slave trafficking in Ghana, Africa. Along with his students, Mr. Robbins has raised enough money to build a school and housing for teachers.

V. Presentations/Discussion

- Further discussion of date change of Board elections took place. A PowerPoint presentation prepared by the ad-hoc committee of Board of Education members (Jonathan Lifton, Dan Benderly, Jackie Gibson, and Ben Small). The presentation gave an overview of the law *S-3148*, information on adding second questions, and results of an NJSBA self-reported survey of districts who have changed from April to November.
- Discussion of a condensed agenda continued. The present system of an Agenda/Open Session plus a Business Meeting is confusing to some members of the Board and to the public. A condensed agenda would remove that confusion since all meetings would be referred to as "Board of Education meetings" and have information within explaining what can or cannot be discussed or voted on. It was decided that Mr. Caputo would fine-tune the current proposed version, have it looked at by our attorney and then submit it to the Policy Committee for review.
- Budget: Mr. Harvier discussed Baseline Data, Transportation, Maintenance and Custodial, and the Line Item Budget.
- Mr. Caputo presented a District Progress Goals Update as of January 13. District goals are organized around four areas:
 - College and Career Readiness
 - High Quality Instruction
 - Professional Development
 - Excellence for All

Each goal was reviewed and a timeline set for accomplishment. The next update will be presented on March 19, 2013.

VI. New Business

VII. Old Business

VIII. Meeting Open to the Public for Comments on the Showcase of Success and Presentations/Discussion Items Only