

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Special Meeting

March 3, 2020

A Special Meeting of the Commercial Township Board of Education was held in the Commercial Township Board of Education Office, located at 1308 North Avenue, Port Norris, NJ, on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE TO THE
FLAG

Board President, Ms. Perrelli, opened the meeting at 7:02 P.M., leading the group in the pledge to the flag.

Board President, Ms. Perrelli, read the following statement:

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Commercial Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in the Press of Atlantic City and South Jersey Times, and posted in the Commercial Township Schools and District Office.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ROLL CALL

Roll call was performed by the Business Administrator, Darren Harris, and is listed as follows:

Ms. Dragotta	Present
Mrs. Perrelli	Present
Ms. Plummer	Absent
Mrs. Porter	Present
Mrs. Richardson	Present
Mrs. Ronan	Present
Mrs. Stormes-Rivera	Present
Mr. Sutton	Present
Mrs. Wilson-Smith	Present

The following were also present:

Mr. Harris – Board Secretary/Business Administrator
Mr. Giambri – Business Official
Mrs. Kristin Schell - Superintendent
Ms. Alysia Thomson – District Vice Principal
Mr. John Lavell – Director of Special Services
Members of the public

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION

CONSOLIDATION
PRESENTATION

1. Consolidation Presentation

Mrs. Schell and Mr. Harris presented information regarding the consolidation of Port Norris School and Haleyville-Mauricetown School.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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- Chris Lanterman, Physical Education teacher, asked about sports programs. Mrs. Schell responded that there is no intention to remove any sports.
- Deborah Hollinger asked how the consolidation will impact lunch times. She asked where all of the students would be put. She also asked who is going to lose their job in the cafeteria. Mr. Harris and Mrs. Perrelli responded.
- Jessica Green brought attention to security concerns at Port Norris School.
- Anesha Henry asked for further elaboration on special education and what the least restrictive environment would look like. Mrs. Schell responded regarding what the least restrictive environment would look like and that would be individually defined. There are slated to be four self-contained classrooms.
- Janeen Bragman addressed her concern with split gym and the use of the bathroom. She inquired about any thoughts to hire security guards. She also inquired whether there would be

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Special Meeting

March 3, 2020

- enough space in the Science lab, the Cafeteria (specifically storage for food and kitchen), and Activities and Clubs. She asked about the library at Port Norris.
- Jennifer Blakely, Occupational Therapist, wondered where OP would be held. Mrs. Schell responded that services will be at Haleyville-Mauricetown School.
 - Pattie Teasenfitz asked how it would impact the health office. Mrs. Schell responded.
 - Kenneth Smith expressed concern regarding the building at Port Norris. He expressed the state of the town and his wishes to have the building torn down.
 - Jamie Snorr asked if support staff would be giving increased support. Mrs. Schell responded that in combining staff, there is more flexibility in using staff to support students.
 - Deborah Hollinger asked if the township has been notified. Mrs. Perrelli confirmed they have been.
 - Heather Whitaker asked questions regarding finances and logistics regarding staggered schedules. Mr. Harris and Mrs. Schell responded to the questions. Mrs. Whitaker also asked about the library. She asked about the committee and how to be part of it. Mrs. Schell mentioned that correspondence will be sent out and parents will be informed with further information.
 - Amanda Greensmith, a parent, questioned what would happen if the population were to grow. She also expressed concern regarding taking students away from a class.
 - Melissa, a parent, has one child left in the district. She asked about the four classrooms and expressed concerns regarding having less self-contained classrooms and more needs in general education classrooms. Mrs. Schell addressed her concerns.
 - Heather Whitaker asked about the labs at Port Norris School and questioned whether or not the same materials would be available at Haleyville-Mauricetown Schools. Mrs. Schell answered yes.
 - Jessica Hoffman asked if there are any budgetary funds set aside for teachers to implement curriculum. She asked whether or not supplemental textbook materials being looked into? Mrs. Schell responded.
 - Jamie Seymour asked the plan in turning the scores in the schools around. Mrs. Schell stated that she believes the team to do that is here. Ms. Seymour stated the school needs the tools to help the students and asked how that was going to be addressed. Mrs. Schell responded and gave more detail regarding the CAR framework, and put teachers in leadership roles regarding these concerns.
 - Jessica Hoffman expressed concerns regarding if the teachers themselves are being supported regarding improving tests scores. Mrs. Schell responded.
 - Marandale Matthews, a resident, asked whether or not this would improve the education of the students. Mrs. Schell said this was the primary reason for the school consolidation. Marendale Matthews asked if there would be another meeting for parents and community to be made aware of the changes. Mrs. Schell said an external steering committee will be tasked with planning the meeting. She mentioned that multiple platforms of notification are made and they are open to suggestions.
 - LaRae Smith clarified that the communication gap is here. The community is small and needs to be involved. She noted that as a community this will impact everyone. They need to do everything they can to reach the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Motioned by Mrs. Porter and seconded by Mrs. Ronan the Board of Education by Resolution, recess into the closed session, from which the public will be excluded to discuss a Contractual matter and a Student matter. The results of the session will be made public immediately after, or as soon as a decision is reached if permitted by law.

Public action is expected after executive session.

Unanimously approved.

8:21 P.M.

COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Special Meeting

March 3, 2020

Motioned by Ms. Porter and seconded by Ms. Ronan the Board of Education end the executive session.

Unanimously approved.

8:53 P.M.

RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING

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Motioned by Mrs. Perrelli and seconded by Mrs. Porter the Board of Education reconvene the public meeting.

Unanimously approved.

8:55 P.M.

LONG RANGE FACILITY PLAN

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Motioned by Mrs. Ronan and seconded by Ms. Dragotta the Board of Education approve submitting the major amendment to the long-range facility plan for NJ Department of Education approval, which includes demographic information from Statistical Forecasting, LLC, facility projects, and the change in Haleyville-Mauricetown School to educate students from grades PK-8.

Roll Call:

Ayes: (8) *Ms. Dragotta, Mrs. Perrelli, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Ronan, Mrs. Stormes-Rivera, Mr. Sutton, Mrs. Wilson-Smith*

Noes: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion Carried

Unanimously approved.

TAKE PORT NORRIS OFFLINE

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Motioned by Mrs. Porter and seconded by Mrs. Ronan, the Board of Education approve taking Port Norris offline for the 2020-2021 school year.

Roll Call:

Ayes: (8) *Ms. Dragotta, Mrs. Perrelli, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Ronan, Mrs. Stormes-Rivera, Mr. Sutton, Mrs. Wilson-Smith*

Noes: (0) Abstain: (0) Motion Carried

Unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

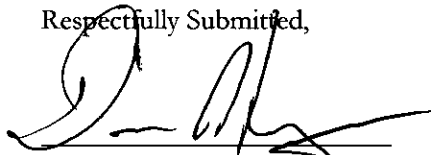
ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Ms. Dragotta and seconded by Mrs. Porter the Board of Education adjourn the meeting.

Unanimously approved

8:57 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Darren Harris, Board Secretary

March 3, 2020