

Frenchtown Board of Education
Regular Meeting Agenda
January 28, 2020 6:45 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Opening Statement

Adequate notice of this regularly scheduled meeting of the Frenchtown Board of Education has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting act by notification to the Hunterdon County Democrat on January 16, 2020. A copy of this notice has also been posted at the public school, at the municipal building and filed with the borough clerk.

2. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Mr. Adam Blackburn
Mrs. Kara Bobrowski
Mrs. Laura Einhorn

Ms. Laine Nauman
Mrs. Teresa Pearson
Mr. Hugo Rodriguez

Mrs. Kate Nugent

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (all school-related topics; time limits: 30 min. total; 3 min. /person)

At this time, comment is invited on any matter relating to the school district.

Anyone wishing to speak before the board may do so during the public commentary portion of the agenda. The presenter shall give his/her name and address and make the presentation as brief as possible. Unless an extension of time is given, each speaker shall be limited to 3 minutes.

Speakers may offer suggestions or express their concerns. However, in public session, the board will not discuss concerns about individual students or staff members. Other, more appropriate, channels are available for expressing concerns about individual students or staff members.

5. 2019/2020 BOARD and DISTRICT GOALS

Frenchtown District Goals (2019- 2020)

1. Incorporate Community Service Learning into the educational program, including an 8th grade capstone community service project.
2. Expand current Personalized Student Learning Plan for students in grades 6 thru 8 to further differentiate and individualize instruction.
3. Consider new scheduling models for middle school.
4. Assess the needs and goals for technology, and anticipate any upcoming expenses. Create a five year technology plan.

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Board Goals (2019- 2020)

1. Negotiate a new teachers' contract with the Frenchtown Education Association to replace the current contract which expires June 30, 2020.
2. By February 1st of 2020, create a three to five year feasibility plan for the district to explore options for dealing with cuts in state funding.
3. Create more opportunities to positively market our school, including participation in town events such as Riverfest and Bastille Day.
4. Assess the viability of Green Certification in our district.

6. PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

7. BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

Informational Items

- Board Meeting Schedule
 - ✓ February 25, 2020 – Action Meeting
 - ✓ March 10, 2020 – Work Session – Preliminary Budget Approval
 - ✓ March 24, 2020 – Action Meeting
- Correspondence

Actions Items

7.1 Motion to approve the following minutes:

- December 17, 2019 Regular Session

7.2 Motion to approve the following minutes:

- January 7, 2020 Reorganization Meeting
- January 7, 2020 Executive Session

8. CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

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9. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Informational Items:

- a. Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Monthly Incident Report for period ending January 28, 2020.

Month/Year	# of Incidents Reported	# Identified as HIB	Remediation	Discipline & Remediation	Appealed (Y/N)
Sept 1- Sept 24	0	-	-	-	-
Sept 25 – Oct 15	0	-	-	-	-
Oct 16– Nov 26	3	1	-	Yes	N
Nov 27 – Dec 17	1	0	-	Yes	N
Dec 18 – Jan 28	1	0	-	Yes	N
Jan 29 – Feb 25					
Feb 26 – Mar 24					
Mar 25 – April 28					
April 29 – May 5					
May 6 – June 23					
TOTAL	5	1			

- b. Short term suspension report: None

Student ID	Violation of Student Code of Conduct	Level of Infraction	Terms of Suspension and Dates	Clearance Required

- c. Security and Fire Drills

Drill	Date Completed
Security Drill	1/22/2020
Fire Drill	1/6/2020

Action Items:

- 9.1 Motion to affirm the HIB report submitted on December 17, 2019.
 9.2 School Board Recognition Month

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2020 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time that all residents might acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

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WHEREAS, The Frenchtown Board of Education is one of more than 581 local school boards in New Jersey that sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, The Frenchtown Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine community goals for the education of approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 4,800 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in indicators such as high school graduation rates, class size, college entrance exam participation, and Advanced Placement offerings and test scores. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Frenchtown Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2020 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Frenchtown Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staffs toward the improvement of our children's education.

2020-2021 School Calendar

9.3 Motion to approve the attached 2020-2021 School Calendar.

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10. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

11. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

12. POLICY

13. CONSENT AGENDA

Matters listed within the consent agenda have been referred to members of the Board of Education and/or its standing committees, for reading and study and will be enacted with one motion. The Personnel items on the consent agenda are recommended by the Superintendent. If separate discussion is desired, the item may be removed from the consent agenda by Board action.

Action Items:

Finance

Payment of Bills

13.1 Motion to approve the January 28, 2020 bills list as follows:

General Fund:	\$275,832.17
Special Revenue Fund:	\$ 5,636.78
Total	\$281,468.95

Board Secretary/Treasurer Report

13.2 Motion to approve and acknowledge receipt of the monthly certification of the Board Secretary and after review of the **December, 2019** Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports, certify no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23 – 2.11(a) 3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligation for the remainder of the fiscal year and that no budgetary line-item account has been exceeded pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1, and that no line-item account has encumbrances and expenditure, which in total exceed the line-item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A23-2.11(a).

Budget Transfers

13.3 Motion to approve line item transfer for the month of November 2019 in the amount of \$57,995.06.

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Centenary University

- 13.4 Motion to approve Frenchtown Elementary School as a partner school with Centenary University's Professional Development Schools Program.

State Funding Reform Act OPRA Request

- 13.5 **RESOLUTION OF THE FRENCHTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION TO JOIN IN THE FILING OF AN OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUEST WITH, AND POSSIBLE FUTURE RELATED LITIGATION AGAINST, THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY CONCERNING THE CALCULATION AND ALLOCATION OF STATE AID**

WHEREAS, the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 (SFRA), N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-1 *et seq.*, reflects the current New Jersey law that governs State Aid to public school districts; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey (State) has appropriated limited monies to fund such State Aid for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, the State arbitrarily determines how much State Aid to allocate to each school district, without regard to district need or ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, the Frenchtown School District is receiving substantially less State Aid than it otherwise should receive; and

WHEREAS, such disparate treatment is neither "equal" nor "equitable" and is without a rational basis; and

WHEREAS, the State should be transparent in how it calculates and allocates State Aid to each school district; and

WHEREAS, to protect the interests of its school children, each school district is entitled to obtain data and records from the State as to how the State calculates and allocates State Aid to each school district; and

WHEREAS, the Frenchtown Board of Education believes that it is in the best interests of its residents, taxpayers, and school children to file an Open Public Records Act request with, and if needed, related litigation against, the State of New Jersey, Department of Education and the Commissioner of Education (and such other parties as may be appropriate) for data and records as to how the State calculates and allocates State Aid to each school district.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Frenchtown Board of Education hereby joins in the filing of the attached Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request at no cost to the Board; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event the OPRA request is denied, the Board may join in the litigation against the State of New Jersey, Department of Education and the Commissioner of Education to obtain data and records from the State of New Jersey and its various Departments as to how the State calculates and allocates State Aid to each school district (OPRA Litigation); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Weiner Law Group, LLP is hereby appointed to represent the Frenchtown Board of Education and all of the participating school districts in connection with the filing of the OPRA request and future OPRA Litigation against the State, if needed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event that the Frenchtown Board of Education joins in the OPRA Litigation, the Board is hereby directed and authorized to provide whatever assistance is reasonably required in order to pursue such OPRA Litigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event that the Frenchtown Board of Education joins in the OPRA Litigation, the Board shall contribute \$1,000.00 to support the filing of the OPRA Litigation pursuant to a retention letter to be executed by the parties.

Facilities

Facility Use

13.6 Motion to approve the following facility use:

Organization	Intended Use	Date/Time	Location
Girl Scouts Heart of NJ	Meetings	1-13, 1-27, 2-10, 2-18, 3-9, 3-23, 4-27, 5-11, 5-26 & 6-8-2020	Cafeteria

Long Range Facility Plan Update

13.7 Motion to accept a proposal from Gianforcaro Architects for professional services to update the Long Range Facility Plan in accordance with NJDOE requirements.

Transportation

Personnel

Curriculum

Field Trips

13.8 Motion to approve the following field trips for the 2019-2020 school year:

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Destination	Grade	Date
Six Flags/Great Adventure	Student Council	5-27-2020

Planning

14. NEW BUSINESS

15. 2020/2021 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

16. PUBLIC COMMENT (all school-related topics; time limits: 30 min. total; 3 min. /person)

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The Board President may terminate the remarks of any individual, when they do not adhere to the rules established above.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Section 6 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 (R.S. 10:4-13), permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting or portion of a meeting of this public body in certain circumstances and

WHEREAS, the Board must consider (see check below), which is/are exempt from public discussion pursuant to the Act;

- 1. Matter which by express provision of law is rendered confidential
- 2. Release of information which would impair receipt of federal funds
- 3. Individual Privacy/ Student Matters

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- 4. Collective Bargaining/Negotiations
- 5. Real estate matters
- 6. Disclosure could impair public safety
- 7. Pending/Anticipated Litigation
- 8. Terms and conditions of employment
- 9. Deliberations involving imposition of specific civil penalty.
- 10. Budget Discussions

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session at _____p.m. to discuss the above-mentioned matters to the exclusion of all others. Matters discussed may or may not be made public this evening. Resulting action may or may not be taken following re-entry into regular session.

18. ADJOURNMENT