

# **Frenchtown Board of Education Meeting Minutes**

January 28, 2020 6:45 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER – Opening Statement**

The regular meeting of the Frenchtown Board of Education was called to order at 6:51 p.m. by President Kate Nugent.

Mrs. Nugent read the following:

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**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present:           Mrs. Kara Bobrowski  
                                      Mrs. Laura Einhorn  
                                      Ms. Laine Nauman  
                                      Mrs. Teresa Pearson  
                                      Mr. Hugo Rodriguez (Exited at 8:25 p.m.)  
                                      Mrs. Kate Nugent

Members Absent:           Mr. Adam Blackburn

Others Present:            Daria Wasserbach, Superintendent  
                                      Teresa Barna, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
                                      James Hintenach, Principal

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

5. **2019/2020 BOARD and DISTRICT GOALS**

### **Frenchtown District Goals (2019- 2020)**

1. Incorporate Community Service Learning into the educational program, including an 8<sup>th</sup> 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

### Meeting Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved the following minutes:

- December 17, 2019 Regular Session

Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Mrs. Einhorn. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved the following minutes:

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

Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Mrs. Einhorn. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

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**8. CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE - None**

**9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Regional Board Summit

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

- c. Security and Fire Drills

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

**Action Items:**

HIB Report

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education affirmed the HIB report submitted on December 17, 2019.

Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Ms. Nauman. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

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## School Board Recognition

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved the following resolution:

**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

**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Mrs. Einhorn. On a voice vote, resolution was

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adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

2020-2021 School Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved the attached 2020-2021 School Calendar.

Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Mrs. Einhorn. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

10. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - None

11. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT – None

12. POLICY - None

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

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved the January 28, 2020 bills list as follows:

General Fund:	\$275,832.17
Special Revenue Fund:	\$ 5,636.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$281,468.95</b>

Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Mrs. Einhorn. On a roll call vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

Board Secretary/Treasurer Report

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved and acknowledged 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

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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).

Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Mrs. Einhorn. On a roll call vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

## Budget Transfers

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved line item transfer for the month of November 2019 in the amount of \$57,995.06.

Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Mrs. Einhorn. On a roll call vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

## Centenary University

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved Frenchtown Elementary School as a partner school with Centenary University's Professional Development Schools Program.

Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Mrs. Einhorn. On a roll call vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

## State Funding Reform Act OPRA Request

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved the following resolution:

**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 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

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**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.

Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Mrs. Einhorn. On a roll call vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

**Facilities**

Facility Use

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved the following facility use:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Intended Use</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
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

Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Mrs. Einhorn. On a roll call vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

Long Range Facility Plan Update

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved to accept a proposal from Gianforcaro Architects for professional services to update the Long Range Facility Plan in accordance with NJDOE requirements.

Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Mrs. Einhorn. On a roll call vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

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**Transportation**

**Personnel**

**Curriculum**

Field Trips

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved the following field trips for the 2019-2020 school year:

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

Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Mrs. Einhorn. On a roll call vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

**Planning**

**14. NEW BUSINESS**

- Delaware Valley Regional High School 60<sup>th</sup> Diamond Jubilee – May 16, 2020

**15. 2020/2021 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

- ✓ The Budget gap for the 2020-2021 school year is over \$127,000. The Board discussed the option of presenting a second question to the voters in November and what the potential tax impact would be. No decisions were made at this time.

**16. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved 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
- X   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 8:04 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.

Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Mrs. Einhorn. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

Mr. Rodriguez exited at 8:25 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved to reconvene into regular session at 9:39 p.m.

Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Ms. Nauman. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 5 ayes; nays, 0.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Ms. Nauman. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 5 ayes; nays, 0.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Teresa Barna  
Board Secretary

Attest:

  
Kate Nugent  
Board President