

Frenchtown Board of Education Meeting Minutes

April 7, 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 7:45 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 April 2, 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
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 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

Frenchtown Board of Education Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2020 6:45 p.m.

expenses. Create a five year technology plan.

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 - None

7. BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

Informational Items

- Board Meeting Schedule
 - ✓ April 28, 2020 – Action Meeting
 - ✓ May 12, 2020 – Action Meeting
 - ✓ June 9, 2020 – Board Retreat/Goal Setting
- Correspondence

Actions Items

Meeting Minutes

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

- February 25, 2020 – Regular Session
- February 25, 2020 – Executive Session

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

Frenchtown Board of Education Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2020 6:45 p.m.

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

- March 10, 2020 – Work Session
- March 10, 2020 – Executive Session

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

Opposing Delay in Transmission of Quarterly Property Tax Revenue to School Districts

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

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 3902, currently pending in the State Legislature, would authorize the Department of Community Affairs to permit municipalities to delay the quarterly transmission of property tax revenues to school districts during gubernatorial-declared emergencies; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's public schools are highly dependent on property tax revenue to support education programs; and

WHEREAS, on average, local property taxes constitute close to 60% of public school revenue, with the percentage even greater in a significant number of districts; and

WHEREAS, a delay in payments from municipalities would result in a financial crisis for school districts, seriously disrupting the educational process—and bringing it to a halt; and

WHEREAS, although public school buildings are closed during the current health emergency, the education of our students is taking place through remote learning and home instruction; and

WHEREAS, continued timely transmission of school property taxes is critical for the education process to continue without interruption; and

WHEREAS, even though municipalities are designated as the authorities to collect property taxes, these taxes are levied for specific purposes—e.g., municipal, school, county, fire district—and these obligations must continue to be met; and

WHEREAS, as currently written, A-3902, which is intended to ease a financial burden on municipalities, would place a severe strain on school districts and the students and families that they serve; and

WHEREAS, the Frenchtown Board of Education recognizes the impact of the current public health emergency on the state and local governments, as well as local school districts, but believes this legislation would worsen the situation for our communities.

Frenchtown Board of Education Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2020 6:45 p.m.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Frenchtown Board of Education urges the State Senate and the Governor to oppose A-3902; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Phil Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; and the 23rd Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

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

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- ❖ Thanked the Frenchtown Staff and Principal, James Hintenach
- ❖ Governor Murphy extended State of Emergency for another 30 days.
- ❖ Standardized Tests waived for 2020
- ❖ Graduation requirements have been waived
- ❖ Teacher Evaluation Process

Informational Items:

- a. Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Monthly Incident Report for period ending April 7, 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	3	1	Yes	Yes	-
Feb 26 – April 7	2	1	Yes	Yes	-
April 8 – April 28					
April 29 – May 11					
May 12 – June 23					
TOTAL	10	3			

- b. Short term suspension report - None

Frenchtown Board of Education

Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2020 6:45 p.m.

c. Security and Fire Drills

Drill	Date Completed
Security Drill	3-13-2020 Cancelled due to potential closure – Prep with Students
Fire Drill	3-23-2020 Planned – Now building closed

Action Items:

HIB Report

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education affirmed the HIB report submitted on February 25, 2020.

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

9. **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

- ❖ Thanked everyone involved in the virtual instruction process.

10. **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- ❖ Middle School Send/Receive Discussion
- ❖ Thanked Administration and Staff for quickly putting this plan into action.

11. **POLICY** - None

12. **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 February 26, 2020 through March 31, 2020 bills list as follows:

Frenchtown Board of Education Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2020 6:45 p.m.

General Fund:	\$369,835.41
Special Revenue Fund:	\$ 3,886.55
Total	\$373,721.96

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 the list of the February 2020 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$20,368.00.

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 Reports

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 **February 2020** 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(c) 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).

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

2020/2021 Tuition Rates

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved the following tuition rates for the 2020/2021 school year:

K-8 (Employees and Out of State Residents)	\$ 6,500
K (All Others)	\$17,000
Grades 1-8 (All Others)	\$18,000
Preschool Disabilities	\$45,000

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

Frenchtown Board of Education Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2020 6:45 p.m.

Bond Disclosure Agent Services

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved to enter into an agreement with Phoenix Advisors, LLC as Bond Continuing Disclosure Agent and Municipal Advisor of Record for the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with the attached contract for a base fee of \$1,000.00 for up to three outstanding issues, plus \$200 initial set up fee for each new bond issue set up during the year.

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

Accept Donation

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved to accept a gymnasium scoring table from Sports Image at no cost to the district. Sports Image will be responsible for securing the sponsorships needed for the table with school district approval of the sponsor.

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

Food Service Consolidation Agreement

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

WHEREAS, the Delaware Valley Regional High School Board of Education, the Frenchtown Board of Education and the Milford Board of Education, hereinafter referred to as "School Food Authorities", participate in the Child Nutrition Programs sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture, and

WHEREAS, the School Food Authorities have determined that it is beneficial both operationally and financially for all districts to continue to consolidate the food service operations for the 2020/2021 school year, and

WHEREAS, the School Food Authorities have also determined that Milford Board of Education and Frenchtown Board of Education will transfer and relinquish its authority, duties and obligations associated with the programs to Delaware Valley Regional High School, and

WHEREAS, the Delaware Valley Regional High School Board of Education agrees to be the Sponsor School Food Authority and accepts authority, duty and obligation for Frenchtown Board of Education and Milford Board of Education as it relates to the School Nutrition Programs,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Frenchtown Board of Education renews and approves the Agreement for School Food Authorities Consolidation of School Nutrition Programs effective July 1, 2020.

Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Mrs. Einhorn. On a roll call vote, resolution

Frenchtown Board of Education
Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2020 6:45 p.m.

was adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

Facilities

Transportation

Personnel

Payment of Contractual Salaries

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved to authorize the Business Administrator to continue to pay contractual base salaries to 10 month and 12 month employees during the health related emergency closure.

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

Curriculum

Field Trips

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

Destination	Grade	Date
Frenchtown Food Pantry	Pre-K, K, 1 st & 2 nd	April-TBD
Honey Hollow Environmental Center	3 rd , 4 th & 5 th	Rescheduled to 6-12-2020
Fairview Lakes	7 th Grade - Science	Update for Next Month

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

Planning

13. NEW BUSINESS

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

- ❖ Kate Yard – What will the K-8 program look like for next year? – More info will be provided at the public hearing.

Frenchtown Board of Education

Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2020 6:45 p.m.

15. 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
- 3. Individual Privacy/ Student Matters
- 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.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session at 8:16 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. Einhorn and seconded by Ms. Nauman. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

Mrs. Laura Einhorn exits the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved to reconvene into regular session at 8:58 p.m.

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

16. ADJOURNMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m. Moved by Mrs. Pearson and seconded by Mrs. Nauman. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 5 ayes; nays, 0.

**Frenchtown Board of Education
Meeting Minutes**

April 7, 2020 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Teresa Barna
Board Secretary

Attest:



Kate Nugent
Board President