

Frenchtown Board of Education Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2021 6:45 p.m.

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

The regular meeting of the Frenchtown Board of Education was called to order at 6:52 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 14, 2021. A copy of this notice has also been posted at the public school, at the municipal building and filed with the borough clerk.

The public may view and participate in public comment by visiting the following website:
www.dvrhs.org/fesboemeeting

2. **THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

3. **OATH OF OFFICE**

Administration of the Oath of Office to Newly Elected Board Member – Aaron Lambert

4. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mr. Adam Blackburn
Mrs. Kara Bobrowski
Ms. Carolyn Gadbois
Mr. Aaron Lambert
Ms. Laine Nauman
Mr. Hugo Rodriguez
Mrs. Kate Nugent

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Daria Wasserbach, Superintendent
Teresa O'Brien, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
James Hintenach, Principal
7 Members of the Public

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

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6. 2020/2021 BOARD and DISTRICT GOALS

Frenchtown District Goals (2020-2021)

1. Create a reopening plan and provide continued management of the Covid 19 crisis as it relates to the district.
2. Construct a plan to transition middle school into a send/receive model.

Board Goals (2020-2021)

1. Continue to pursue a middle school send/receive relationship with neighboring districts and select a partner district.
2. Provide support for needed equipment, communication, and community engagement during the extended Covid 19 crisis.

7. PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS - None

8. BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

Informational Items

- Board Meeting Schedule
 - ✓ March 16, 2021 - Work Session Meeting – Preliminary Budget Approval
 - ✓ March 23, 2021 – Action Meeting
 - ✓ April 27, 2021 – Action Meeting

Discussion Items

- 2021/2022 Budget Development
 - Health Benefit Cost Review

Actions Items

Meeting Minutes

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

- January 26, 2021 - Regular Session
- January 26, 2021 – Executive Session

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Moved by Mr. Blackburn and seconded by Mrs. Bobrowski. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 7 ayes; nays, 0.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Thanked the staff for all their efforts and flexibility
- Next steps in Re-Opening Plan
- 2021-2022 School Calendar

Informational Items:

- a. Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Monthly Incident Report for period ending February 23, 2021.

Month/Year	# of Incidents Reported	# Identified as HIB	Remediation	Discipline & Remediation	Appealed (Y/N)
Sept 1- Sept 22	0	-	-	-	-
Sept 23 – Oct 13	0	-	-	-	-
Oct 14– Nov 24	1	Y	Y	Y	N
Nov 25 – Dec 15	0	-	-	-	-
Dec 16 – Jan 26	0	-	-	-	-
Jan 27 – Feb 23	2	1	Y	Y	N
Feb 24 – Mar 23					
Mar 24 – April 27					
April 28 – May 11					
May 12 – June 29					
TOTAL	3	1			

- b. Short term suspension report: None

Student ID	HIB Related	Level of Infraction	Terms of Suspension and Dates	Clearance Required
334	Y	3	TBD	No

- c. Security and Fire Drills

Drill	Date Completed
Security Drill	2-23-2021
Fire Drill	2-10-2021

Action Items:

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HIB Report

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education affirmed the HIB report submitted on January 26, 2021.

Moved by Mr. Blackburn and seconded by Mrs. Bobrowski. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 7 ayes; nays, 0.

2021-2022 School Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved the attached 2021-2022 School Calendar.

Moved by Ms. Gadbois and seconded by Mr. Blackburn. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 7 ayes; nays, 0.

Revision to School Re-Opening Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved a revision to the School Re-Opening Plan to reflect and approved the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the Board of Education accepts the administrative recommendation for the following revisions to the School Reopening Plan, effective March 4, 2021, contingent upon the Central West Region sustaining a moderate (yellow) COVID-19 risk level for a minimum of two (2) consecutive weeks.

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday schedules will remain unchanged.
- The district will introduce a new "Together Thursday" schedule, a synchronous remote hybrid, four (4) hour school day.

Moved by Mr. Blackburn and seconded by Mrs. Bobrowski. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 7 ayes; nays, 0.

10. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

-We certainly have had some challenges of late including some remote days and change in schedules due to inclement weather. I want to say a BIG THANK YOU to all our FES parents for their support while working with our students and teachers. Much appreciated!

Honor Roll Celebration

Middle school honor roll students received their honor roll certificates and goodie bags Wednesday in our school gym (socially distanced, of course). We congratulate all recipients for their hard work and dedication. Also, thank you, Mrs. Bobrowski, along with the PTO for organizing safe goodie bags for our students.

6th grade: Max Feree-Nauman, Jon Scrima
High Honor Roll: Nya Altmeier

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7th grade: Allysa Catalla & Azra Cotte
High Honor Roll: Owen Keane, Vinny Casagrande

8th grade: Ava Andreychik, Christian, Brin Cinquemanni, Lindsey Ditmar, Circe Fiorito, Cayden Putlitz, Simon Rainey, Saige Shoudt
High Honor Roll: Ohm Patel, Audrey Gordon, Sophie Bobrowski

Some additional FES updates:

- Professional Development 2/12
- VALENTINE'S DAY SURPRISE from the PTO/ Kudos to the 5th grade students!
- Security/ fire drills continue in collaboration with local police and DOE Guidance.
- Little Paws Preschool Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is now open! Please contact Mrs. Petro in the main office at 996-2751, extension 7209.
- Register for Kindergarten: If you have a child who will be 5 years old on or before October 1, 2021, please contact Mrs. Petro in the main office at 996-2751, ext. 7209, for registration information. Kindergarten screening will take place in the spring.
- Together Thursdays: FES will run an early dismissal schedule on Thursdays in March and April. All students will have their instruction during the hours of 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- We continue to communicate with the project manager supervising the construction project(across the street) to best minimize noise for our students during the hours of 8:10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

11. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Negotiation Committee Established:
 1. Kara Bobrowski
 2. Laine Nauman
 3. Hugo Rodriguez

12. POLICY

First Reading

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved the first reading of the following policies:

4111.1/4211.1- R	Nondiscrimination Affirmative Action Breastfeeding Regulation
4111.1/4211.1	Nondiscrimination Affirmative Action
4111.2/4211.2	Domestic Violence
5113	Attendance Absences and Excuses
5134	Married Pregnant and Lactating Pupils
5134 – R	Married Pregnant and Lactating Pupils-Regulation
5141	Health
6140	Curriculum Adoption

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6161.1	Evaluation and Selection of Instructional Materials
6171.2	Gifted and Talented

Moved by Ms. Nauman and seconded by Mr. Blackburn. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 7 ayes; nays, 0.

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 February 23, 2021 bill list as follows:

General Fund:	\$292,451.76
Special Revenue Fund:	\$ 6,561.93
Total	\$299,013.69

Moved by Mr. Blackburn and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez. On a roll call vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 7 ayes; nays, 0.

Budget Transfers

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved the list of January 2021 budget transfers in the amount of \$1,404.00.

Moved by Mr. Blackburn and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez. On a roll call vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 7 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 **January, 2021** 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).

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Moved by Mr. Blackburn and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez. On a roll call vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 7 ayes; nays, 0.

SEMI Waiver

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved the following resolution requesting a waiver of requirements for the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program:

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2021-2022; and

WHEREAS the Frenchtown Elementary School Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students 2021-2022 budget year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Frenchtown Elementary School Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Hunterdon an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A23A-5.3 for the 2021-2022 school year.

Moved by Mr. Blackburn and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez. On a roll call vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 7 ayes; nays, 0.

Facilities

Transportation

Personnel

2020-2021 Substitute List

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved the following lists of substitutes for the 2020-2021 substitute list at a rate of \$95.00 per day (Teacher), \$175.00 per day (School Nurse), \$80.00 per day (Secretary) and \$14.00 per hour (Custodian).

*James Battell - Teacher

*Pending Criminal History/Background Check

Moved by Mr. Blackburn and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez. On a roll call vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 7 ayes; nays, 0.

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Curriculum

14. NEW BUSINESS

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Dierdre Blackburn – Will State Testing take place this year?
Governor Murphy will be applying for a waiver but waivers may not be considered at this time, we are uncertain.

16. 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. Contract/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 8:24 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 Ms. Nauman and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 7 ayes; nays, 0.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education approved to reconvene into regular session at 9:00 p.m.

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Moved by Ms. Gadbois and seconded by Mr. Blackburn. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 6 ayes; nays, 0.

Mrs. Kate Nugent read a public statement regarding a partnership with Kingwood Township School District.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, the Frenchtown Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m. Moved by Ms. Gadbois and seconded by Mr. Blackburn. On a voice vote, resolution was adopted as follows: 7 ayes; nays, 0.

Respectfully submitted:



Teresa O'Brien
Board Secretary

Attest:



Kate Nugent
Board President