

FLORHAM PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Public Work Session November 19, 2018
Board Conference Room
67-71 Ridgedale Avenue

MINUTES

(Formal action may be taken)

Public Work Session - 5:30pm

Mission Statement: The Florham Park Schools are committed to the achievement of individual academic excellence through high quality teaching, learning and community involvement. This results in students being well prepared to meet future educational challenges and to contribute to society. They will achieve these goals in accordance and alignment with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which guide our academic instruction.

Assistance for persons with disabilities for the purpose of attending this or any other district meeting/function can be obtained by contacting the Board Secretary's office at 973-822-3880 (x1005).

2018-2019 Board Goals

- To fortify and strengthen the unification of the Board team with a focus on governance.
- Monitor the effectiveness of all of our instructional programs, including but not limited to Special Education, based on student achievement data.
- Ensure that all funds are used in an effective and efficient manner to achieve the Board and District goals and meet the long-range facilities and curricular needs.
- Support effective and transparent communication with the community to develop an engaged, connected community, and a growing environment of local organizations and businesses.

2018-2019 District Goals

- Increase achievement of all students in the district including those who are not meeting grade-level benchmarks. (Supports Strategic Plan Goal 1)
- Continue to provide for the emotional well being and support for our students. (Supports Strategic Plan Goal 1)
- To assist in developing an engaged and connected environment within the community. (Supports Strategic Plan Goal 4)
- To create a learning environment that maximizes student access to 21st Century Tools. (Supports Strategic Plan Goal 3)

A. CALL TO ORDER:

B. ROLL CALL:

BOARD MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Ms. Crimi (Fabienne)	X	
Ms. Cali (Yvonne)	X	
Ms. Rozek(Linda)	X	
Mr. Shanley (Skip)	X	
Ms. Heinold (Kristina)	X	
Ms. Thomas (Alita)	X	
Mr. Ritriivi (Nicholas)		X

C. FLAG SALUTE:

D. SUNSHINE STATEMENT:

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), adequate notification of this meeting has been provided by advertising in the Morristown Daily Record and the Madison-Florham Park Eagle. In addition, notices were posted at the Municipal Clerk's Office, Public Library, and the Board Administration Office at 67-71 Ridgedale Ave at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Ms. Rozek motioned to convene an executive session for the purpose of discussion personnel and legal matters. The motion received a second from Ms. Cali.

Motion; LR Second; YC

6 yes, 0 no

E. WORK SESSION UPDATES

- LLI Update - Ms. O'Connor presented;
 - The third tier of LLI instruction has commenced with the addition of general education students who qualified for services based on their September running record. Students who were grandfathered in from their performance in the 2017-18 school year, and students with IEPs, have completed their first and second cycle of LLI and we are monitoring their data and progress.
- STEAM Update - Mr. Silkensen presented;
 - We are preparing for the 2nd Trimester with our STEAM classes
 - Briarwood will start coding with code.org
 - Tracy Lawton went on a Saturday for a full day training on how to use code.org two weeks ago
 - Two 5th Grade classes will begin using Vex Robots and the other 3 classes will use Vex Robots the 3rd Trimester
 - Emma Harvey will have training from the New Jersey Technology Engineering Educators Association (NJTEEA) on December 5th on how to prepare the Vex Robots and how to implement the technology

- We have received positive feedback on our new STEAM program from teachers, administration, parents, and students
- Reading & Writing Workshop Update - Ms. O'Connor presented;
 - Students are completing their second unit of reading and writing.
 - During our TC staff development sessions, we are focusing on small group instruction in the specific genre that students are immersed in at this time. For most of the district, this includes non-fiction which is an area of foci for the district based on our 2017 PARCC results.
 - Grammar is taught in our district through direct minilessons and small group instruction. Our curriculum includes an additional week for students to take their pre- and post on-demand assessment, and have the opportunity to receive 2-3 additional grammar lessons, where they will go back to their notebooks and drafts to apply their new skills.
 - A video from Dr. Mary Ehrenworth of Columbia University revealed that students will approximate with grammar acquisition until 10th grade. The addition of technology as almost a second language has resulted in slippage, where students might forget how to spell because, as a result of the way we communicate on social media and text messages. This technological advancement means that students will do things like spell constitution correctly but not their, there, and they're. Finally, we do not address grammar or spelling in the writing notebook because it is where we generate ideas and doing so it limits creativity and volume. It is addressed during the revision part of the writing cycle. The single most effective way to support grammar instruction at home is to read aloud to children and have them exposed to as much reading at home as it supports literary language which will translate into their spelling.
- Math Update - Mr. Silkensen presented;
 - Denis Sheeran, our math consultant, observed each teacher from grades 4 -8 and provided individual feedback to each teacher and developed individual goals. He will be back to follow up with the teachers mid December.
- QSAC Update - Dr. Varley and Mr. Silkensen stated;
 - Next year QSAC will be reviewing our district and evaluating our programs. Brian Silkensen has gone to monthly Morris County Curriculum Meetings, which has a QSAC representative at each meeting. They have provided guidance and suggestions on how to best serve our teachers, students and families.
- Parent Teacher Conferences - Ms. O'Connor stated;
 - Teachers received training and a review on norming grading for ELA and math progress on a standards-based report card. During this faculty meeting expectations for data based conferences, including providing parents with the on-demands for writing were reviewed and resources for grading and delivering effective conferences were provided.

