

MOUNTAIN LAKES BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING/BOARD RETREAT
Monday, November 27, 2006

A Special Meeting/Board Retreat of the Mountain Lakes Borough Board of Education was held on Monday, November 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mountain Lakes High School.

Daniel A. Borgo
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Boertzel
 Mrs. Brennan
 Mrs. Dawson
 Mr. Gniewek
 Mrs. McCusker
 Mr. Munday
 Mr. Stokes
 Mrs. Wall
 Ms. Wolfe
 Mrs. Lio, Boonton Township Representative

Also present: Dr. Kazmark, Superintendent, and members of the public.

STATEMENT OF NOTICE

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Mountain Lakes Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Mountain Lakes Municipal Building and sent to the following newspapers: the Citizen of Morris County and the Morris County Daily Record.

PRESENTATIONS

Board Discussion

The Board members discussed the following four topics that had been previously selected.

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School Security

Dr. Kazmark discussed the existing camera entry system at Lake Drive School and the alarm and motion detectors currently in use at the high school when the building is empty. Some of the proposals being considered are for camera surveillance and anti-terrorist locks. The Mountain Lakes Police Department has a \$39,000 matching grant for security measures so the district has approximately \$80,000 to work with in the current year. His recommendations include the following:

- Have a person posted at the door of each school and that person would be in a position to communicate with the office if there was an emergency situation.
- Use the \$80,000 for the purchase and installation of surveillance cameras to be placed in the schools at locations to be recommended by the Police Department.

Discussion took place and the following comments were made and questions raised:

- How will people seeking entry into the school buildings be screened?
- How will people be prevented from entering the school through other doors?
- People will have to be trained in screening visitors and not allowing entry through other doors.
- Anti-terrorism locks would require a very high investment for something that is not a common threat. As they become more popular they will be less expensive. Mark Prusina will obtain and provide additional information on costs.
- Motion detectors and camera surveillance will alert police when someone is in a school building when they are not supposed to be there.
- The cameras currently being used at Briarcliff and Lake Drive are a deterrent.
- The number of entry points to a building should be minimized.
- The focus should be on the security priorities and how to have them best taken care of rather than the amount of money we have to spend.
- The highest priority should be the safety of the students and staff.
- There needs to be a change in the trust level when allowing entry to the school buildings.

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Dr. Kazmark recommended that the Board accept the grant money from the Police Department and that camera surveillance equipment be installed at the schools. Dr. Kazmark advised that the high school's second lock down drill is scheduled for tomorrow, November 28, and he will report to the Board on the drill.

Random Drug Testing of Students

Dr. Kazmark stated that he believes drug testing should only be considered at the high school level. He recommended that this issue continue to be discussed with a target date of Fall 2007 or early 2008 and that the discussions include involvement of students, parents and community members. Presently there are only a few schools in the state that are conducting random drug testing.

Shari Russo, Student Assistance Counselor, reported on the review of this issue currently being undertaken. She suggested that a survey be sent to parents to obtain their input on this issue. Ms. Russo advised that representatives from Hackettstown High School will be visiting Mountain Lakes High School this month to provide information on their drug testing program and she will be visiting other schools to discuss their programs. Ms. Russo stated that random drug testing is considered important as a deterrent and research shows no increase in use of other drugs when students are tested for certain drugs. She stated that she is in favor of random drug testing.

Dr. Kazmark stated that he thinks it is reasonable for the Board to discuss this issue, gather data and do research. He suggested that additional information be obtained so that the Board can make a decision.

Discussion took place and the following comments were made and questions raised:

- How could disaffected students who are not involved in athletics or driving be included.
- The Board would need a significant written report with significant details to review.
- The representative from Hackettstown will be visiting Mountain Lakes on December 12 and Ms. Russo and Mr. Ludwig will be visiting other schools in January and February. Mr. Ludwig is proposing to make a suggestion to the Board in April.

Dr. Kazmark will provide further information on this issue to the Board. Discussion took place regarding how to encourage responses from parents to requests for permission for the drug survey and the best methods for obtaining feedback from the public.

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Non-Resident Tuition Students

Dr. Kazmark advised that there are two grade levels in the elementary school, 1st grade and 3rd grade, in which enrollment is much lower than other grades. Current enrollment at Wildwood is as follows: 1st grade – 60 students; 2nd grade – 89 students; 3rd grade – 72 students; 4th grade – 92 students; 5th grade – 95 students. When this group gets to high school the lower enrollment will have an affect on course offerings. He recommends that tuition students be sought for the current 1st and 3rd grades. One of the issues that needs to be discussed is what to do in a case where families with 1st and 3rd graders also have children in other grades.

Discussion took place regarding trends in student population in Mountain Lakes and Boonton Township. Dr. Kazmark noted that the desired enrollment at the high school would be between 600 and 650 students.

Discussion took place and the following comments were made and questions raised:

- Determination as to the capacity to absorb students in other grade levels has to be made on a case by case basis.
- The policy should include language about parents paying the tuition rate or actual cost whichever is higher, which can be the case with special education students.
- The tuition should be the same as the rate charged to Boonton Township students.
- The community should be kept informed on this issue.

Dr. Kazmark will make a proposal to the Board for a recruitment policy by the end of January.

Naming Rights

Dr. Kazmark stated that this issue involves acceptance of gifts and money and the giving of recognition in a permanent manner. The Board has accepted substantial donations in the past from the Educational Foundation, Home & School, and Lakers Sports Club. Laker Sports made a statement that an individual giving \$300,000 or more would have naming rights for the football field and stadium and the Board has said they do not agree. The Board Attorney has suggested that an opportunity be given for people to nominate a name for recognition and the Board would have a choice to accept or not.

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Discussion took place and the following comments were made and questions raised:

- The Board should retain discretion over the use of any name.
- Should gifts from commercial entities be considered?
- School districts are under increased financial pressure and donations and commercial gifts could be included as part of the economic plan.
- Potential fund raising groups need to have general parameters to be guided in negotiating and there needs to be some communication indicating that the Board is open to this type of thing.
- A procedure should be established for proposals to be made.

A straw vote was taken and the majority of the Board was in favor of considering further opportunities. Dr. Kazmark recommended that grant opportunities be sought even if they involve recognition of commercial entities.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public who wished to address the Board and the meeting was closed to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mrs. Brennan, that meeting be adjourned at 10:01p.m.

Motion carried 10-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Borgo
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Regina Giardina, Stenographer

Meetings of the Mountain Lakes Board of Education

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Place</u>
December 11, 2006	Regular Meeting	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)