

**MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES –REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 26, 2010**

**1. OPENING ACTIVITIES**

The Mount Olive Township Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, July 26, 2010 at the Mount Olive Middle School, 160 Wolfe Road, Budd Lake, N.J. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by the Board President, Mr. Werner, with the following announcement.

*“The notice requirements of the “Open Public Meetings Act” of the State of New Jersey have been satisfied by the inclusion of the date, time and place of this meeting in the notice of regular meetings adopted by this Board on April 26, 2010. Such schedule and notice of meetings is posted at the Municipal Building, the Mount Olive Library, the Board of Education offices and the six schools, was submitted to the Daily Record for publication on April 30, 2010, and was filed with the Clerk of Mount Olive Township on April 28, 2010.*

*On July 24, 2010 notice was given that the July 26, 2010 regular meeting of the Mount Olive Township Board of Education has been relocated to the Mount Olive Middle School, 160 Wolfe Road, Budd Lake, NJ.”*

**Roll Call**

Present: Mrs. Colligan  
Mrs. Criscuolo  
Mr. Giordano  
Mr. Mania  
Mrs. Ouimet  
Mr. Robinson  
Mr. Schiess  
Mr. Werner

Absent: Mr. Amianda

Also in attendance: Dr. Reynolds, Superintendent  
Mrs. Decker, Assistant Superintendent/Business  
Mr. Zitomer, Board Attorney

**2. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY EXPENDITURES / FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Mrs. Ouimet moved to approve the following monthly expenditures/financial reports:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>July 26, 2010 Bill List #2.1</b>            | Motion to approve the July 26, 2010 Bill List in the amount of \$3,426,064.47          |
| <b>June 30, 2010 Supplemental Payroll #2.2</b> | Motion to approve the June 30, 2010 Supplemental Payroll in the amount of \$140,453.41 |
| <b>July 14, 2010 Supplemental Payroll #2.3</b> | Motion to approve the July 14, 2010 Supplemental Payroll in the amount of 72,396.58.   |
| <b>July 15, 2010 Payroll #2.4</b>              | Motion to approve the July 15, 2010 Regular Payroll in the amount of \$1,189,245.12.   |

Seconded by Mr. Giordano.

Board Discussion:

None

Roll Call:

Ayes

Mrs. Colligan  
Mrs. Criscuolo  
Mr. Giordano  
Mr. Mania  
Mrs. Ouimet  
Mr. Robinson  
Mr. Schiess  
Mr. Werner

Noes

None

Abstentions

None

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Criscuolo moved to approve the open and closed session minutes of the following meetings:

- #3.1 Special Meeting – June 7, 2010
- #3.2 Work Session Meeting – June 14, 2010

Seconded by Mr. Giordano.

Board Discussion:

None

Roll Call:

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
Mrs. Colligan	None	Mr. Mania
Mrs. Criscuolo		Mr. Robinson
Mr. Giordano		Mr. Schiess: #3.2
Mrs. Ouimet		
Mr. Schiess: #3.1		
Mr. Werner		

**4. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS (BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT)**

There were no communications and/or petitions acknowledged by the Board or the Superintendent.

**5. REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

**5.1 SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**5.1.1 QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

Dr. Reynolds reviewed the quarterly results of the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) program that was introduced to grades 2 through 5 during the 2009-2010 school year. The Superintendent presented several charts detailing the district-wide shift from the “below basic” category to the “advanced proficient” category. Dr. Reynolds reported that the number of students performing at the “below basic” level decreased significantly throughout the year, while the number of students performing at the “advanced proficient” level increased dramatically. In addition, the Superintendent noted that the average lexile scores increased substantially – in some cases the equivalent of 2-3 grade levels in just one year.

The Superintendent also reviewed the LEARNIA results for grades 3 through 5, reporting significant decreases in the “partially proficient” category for language arts and math in the third and fifth grades. However, Dr. Reynolds revealed that the 4<sup>th</sup> grade demonstrated flat results in language arts and math in all schools. The Superintendent indicated that the issue with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade would be investigated, declaring that a determination could not be made until additional data is collected. At the middle school level, the Superintendent reported that grades 6 through 8 also demonstrated significant decreases in the “partially proficient” category for math and language arts across all grade levels.

At the high school level, Dr. Reynolds announced that the HSPA test score averages exceeded the “District Factor Group” (DFG) and State averages in both language arts and math. The high school average for language arts is 28.9%, while the DFG average is 23% and the State average is 18.4%. In math, the high school average is 31.7%, while the DFG and State averages are 30% and 24%, respectively.

In conclusion, Dr. Reynolds declared that the test results showed excellent first year gains across the board, conveying that these exceptional results were unexpected considering that the 2009-2010 school year was merely the planning phase of the six-year plan. Dr. Reynolds congratulated the teachers and principals for the effort they put forth in implementing the learning programs. The Superintendent announced that the complete report is available on the school district website for public perusal.

Mr. Schiess questioned the district's status with regard to the six-year plan projections. Dr. Reynolds conveyed that the State results for grades 3 through 8 would not be available until early August. However, Dr. Reynolds reported that the high school has met its goal in just one year, declaring that Mt. Olive High School is now a top ten performer in Morris County. The Superintendent credited Principal Kevin Stansberry and his team for their extraordinary effort in achieving this goal.

Mr. Giordano inquired if this year's test results would provide a baseline for next year's assessments. Dr. Reynolds responded affirmatively, explaining that the challenge is to push forward with the anticipation that the district would continue on an upward trend.

## **5.2 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Board President reported that the Personnel Committee met recently, conveying that several of the matters reviewed were of a confidential nature that could not be publicly discussed. However, Mr. Werner announced that the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting were distributed to the Board of Education via the weekly board packet.

## **5.3 CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mrs. Ouimet reported on the Curriculum & Instruction Committee meetings of July 7, 2010 and July 21, 2010. (Summaries attached)

## **5.4 BUSINESS SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Schiess reported on the Business Services Committee meeting of July 21, 2010. (Summary attached)

Mrs. Ouimet commented on the energy audit, conveying that Town Council member, Ray Perkins, is well versed in the audit process and has offered his assistance to the district.

In response to an inquiry from Mrs. Ouimet, Mrs. Decker estimated that the cell tower would provide the district with \$13,000 in additional revenue.

Mrs. Ouimet offered to investigate the possibility of sharing equipment with the Township. Mr. Schiess agreed that any shared services with the Township would be welcomed, as it would benefit the entire community.

Mrs. Ouimet commented on the "Use of Facilities" policy that was recently distributed to the Board for review, inquiring if the fees cited in the policy were accurate. Mrs. Decker responded, explaining that the policy must be revised to agree with the current budgeted figures.

## **5.5 POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mrs. Criscuolo reported on the Policy Committee meeting of July 20, 2010. (Summary attached).

Mrs. Ouimet inquired about policy #3125, "Employment of Teaching Staff Members", asking if all new hires are required to have physical exams. Dr. Reynolds affirmed that physical exams are required of all new employees at the employee's expense.

Mrs. Ouimet observed that policy #2624, "Grading System", requires final examinations to be submitted to the department chairs, suggesting that the language of the policy should be revised as there are no longer department chair positions. Dr. Reynolds agreed that the language on page 6, subsection 2-b of policy #2624 should be amended to require final examinations to be submitted to the administration.

Mrs. Ouimet inquired if the proposed guidelines for student support systems would be part of the grading system policy. The Superintendent conveyed that the student support system guidelines are not part of the grading system policy.

Mr. Mania questioned the consequences should an employment candidate fail the physical exam required under policy #3125. Dr. Reynolds replied that the school district could not employ the individual as per State statute. The Board attorney interjected, clarifying that a candidate would be disqualified from employment if they had an attribute that could not be accommodated or would prohibit them from performing their job.

Mr. Schiess clarified the change to the pay rate for long-term substitute teachers cited in policy #3125, explaining that long-term substitutes would no longer be entitled to step increases or pay rate adjustments that are afforded to contracted teachers.

## **5.6 PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION LIAISON REPORTS** – No Report

## **5.7 BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

At the request of President Werner, Mrs. Ouimet reported on the proceedings of the most recent Town Council meeting. Mrs. Ouimet explained that she approached the Council with the district's request to provide additional crossing guards for the upcoming school year in light of the elimination of courtesy busing. Mrs. Ouimet conveyed that the Council has no plans to increase the number of crossing guards at this time; however, the police department will be monitoring the increased traffic and the traffic flow patterns, along with the corresponding safety factors, and would make recommendations accordingly. Furthermore, Mrs. Ouimet reported that the Council inquired about payment options for the subscription bus fees, explaining that she advised the Council that the district was only accepting lump sum payments.

Dr. Reynolds conveyed that he had also met with members of the Town Council to discuss the same issues, reporting that the Council is considering stationing a police officer at each school at the beginning of the school year in order to monitor the traffic flow.

President Werner updated the Board on the status of the School Resource Officer (SRO), explaining that the district had previously shared the cost of the SRO with the Township. Mr. Werner indicated that the district budgeted \$80,000 for the SRO's salary, revealing that the Township did not include this item in their budget. Consequently, if the district hires an SRO through the Township, the district would be responsible for the full \$106,000 salary for the SRO. The Board President revealed that the district did not have the additional funds to hire an SRO through the Township at this time. The Board considered the matter for several minutes, discussing a variety of alternatives to be investigated by the Business Committee, such as outsourcing to a private security firm or hiring a retired police officer. President Werner announced his intent to inform the Town Council that the district does not have the budgetary flexibility to go beyond the budgeted amount and that the district would pursue other alternatives if the Council does not agree to fund a portion of the SRO's salary.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS**

The Board President opened the meeting to the public for any comments and/or questions related to the action items only. A lengthy public segment ensued with the Board members and the Superintendent responding to numerous inquiries and comments on the following topics:

- Budget status of the Supervisor for Planning/Research and Technology position
- The elimination of the "D" grade as cited in the grading system policy
- Proposed salary of the Supervisor for Planning/Research and Technology
- The difference in responsibilities between the high school security officer and the school resource officer
- The elimination of the security officer position at the high school
- The lack of communication between parents and teachers
- Delays in inputting student grades into the Powerschool program
- Transportation of special education students affected by the elimination of courtesy busing
- The establishment of an appeal process for disputed subscription busing fees
- Proposed support services for failing students
- The availability of parking spaces for those high school students affected by the elimination of courtesy busing

## **6.1 PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS**

Mrs. Ouimet made a motion to approve, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following **Personnel** action items:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Resignation of Occupational Therapist #6.1.1</b>              | Accept the resignation of Amy Guenzel, Occupational Therapist effective August 31, 2010 with appreciation for eight years of service to the Mount Olive Township School District.  |
| <b>Resignation of Aide #6.1.2</b>                                | Accept the resignation of Frederick Herling, Certified Special Education B.D. Aide at Mount Olive Middle School effective July 27, 2010 with appreciation for one-half year of service to the Mount Olive Township School District.  |
| <b>Rescind Previous Appointment #6.1.3</b>                       | Rescind action item #6.2.8 from the June 28, 2010 board meeting to approve the appointment of Victoria Washkua, Teacher of Students with Disabilities at CMS Elementary School.  |
| <b>Approve Job Description #6.1.4</b>                            | Approve the job description for Supervisor for Planning/Research and Technology effective August 1, 2010 as attached.  |
| <b>Approve Job Description #6.1.5</b>                            | Approve the job description for High School Vice Principal effective August 1, 2010 as attached.   |
| <b>Appointment of High School Vice-Principal #6.1.6</b>          | Approve the appointment of Donald Woodring to the new ten month plus fifteen days position as Vice Principal at Mount Olive High School prorated at step four (4) - \$105,623 on the Administrators and Supervisors Salary Guide effective August 16, 2010 through June 30, 2011. (Budgeted)                                   |
| <b>Appointment of Middle School Vice-Principal #6.1.7</b>        | Approve the appointment of Mark Fasciana to the new ten month plus fifteen days position as Vice Principal at Mount Olive Middle School prorated at step one (1) - \$93,900 on the Administrators and Supervisors Salary Guide effective August 16, 2010 through June 30, 2011. (Budgeted)                                     |
| <b>Temporary Appointment of Elementary School Teacher #6.1.8</b> | Approve the temporary appointment of Patrick Murphy, Elementary School Teacher at Mt. View School, at step one (1) BA - \$49,575 effective September 1, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year, serving for Stacy Brown on an unpaid leave of absence. (Budgeted)  |
| <b>Appointment of Math Teacher #6.1.9</b>                        | Approve the appointment of Maribeth Paoli, to the new position of Teacher of Mathematics at Mount Olive High School, at step one (1) BA - \$49,575 effective September 1, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year. (Budgeted)   |
| <b>Appointment of Study Skills Teacher #6.1.10</b>               | Approve the appointment of Melissa Hamm, Teacher of Study Skills at Mount Olive Middle School, at step one (1) BA - \$49,575 effective September 1, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year, replacing Rachel Kreller. (Budgeted)   |
| <b>Appointment of Long Term Substitute Teacher #6.1.11</b>       | Approve the appointment of Alison Bileci as a long term substitute Teacher of Students with Disabilities at Mt. View School, at the per diem rate of \$150.00 per day effective September 1, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year, serving for Christine Rogoff on an unpaid childcare leave of absence. (Budgeted)              |
| <b>Change of Employment #6.1.12</b>                              | Approve the change of employment for Maureen Tremper from Certified Special Education Aide to twelve month, category II Secretary – Curriculum and Instruction at step two (2) – \$37,220 (prorated) on the Secretary Salary Guide effective August 1, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year, replacing Dolores Keene. (Budgeted) |

**Appointment of Custodian #6.1.13** Approve the appointment of Rocco Martirano, Custodian at Mt. View School at step one (1) - \$32,597 (prorated) plus 5% shift differential on the Custodian Salary Guide, eight (8) hours per day from 2:30 to 10:30 pm, five (5) days per week, effective August 1, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year, replacing John Ricardo. (Budgeted)

**Change of Employment #6.1.14** Approve the change of employment in shift differential for Gary Pepe, Custodian at Mount Olive High School from 2:30 – 10:30 pm to 10:00 pm – 6:00 am effective August 1, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year, replacing Roxanne Beam. (Budgeted)

**Change of Employment #6.1.15** Approve the change of employment for Joanne Keilty from full time certified special education aide to part time .5 fte certified special education aide at CMS Elementary effective September 1, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year.

**Employee Transfer #6.1.16** Approve the following transfer effective September 1, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year:

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Catherine Stanek	Catherine Stanek
Teacher of Music	Teacher of Music
Tinc Road School	CMS Elementary and Tinc Road School

**Column Movements #6.1.17** Approve column movement on the salary guide for the following professional staff for the 2010-2011 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Stacey Arabia	4 BA	4 MA
Carmella Cicarella	4 BA	4 MA
Abbe Leff	12 MA	12 MA+30

**Approve Salary for Treasurer of School Funds #6.1.18** Approve the annual salary of \$7,378 for Sherry Maniscalco, Treasurer of School Funds for the 2010-2011 school year.

**Employment of ABA Therapist #6.1.19** Approve the employment of Melissa Duscher to provide fifty (50) hours of ABA Therapy at home at \$24.88 per hour at a total cost of \$1,244.00 effective March 10, 2010 through June 25, 2010.

**Employment of Substitute Van Aide #6.1.20** Approve the employment of Donna Baldwin, substitute van aide at the rate of \$10.70 per hour effective July 1, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year.

**Summer Employment of Substitute Custodian and Maintenance Worker #6.1.21** Approve the summer employment of Michael Werner, substitute for custodian and maintenance work at the rate of \$10.50 per hour on an as needed effective July 27<sup>th</sup> through August 31, 2010.

**Summer Employment of Substitute Custodian and Maintenance Worker #6.1.22** Approve the employment of Matthew Rice, substitute custodian and maintenance worker at the appropriate rates effective September 1, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year.

**Additions to List of Substitute Teachers #6.1.23** Approve the following additions to the list of substitute teachers for the 2010-2011 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Crs/Degree</u>	<u>Institution</u>
Merridee Evans	B.A.	Cedar Crest College
Rajbir Kaur	M.S.	Panjab University
Catherine Keenan	B.S.	N.J.I.T.
Julie Levy	B.S.	Rutgers University
Janel Sabella	B.A.	College of St. Elizabeth

**Reduction in Force  
#6.1.24**

Approve the reduction of the non-unit position of Security Officer at Mount Olive High School effective August 1, 2010 and terminate Robert Cota from employment with the school district effective August 1, 2010 and shall be duly notified in writing of termination. The savings from this position will be used to fund the new position of Supervisor for Planning/Research and Technology.

**Appointment of  
Elementary School  
Teacher #6.1.25**

Approve the appointment of Lauren Snarski to the new .5 fte Elementary School Teacher at Tinc Road School at step one 1 (1) MA - \$58,175 (prorated) effective September 1, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year. (Budgeted)

**Appointment of Bus  
Mechanic #6.1.26**

Approve the appointment of Noel Lamberty, Bus Mechanic in the Transportation Department, at step eight (8) - \$51,642 on the Mechanics Salary Guide (prorated), eight (8) hours per day, five (5) days per week effective July 27, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year, replacing David Parkhurst. (Budgeted)

**Appointment of Physics  
Teacher #6.1.27**

Approve the appointment of Chris D'Amato, Teacher of Physics at Mount Olive High School at step fifteen (15) MA - \$79,105 effective September 1, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year, replacing Thomas Hill. (Budgeted)

**Reduction of Employment  
#6.1.28**

Approve the reduction of employment for Audrey Matlock, Teacher of Social Studies at Mount Olive High School from full time employment to half time employment (.5 fte) effective September 26, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year.

Seconded by Mrs. Criscuolo.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Robinson requested clarification on action item #6.1.18, conveying his understanding that the Governor had eliminated the requirement that school districts must employ a Treasurer of School Funds. The Board attorney clarified that the current State law requires school districts to employ a Treasurer of School Funds; however, a proposal is currently before the legislature that would eliminate this requirement, thereby making the position optional at the discretion of the Board. Mr. Zitomer advised that the action item could be rescinded, with the salary pro-rated, at such time that the new legislation takes effect.

Roll Call:

Ayes

Mrs. Colligan  
Mrs. Criscuolo  
Mr. Giordano  
Mr. Mania  
Mrs. Ouimet  
Mr. Robinson  
Mr. Schiess  
Mr. Werner: #6.1.1-#6.1.20; #6.1.22-  
#6.1.28

Noes

None

Abstentions

Mr. Werner: #6.1.21

**6.2 CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION ACTION ITEMS**

Mrs. Criscuolo made a motion to approve, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following **Curriculum & Instruction** action items:

**Approve Professional  
Development Workshops  
#6.2.1**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Olive Township Board of Education approves the following staff member(s) to attend the following professional development program(s) as deemed appropriate and approved by the Superintendent of Schools, subject to State Payment Guidelines as established by the Department of Treasury and guidelines as established by the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Seminar Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Estimated Expenses</u>
Dave Bodmer	HSTW Workshop (Robotics teacher)	August 3-4, 2010	Monroe, NJ	\$42 per hr stipend rate
Tim Kelly	HSTW Workshop (Business teacher)	August 3-4, 2010	Monroe, NJ	\$42 per hr stipend rate
Audrey Strahl	HSTW Workshop (English teacher)	August 3-4, 2010	Monroe, NJ	\$42 per hr stipend rate
Jennifer Kalkunte (replacing Linda Hunter)	HSTW Workshop (Math teacher)	August 3-4, 2010	Monroe, NJ	\$42 per hr stipend rate

**Accept Grant Funds  
#6.2.2**

Approve acceptance of the 2010-2011 Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Entitlement Grant funds in the amount of \$17,916.00.

**Approve Textbook  
#6.2.3**

Approve the textbook adoption of Business & Personal Finances to align with the 2009 New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, released in June, 2009 for the Personal Finance course requirement.

**Approve Materials  
Selection Policy  
#6.2.4**

Approve the Materials Selection Policy adoption for Mount Olive District School Libraries. Implementation beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.

**Approve 2010-2011  
Curriculum Guides  
#6.2.5**

Approve the following curriculum guides for the 2010-2011 school year as submitted:

Social Studies: K-8  
Personal Finance: High School  
Robotics I: High School  
Robotics II: High School

**Professional Service  
Resolution #6.2.6**

Approve the following professional service resolution for the 2010-2011 school year:

WHEREAS, the Mount Olive Township Board of Education requires the services of professional therapists to provide individual services for classified students in accordance with their I.E.P.; and

WHEREAS, the Public Schools Contracts Law (N.J.S.A: 18A-1 et seq.) requires the awarding of a contract for professional services by resolution of the Board of Education at a public meeting and allows that such award may be made without public advertising for bids:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mount Olive Township Board of Education that the following professional therapists be awarded contracts for the 2010-2011 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Wendy Vandervliet	Speech Therapy	\$65.00 per session
Developmental Ctr for Children	ABA/Social Skills	\$100.00 per session
Therapeutic Rehabilitation	Occupational Therapy	\$72.40 per session
Dawn O'Dell	Occupational Therapy	\$93.00 per hour

**Approve Related  
Services for Classified  
Students #6.2.7**

Approve classified students to receive mandated related services for the school year 2010–2011 as per the submitted list. Total cost: \$270,929.70. (Budgeted).

**Approve Home  
Instruction #6.2.8**

Approve 12 hours of home instruction from Professional Educational Services for student ID #60046987 from June 16, 2010 through June 23, 2010 at the hourly rate of \$30.00. Total cost: \$360.00.

**Approve Clerical Correction #6.2.9**

Approve a clerical correction to action item #6.3.2 presented at the June 28, 2010 Board meeting to read student #561.

**Approve NJQSAC Short Term District Improvement Plan #6.2.10**

Approve the NJQSAC Short Term District Improvement Plan as submitted to the NJ Department of Education on July 2, 2010.

**Approve Additional Related Services for Classified Student #6.2.11**

Approve an additional 7 days of related services from Somerset Hills School for student ID #561 (classification: ED) at the rate of \$397 per day. Total cost: \$2,779.00 (Budgeted)

The student was approved for 180 days on May 24, 2010; however, the school year at Somerset is 187 days. This is in addition to what has already been approved.

**Approve Change in Hourly Rate #6.2.12**

Approve a change in rate for Dawn O'Dell, Occupational Therapist, from \$80.00/hr to \$93.00/hr effective September 8, 2010 to June 24, 2011.

**Approve 2010-2011 Curriculum Guides #6.2.13**

Approve the following curriculum guides for the 2010-2011 school year as submitted:

- Accounting: High School
- Computer Aided Drafting (CAD): High School
- Word Processing: High School
- World History Grade 9: High School

**Approve Grant Amendment #6.2.14**

Approve the FY 2009 NCLB grant amendment in the amount of \$61,293.00.

Seconded by Mr. Giordano.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Werner inquired about the increase in the hourly pay rate for the occupational therapist cited in action item #6.2.12. Mr. Giordano pointed out that the therapy services are provided by a contracted therapist who is employed by the private school that the student attends. Accordingly, the private school passes along any rate increases to the sending district. Mr. Werner questioned the need to approve the therapist for the entire school year, suggesting that the district should investigate other options.

After a brief discussion, upon the advice of the Board attorney, Mr. Mania made a motion to amend action item #6.2.12 as follows:

**Approve Change in Pay Rate #6.2.12**

Approve a change in rate for Dawn O'Dell, Occupational Therapist, from \$80.00/hr to \$93.00/hr effective September 8, 2010 to **October 31, 2010**.

Seconded by Mr. Giordano.

Board Discussion:

None

Roll Call:

Ayes

- Mrs. Colligan
- Mrs. Criscuolo
- Mr. Giordano
- Mr. Mania
- Mrs. Ouimet
- Mr. Robinson
- Mr. Schiess
- Mr. Werner

Noes

None

Abstentions

None

Mr. Robinson voiced his frustration with the 16% rate increase for the occupational therapist, declaring that therapists can charge whatever rate they deem appropriate, while the State is demanding that school districts reduce their budgets. Mr. Robinson expressed his exasperation with rising educational costs while state funding for education continues to decline.

President Werner observed that the contract period for occupational therapist, Dawn O’Dell, as cited in action item #6.2.6, now differs from the contract period cited in action item #6.2.12. The Board attorney affirmed that the contract period cited in the amended motion would supersede the contract period cited in action item #6.2.6.

The following roll call vote was recorded on the remaining Curriculum & Instruction action items:

Roll Call:

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
Mrs. Colligan	None	None
Mrs. Criscuolo		
Mr. Giordano		
Mr. Mania		
Mrs. Ouimet		
Mr. Robinson		
Mr. Schiess		
Mr. Werner		

**6.3 BUSINESS SERVICES ACTION ITEMS**

Mr. Schiess made a motion to approve, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following **Business Services** (finance and facilities) action items:

**Award Winter Athletic Supplies Bids #6.3.1**

Award the bids received on June 15, 2010 for 2010-2011 winter athletic supplies to the lowest responsible bidder:

Vendor	<u>Amount</u>
Efinger Sporting Goods Bound Brook, NJ	\$751.50
Metuchen Center, Inc./Team Sports New Brunswick, NJ	\$3,902.40
R&R Trophy and Sporting Goods North Arlington, NJ	\$1,517.12
Sports Supply Group Jenkintown, PA	\$399.96
Triple Crown Sports Parsippany, NJ	\$1,071.40

**Award Bid for Inspection and Repair of Fire Alarms #6.3.2**

Award the bids received on June 8, 2010 for Inspection and Repair of Fire Alarms for the 2010-2011 school year to the lowest responsible bidder:

Vendor	<u>Amount</u>
Alarm & Communication Technologies, Inc. Denville, NJ	\$95.00/hr. overtime: \$142.50/hr. travel time: \$95.00/hr.

Seconded by Mr. Mania.

Board Discussion:

None

Roll Call:

Ayes

Mrs. Colligan  
Mrs. Criscuolo  
Mr. Giordano  
Mr. Mania  
Mrs. Ouimet  
Mr. Robinson  
Mr. Schiess  
Mr. Werner

Noes

None

Abstentions

None

**6.4 ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ITEMS**

Mrs. Ouimet made a motion to approve, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following **Administrative** action items:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Revise Policy #5350<br/>#6.4.1</b>                  | Approve revised Policy #5350 “Pupil Suicide Prevention and Sudden Death Postvention”, as submitted, on first reading. |
| <b>Revise Policy #3125<br/>#6.4.2</b>                  | Approve revised Policy #3125 “Employment of Teaching Staff Members”, as submitted, on first reading.                  |
| <b>Revise Policy #5430<br/>#6.4.3</b>                  | Approve revised Policy #5430 “Class Rank”, as submitted, on second reading.   |
| <b>Revise Regulation #2624<br/>#6.4.4</b>              | Approve revised Regulation #2624 “Grading System”, as submitted, on second reading.                                   |
| <b>Revise Bylaw #0155<br/>#6.4.5</b>                   | Approve revised Bylaw #0155 “Board Committees”, as submitted, on first reading.                                       |
| <b>Revise Policy #2430.1<br/>#6.4.6</b>                | Approve revised Policy #2430.1 “Student Activity Fees”, as submitted, on first reading.                               |
| <b>Revise Regulation #3142<br/>#6.4.7</b>              | Approve revised Regulation #3142 “Renewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff Member”, as submitted, on first reading.       |
| <b>Approve Change in Board Meeting Date<br/>#6.4.8</b> | Change the date of the August 23, 2010 regular board meeting to Monday, August 30, 2010.                              |

Seconded by Mrs. Criscuolo.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Robinson questioned the reason for the change in meeting date cited in action item #6.4.8. Dr. Reynolds conveyed that he would be unable to attend the August 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting; however, he had no objection should the Board wish to meet in his absence. Mr. Robinson suggested that the later meeting date could pose a problem from a hiring standpoint, as the beginning of the school year is quickly approaching. President Werner stated that the Board could always schedule a special meeting if necessary.

Mrs. Colligan announced that she had expressed her opposition to the grading system policy and the elimination of the “D” grade during the public segment; however, she did not wish to reiterate her concerns.

Mr. Giordano reported that the C&I Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the elimination of the “D” grade from the grading system policy. Mr. Giordano declared his support of the proposal, expressing his belief that students often rise to the level of expectations placed upon them and speculated that the proposal would spur many students to raise their grades. Mr. Giordano acknowledged that some students do struggle to obtain a “D” grade; however, the majority of “D” students do not take advantage of the support systems available to them. However, Mr. Giordano emphasized that teachers must be diligent in updating grades and entering assignments into the Powerschool program and maintain open and timely communication with the parents in order to produce success.

Mr. Robinson conveyed his initial reluctance to eliminate the “D” grade from the grading system policy, pointing out that success is not always measured by high school grades. However, Mr. Robinson announced his renewed support for the policy, speculating that the majority of the “D” grades come from freshman and sophomore students who will improve as they move into the higher grades. Furthermore, Mr. Robinson noted that the policy was scaled back to eliminate the “D” grade from only the core curriculum subjects and not from the entire curriculum. Mr. Robinson hoped that the policy would be successful due to the implementation of new support systems, combined with those already in place, and anticipated that the policy would be revisited if it were not effective.

Mr. Schiess announced his support of the new grading system policy, declaring that Dr. Reynolds has delivered on all aspects of his six-year plan thus far. Mr. Schiess cited a segment of the policy which referenced the development of new study skills and learning techniques, maintaining that the policy would be successful due to the combined efforts of the Superintendent, the staff, the teachers, the parents and the students.

Roll Call:

Ayes

Mrs. Colligan: #6.4.1; #6.4.2;  
#6.4.5 - #6.4.8  
Mrs. Criscuolo  
Mr. Giordano  
Mr. Mania  
Mrs. Ouimet  
Mr. Robinson  
Mr. Schiess  
Mr. Werner

Noes

Mrs. Colligan: #6.4.3; #6.4.4

Abstentions

None

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board President opened the meeting to the public for any comments and/or questions regarding the Mount Olive School District. The following topics were discussed:

Kindergarten Entrance Age – Mrs. Gretchen Smith came forward to express her concerns and dissatisfaction with the revised entrance age for kindergarten students, urging the Board to reconsider this policy change. Mrs. Smith conveyed that her child must either repeat a year of preschool or enter a private kindergarten program at a cost of more than \$300 per week because her child will not reach the age of five before July 1, 2011. Dr. Reynolds responded, emphasizing that the revised kindergarten entrance age was strictly a budgetary decision. The Superintendent estimated that the district would realize a savings of \$780,000 by reducing the number of students entering kindergarten each year. Mrs. Smith continued to express her frustration with this situation, inquiring if the Board would revisit their decision on the kindergarten entrance age. President Werner noted Mrs. Smith’s concerns, indicating that the policy committee would consider her request at their next meeting.

Mrs. Smith further objected to the Superintendent’s position of only accepting students into the first grade who are under the age of six if they completed a kindergarten program at a public school. Mrs. Smith emphasized that the district’s revised policy does not stipulate that an accredited private kindergarten program be precluded.

The Superintendent affirmed his position that students attending private accredited kindergarten programs would not be accepted into first grade unless they reached the age of six on or before July 1<sup>st</sup>, as per district policy. Dr. Reynolds explained that private kindergarten programs do not enforce an enrollment date and therefore could accept any child regardless of their birth date. Consequently, the private kindergarten programs may not be age appropriate.

Mr. Robinson also questioned the Superintendent’s rationale of not accepting students from a private accredited kindergarten program, maintaining that the district has always accepted students who completed accredited kindergarten programs at private or public schools. Dr. Reynolds reiterated his position that students must complete a kindergarten program from an equivalent public school in order to be eligible for first grade prior to the required enrollment date. However, the Superintendent acknowledged that this prerequisite could be changed if a different budget solution is found before the policy is implemented next year.

Subscription Busing – Several parents came forward to voice their anxiety and frustration with the subscription busing program, maintaining that the district and the township are putting children at risk due to the lack of sidewalks, the shortage of crossing guards, and the tremendous danger posed to children who must cross such hazardous roads as Routes 46 and 206. Many parents also alluded to the increased liability facing the township should a child be injured or killed while walking to school.

The Superintendent explained that the police department would be monitoring the increased traffic and traffic patterns at the schools and beyond, assuring the parents that the school parking lots would be safe. Furthermore, Dr. Reynolds reported that representatives from the police department would soon be meeting with the school principals to review the parking lot situation and make recommendations accordingly. The Superintendent conveyed that notification would be sent to the parents concerning pick-up and drop-off locations prior to the beginning of school.

## **8. BOARD COMMENTS**

Several of the Board members expressed their frustration with the Mount Olive community, denouncing their indifference towards education as exemplified in the public vote and pointing out that the primary focus of the Board is to improve the quality of education for all students. The Board members emphasized that the original budget did not include any reductions to educational programs or services; however, once the budget was defeated, the Board had no other alternative but to reduce services that would minimally impact the educational programs. The Board noted that sufficient transportation is available for all students; however, a fee is now being instituted for those students residing within a State mandated radius of their school. The Board stressed that the district would not be in the current predicament if the original budget had been approved by the community, noting that the average tax increase would have remained at \$202 per household.

In addition, the Board members commented on the child safety and transportation comments that were raised this evening. Several of the Board members objected to the claims that the district is placing the children in danger by eliminating courtesy busing, declaring that it is not the Board's intent to compromise the safety of any child. Furthermore, the Board emphasized that the onus is on the parents to arrange suitable and safe transportation for their children, as the responsibility does not lie with the school district or the township.

Mrs. Colligan congratulated Dr. Reynolds and the school district staff for the excellent test results reported on this evening. Furthermore, Mrs. Colligan commended Mrs. Dinges and the teaching staff for the positive changes they are making in the district's curriculum.

Mrs. Colligan thanked Mrs. Ouimet for her participation on numerous committees and for serving as liaison to the Town Council. Mrs. Colligan encouraged the members of the public audience to attend the next Town Council meeting to express their concerns about the transportation issues. In response to an inquiry posed by Mrs. Colligan, Mrs. Ouimet announced that the next Town Council meeting would be tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m.

The Board President reminded the public audience that a fully funded budget was presented to the public in April, despite the loss of approximately \$3 million in state aid. As a result of the budget defeat, the district was faced with an additional \$2 million reduction from the Town Council. President Werner emphasized that the rejection of the school budget forced the Board and administration to make reductions to programs and services that they did not wish to make. Ultimately, the Board decided to minimize services that would not have an impact on student educational programs.

Furthermore, President Werner emphasized that the district continues to bear two-thirds of each child's transportation cost even with the implementation of the subscription busing fee. The Board President conveyed that the State budget cap could be reduced to 2% next year, anticipating that the full cost of subscription busing would fall to the parents if the budget were again defeated. Mr. Werner urged the public to consider this information very seriously, stressing the importance of voting in the school election.

In conclusion, President Werner thanked the members of the Board and the administration for their tireless efforts throughout the year and their effective management of each situation as it is presented.

**9. CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

At 9:42 p.m. Mr. Mania moved the following resolution to recess into confidential session:

**Resolved**, at a public meeting of the Mount Olive Township Board of Education held on July 26, 2010, that, pursuant to Sections 7 and 8 of the “Open Public Meetings Act”, the following items be discussed in a session of the Board of Education closed to the public:

**Personnel**

**Be it further resolved**, that the matters discussed in closed session be disclosed to the public when the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

Seconded by Mr. Giordano and approved by a unanimous affirmative roll call vote.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board reconvened in open session at 10:05 p.m. at which time Mr. Mania made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Giordano, and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Jones, Board Secretary