

**FRELINGHUYSEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF
EDUCATION Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 24, 2024
7:00 PM**

The Frelinghuysen Township Board of Education held a meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 in the media center of the Frelinghuysen School. Mrs. Neuffer, President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Please let the minutes show that the Frelinghuysen Township Board of Education has complied with the Open Public Meetings Act which requires that advance notice of this meeting be given and that the public has the right to attend such meetings.

This advance notice was published in the NJ Herald and the Express Times. All discussions and official actions of this meeting, unless specifically exempted, will take place in public.

The Board pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

PRESENT: Mr. Hocking, Mrs. Neuffer, Mrs. Pandiscia, Mr. Forbes, Mr. Togno, Mrs. Peterson, George Riedel, Mrs. Swistak and Mrs. DeFilippis

ABSENT: ALSO PRESENT: Jarlyn Veras, CSA, Greg Brennan, Interim SBA/Board Secretary

Hearing & Petitions of Citizens – Comment is invited on any matter relating to the agenda.

Cynthia Mardin 93 Kerrs Rd. Blairstown - brought to the board's attention that policy numbering of 2441 in error. Should be 2411 Guidance Counseling. Also asked what the update in the policy is and Mrs. Veras responded basically just punctuation correction by Straus Esmay.

Chip - NJ Herald

Request for Executive Session

Motion made by Ms. Swistak and seconded by Ms. Pandiscia to enter into Executive Session at 7:13.

Motion made by Mr. Hocking and seconded by Ms. Pandiscia to come out of the Executive Session at 7:31.

CSA Report - 2024-25 School Budget Presentation - Ms. Veras and Mr. Brennan

Personnel

Motion made by Ms. Pandiscia and seconded by Mr. Forbes to approve P1 as listed.

P1. Approve the following staff to assist in upcoming spring events:

Staff	Event	Hours (cost= \$47 p/hr)
Ruth Toronozi	Band Concert (retroactive)	1.5 hours
Ruth Toronzi	Grades 4-6 Spring Show	2 hours
Marguerite Mulcahy	Grades 4-6 Spring Show	2 hours
Katherine Gould	Grades 4-6 Spring Show	2 hours
Aimee Kronmiller	Grades 4-6 Spring Show	2 hours

Motion P1 carried unanimously by roll call vote. Mr.Togno Abstained.

Finance/Facilities

Motion made by Ms. Pandiscia and seconded by Mr. Forbes to approve F1-F3 as listed.

F1. Approve the Bills & Claims List dated April 24, 2024, Checks 19244-19267 in the total amount of \$ 210,782.10 for the General Fund.

2023-24 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING After the Public Hearing, a motion will be required to adopt the 2024-25 Budget as follows:

F2. BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed budget be adopted as follows for the 2024-2025 School Year: And that the Health Benefit Adjustment in the amount of \$13,265 is included in the tax levy to offset an 8% premium increase; And pursuant to N.J.A.C 6A:23-7.3, a Board of Education must establish a maximum dollar limit for travel expenditure, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq.; And, BE IT RESOLVED that the Frelinghuysen Board Of Education includes in the budget a maximum travel expenditure in the amount of \$5,000 for the 2024-2025 School Year. The maximum expenditure amount for the 2023-24 School Year is \$5,000, of which \$4,973.55 has been spent with \$0 encumbered to date.

	General Fund	Revenues	Debt	Total Service
2024-2025 Total Expenditures:	\$3,056,120	\$84,526	0	\$3,140,646
Less: Anticipated Revenues:	\$377,106	\$84,526	0	\$461,632
Less: Capital Reserve Withdrawal	\$305,000	0	0	\$305,000
Taxes to be Raised: **	\$2,374,014	0	0	\$2,374,014

** (2% increase (\$46,279) plus health benefits adjustment (\$13,265) **

F3. Approve Facilities Use Request for the following:

PTO	PTO Plant Sale	Outside of school building plus access to outside shed
6th Grade Booster	Spring Dance	Multi-purpose Room/Gym

Motions F1-F3 carried unanimously by roll call vote. Mr.Togno Abstained F1-F3. Ms. Pandiscia abstained from F3.

Report of the Board Secretary

Motion made by Mr. Forbes and seconded by Ms. Pandiscia to approve R1-R2 as listed.

R1. To approve the BOE minutes for the March 6th 2024 regular meeting, and the regular and executive session meetings for March 20, 2024 and April 10, 2024.

R2. To approve the attached list of February Transfers (none)

and the February Board Secretary’s Report, in agreement with the Treasurer’s

Report in the amount of \$ 892,578.69 in Total Government Funds;

and after review of the Secretary’s report (appropriations section) and upon

consultation with the appropriate District officials, that the Frelinghuysen

Township Board of Education is in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23 A-16.10(c)

4 and shall certify that sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s

financial obligation for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motions R1-R2 carried - Mr.Togno Abstained.

Curriculum/Policy

Motion made by Mr. Hocking and seconded by Ms. Pandiscia to approve C1 as listed.

C1. Approve the following policy on first reading:

Motion made by Mr. Forbes and seconded by Ms. Pandiscia to approve CI as listed.

- 2411 Guidance Counseling (M-Revised)

Motion CI carried unanimously by roll call vote. Mr. Togno Abstained.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business Correspondence - None

Motion made by Mr. Hocking and seconded by Ms. DeFilippis to approve NB1 as listed.

NB1. Approve the following resolution:

Frelinghuysen Township Board of Education

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Frelinghuysen Township School District (“District”) is a pre-kindergarten through grade 6 school district located in Warren County, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the District operates Frelinghuysen Elementary School, which is located at 780 Route 94, Newton, New Jersey 07860 (hereinafter, “School”);

WHEREAS, it has recently come to the District’s attention that a company has applied to the Frelinghuysen Township Land Use Board (hereinafter, “Township”) for authorization to utilize property located at 720 Route 94 (hereinafter, “Facility”) as a “cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility”; and

WHEREAS, it is the District’s understanding that the Facility will grow and manufacture cannabis in approximately 182,000 square-feet of greenhouse structures at the Facility for commercial use; and

WHEREAS, the Facility is located only approximately 1,080 feet from the School; and

WHEREAS, because most of the School building does not have air-conditioning, staff often leave School building windows open during the fall and spring seasons during school hours to allow fresh air to enter the building;

WHEREAS, the District has significant concerns regarding the location, size, and scope of the Facility, and its impacts on the School community; and

WHEREAS, the District has great concerns that should the Township approve the Facility, the emissions caused by the cannabis cultivation will likely cause a lingering odor to emanate from

the Facility and have a harmful impact on air quality, which will negatively impact the well-being of School staff, students, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the District has serious concerns pertaining to students' and the faculty's abilities to fully engage and concentrate in school despite the strong odors that will be produced by the Facility's cannabis production, which will almost assuredly reach the School due to the School's close geographic proximity to the Facility, and have a negative and potentially dangerous effect on the learning environment; and

WHEREAS, the District has serious concerns, both short-term and long-term, pertaining to the health and safety of students and staff caused by the myriad of environmental issues, including possible depletion of the water table as well as possible air and groundwater pollution, that would likely result due to the Township's approval of the Facility; and

WHEREAS, the District has serious concerns that approval of the Facility would cause a great increase in traffic in the vicinity surrounding the School, which could negatively impact student and staff arrival and dismissal times as well as during extracurricular activities that extend beyond the school day; and

WHEREAS, the District has serious security concerns that a cultivation and manufacturing facility of the Facility's magnitude would have a negative impact on the safety and security of the School;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Frelinghuysen Township Board of Education formally expresses its opposition to the proposed development of the Facility for the reasons contained herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent by the Board Secretary to the Township Governing Body, the Mayor, the Planning & Zoning Boards, Governor Murphy, our local Legislators, the Commissioner of Education, and the Executive County Superintendent of Schools.

Motions NB1 carried unanimously by roll call vote. Mr. Forbes and Mr. Togno abstained.

Hearing & Petitions of Citizens

Ms. Defilippis appreciated the hard work that was put into the budget preparation and presentation by Ms. Veras & Mr. Brennan.

Howie Ryan 9 Stonebridge Rd. - commented on the potential crime a cannabis processing plant would bring to Frelinghuysen.

State Trooper Victor Cabrera-Bonilla - commented on the potential crime a cannabis

processing plant would bring to Frelinghuysen.

Request for Executive Session

Motion made by Ms. Swistak and seconded by Mr. Forbes to enter into Executive Session at 7:56.

Motion made by Ms. Pandiscia and seconded by Mr. Hocking to come out of the Executive Session at 8:40.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Forbes and seconded by Ms. Peterson to Adjourn at 8:41.

All Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory E. Brennan

Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary