

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY**

January 20, 2015

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Meeting A Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Administration Office on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by Mr. Gaffney.

Meeting Notice Mr. Gaffney led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Open Public Meetings announcement as follows: The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of 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 Oakland Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on May 3, 2014 in the Municipal Building, the Board Offices, all school offices and copies sent to newspapers serving Oakland: The Record, Ridgewood News and Suburban News. The Board reserves the right to limit public discussion of personnel items, so as to preserve individual privacy.

The Board appreciates the concerns and comments expressed by the public and will take them into consideration. However, please remain advised that, neither the Board nor the administration may comment on or respond to public inquiries or statements regarding any internal personnel matters involving a District employee.

Please be further advised that there is no privilege or qualified privilege with regard to any statements that you make before the Board of Education. Furthermore, in addition to their respective rights to privacy, employees of this school district retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according the laws of New Jersey.

Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise, sign in, and state their names and addresses. Each speaker shall be limited to two minutes. A speaker who has not finished in the allotted time will be directed by the presiding officer to summarize quickly and relinquish the floor within 30 seconds.

Roll Call The following members were present: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Also present were Dr. Gina M. Coffaro, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Kyle Bleeker, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, four administrators, one teacher, two students and thirteen members of the public.

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PUBLIC HEARING ON THE REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

- A. Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve motion to open meeting for public comment on the refunding bond ordinance. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

Mr. Scerbo briefed the public on the Bond Ordinance.

No comments.

- B. Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve motion to close meeting for public comment on the refunding bond ordinance. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

- C. Mr. Gaffney moved and Mr. Akovity seconded to approve the attached refunding bond ordinance. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

- Recognize the BOE and thanked them for service as January is School Board Recognition Month
- Presented Certificates of recognition to Chief Kasper, Officer Fiore and Mr. Jacod

Administrator Reports

- Mr. Silverstein
 - Spoke on behalf of all elementary school principals
 - Gave status of kindergarten registrations
 - Discussed winter concerts
 - Special thank you to all elementary school secretaries for their work in the registration process
- Mr. Desiderio
 - Discussed Philly trip and thanked PTO for their fundraising to offset the cost
 - Cost will be \$559 which is \$1 more than last year
 - Discussed that the eighth graders have begun working with their guidance counselor to develop their high school schedules

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Administrator Reports (Continued)

- New dismissal procedures at VMS Parking lot
 - Students have adjusted great
 - Appears less traffic on 202
 - Reports from elementary schools that buses are getting there earlier
 - Overall feedback from parents has been positive

- Ms. Manganelli
 - Gave update on preparation for PARCC testing
 - Pleased to report that the District is up to date and on schedule
 - Everything has been uploaded to Pearson
 - Practice Session for 2/2 and 2/4
 - All administrators have been trained
 - All teachers have been trained

- Ms. Christiano
 - Introduced Ms. Richter (teacher/student council advisor)
 - Ms. Richter introduced two student council members who gave a presentation on the fundraising of the VMS student council for the year
 - Thanked Ms. Richter and the students for a great presentation and commented that it is great to see students engaged in these activities

Audience Participation

Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to open meeting for public comment on the Agenda of this meeting. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

Ms. Vivian King - 113 Hiawatha Blvd.

- Asked if the District would be making accommodations for students whose parents do not want them taking the PARCC test
- Mr. Gaffney responded that the District is not making accommodations based on October 30th memorandum from Mr. Hesper
- Ms. King responded that she has documents that as of January 8, Districts may make accommodations and also indicated that Delran and Bloomfield have adopted policy for these accommodations.
- Mr. Gaffney again said that the District is not making accommodations at this time
- Ms. Manganelli commented that a letter addressing guidance from the State is on the website.

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Ms. Marisol Kosolowski -

- Restated her comments from a prior meeting that she feels the short lunch times are developing poor eating habits with the students. Hopes the BOE can lengthen lunch as we develop schedules for next year
- Commented that she feels the VMS dismissal process is going very well however wanted to share that parents are encouraging students to be picked up at other locations near the school and therefore more students may be crossing Route 202.

Ms. Heather Tirino - 21 Andrew Avenue

- Since the PARCC test is computer based, is the District doing anything to improve students' typing skills?
- Ms. Manganelli shared that typing curriculum now begins in second grade and goes through grade 7
 - Teachers are slowly doing more curriculum with Google Doc and therefore are typing more

Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to close meeting for public comment on the Agenda of this meeting. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

Minutes

**Work Session
12/16/14**

Mr. Scerbo moved and Mr. Akovity seconded to approve the minutes of the Work Session of December 16, 2014. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**Executive Session
12/16/14**

Mr. Scerbo moved and Mr. Akovity seconded to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of Public Work Session of December 16, 2014. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**Regular Meeting
12/16/14**

Mr. Scerbo moved and Mr. Akovity seconded to approve the minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of December 16 2014. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

Buildings & Grounds

Safety Drill Report

Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the safety drill report for the month of December. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

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Buildings & Grounds (continued)

Shared Services Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the attached Shared Services Agreement between the Oakland Board of Education and the Borough of Oakland with regard to repaving the parking lot adjacent to Valley Middle School. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

VMS Scoreboard Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to accept, with appreciation, from the Oakland Recreation Commission, a new scoreboard for Valley Middle School Gymnasium. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

VMS Scoreboard Installation Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the installation of a scoreboard in the Valley Middle School Gymnasium, at a cost not to exceed \$1,850. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

Rescind Byer Bros. Corp. Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to rescind the resolution (September 23, 2014 Agenda, Item III.B) awarding the bid for purchase of one New 2015 Chevrolet Express Commercial Cutaway 4500 Van to Byer Bros. Corp. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

Mr. Akovity thanked the Oakland Recreation Commission for their donation of the Scoreboard.

Cafeteria

Cafeteria Report Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve the cafeteria report for the month of December 2014. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Bills List Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve the payment of the attached list of bills for January 2015 when in proper legal form and subject to audit, provided funds are available in their respective accounts. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

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Personnel

Substitutes

Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve the list of daily substitute personnel, including teachers, nurses, teacher aides, playground/cafeteria aides, secretaries, vehicle drivers, technology aides and custodians for the 2014/2015 school year, subject to New Jersey Department of Education Criminal History Review (NJSA 18A:6-7.2) and Chemical Screening, if newly employed by the District, as per the attached lists. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Conferences/
Workshops**

Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve staff participation in professional conferences/workshops outside the District, as per the attached. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Change in Training

Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve the change in training level and updated salary, effective February 1, 2015, for each teacher on the attached list. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

William Moore

Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve the appointment of Mr. William Moore as a Full Time Valley Middle School Student Aide at an hourly salary \$20.25, effective on or about January 5, 2015. (This appointment carries no benefits.) On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Jennifer Kowaleski

Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve the appointment of Ms. Jennifer Kowaleski as a Playground/Cafeteria Aide at Manito School at an hourly salary of \$10.00, effective on or about January 21, 2015. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Elizabeth Stober

Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve the request for leave without pay for Ms. Elizabeth Stober, Playground/ Cafeteria Aide at Heights School on January 8 & 9, 2015. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Don Dean

Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve the request of Mr. Don Dean, Teacher at Valley Middle School, for a leave without pay for February 18-20, 2015. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

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Personnel (continued)

Evelyn Agrusti Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve the request of Ms. Evelyn Agrusti, Special Education Teacher at Manito School, for a leave without pay for February 20 and February 23, 2015. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Elementary Homework Club Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve the creation of an Elementary Homework Club at each elementary school. The club will meet no more than three days a week from 3:15 - 4:00 pm. starting the week of February 2, 2015. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Elementary Homework Club Appointments Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve the appointment of the following teachers for the Elementary Homework Club at a per session rate of \$28.54. Teachers will not exceed 3 (three) sessions per week.

| <u>Dogwood Hill</u> | <u>Heights</u> | <u>Manito</u> |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Kelly Bosgra | Gina White | William Kobb |
| Erin Bauberger | Jim McMullan | Brittany Pobanz |
| Kimberly Schwarz | Kelly Schnug | Kimberly Salacki |
| | | Laura Fama |

On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Ms. Shelkin commented about the Homework Club and that it will be a nice addition and a complement to assistance in the classroom.

Student Teacher/ Practicum Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to acknowledge the Student Teaching or Practicum assignments to the Oakland School District for the Spring 2015:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Assignment</u> | <u>College/University</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Brianna Mariani/ | Student Teacher/ | William Paterson |
| Phylissa Gallotta | Valley Middle School | |

On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Job Descriptions Head Custodian & Custodian Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve the revised job description for Custodian and Head Custodian. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

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Personnel (continued)

Toyin Adekoje Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve the appointment of Ms. Toyin Adekoje as the Heights Elementary School's Anti-Bullying Specialist. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Mentors/Novice Teaching Staff Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve the appointment of mentors for novice teaching staff for the 2014/2015 school year, as per the attached. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Regular Education

Field Trips Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve the field trips for students in the Oakland School District for the 2014/2015 school year, as per the attached. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

HIB Report Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve the HIB Report for the period of December 16, 2014 through January 20, 2015 as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Number of HIB Investigations | - 2 |
| Number of Affirmed HIB Incidents | - 0 |

On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

Weather Station Manito PTO Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to accept, with appreciation, a gift from the Manito PTO in the amount of \$635.75 for the purchase of a weather station from John Marshall, LLC. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

OEF Grants Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to accept, with appreciation, the following grants from the Oakland Education Foundation for the 2014/2015 Teacher Grant Funding:

(1) VMS "Makerbot"/3D Printer - Mr. Ryan Gilligan
Printer, 2-year warranty and materials not to exceed \$4,500

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Regular Education (continued)

- (2) First Grade Buehler Program - Ms. Beth Ann Davis
Dogwood Hill - \$698.50
Heights - \$747.50
Manito - \$643.00

On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

Ms. DeGenero was recognized and thanked the OEF thanked for their donation and continued support.

**Finance
Payroll**

Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the November 2014 certified gross (net & agency) payroll in the amount of \$1,692,050.85. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**Board Secretary
Certification**

Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the Board Secretary's certification to the Oakland Board of Education that, as of January 20, 2015 no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which, in total, exceed the line item appropriation in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)3; and further,

Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the Oakland Board of Education's certification that, after a review of the Board Secretary's and Board Treasurer's monthly financial reports and the advice of District officials, there is no reason to doubt that any major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)4. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

List of Bills

Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the payment of the list of bills with the run date of January 20, 2015, which in proper legal form and subject to audit, provided funds are available in their respective accounts. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**Board Secretary's
Report**

Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the Board Secretary's Financial Report for the month of November 2014. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

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Finance (continued)

Treasurer of School Monies Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the Treasurer of School Monies Report for the month of November 2014. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

Budget Transfers Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the school year Budget appropriation transfers for November 2014, as per the attached list. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

Category Two E-Rate Services Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the attached Category Two E-Rate Services Agreement with E-Rate Exchange, LLC. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

Refunding of School Bonds Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the adoption of the attached Form and Sale Resolution pertaining to the Refunding of School Bonds. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

Drawing of Names Ballot Position Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the drawing of the names for position on the ballot on March 11, 2015 at 4:00 PM at the District Office of the School Business Administrator of the Oakland Public Schools. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

Voting Locations Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the following locations in which to hold the annual school election of April 21, 2015 from 2 PM to 9 PM:

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Polling Place No. 1 | Valley Middle School | Districts 1 & 2 | Rm. #309 & #311 |
| Polling Place No. 2 | Senior Center 20 Lawlor Drive | Districts 3 & 4 | Main Room |
| Polling Place No. 3 | Heights School | Districts 5 & 6 | Gymnasium |
| Polling Place No. 4 | Manito School | Districts 7 & 8 | Gymnasium |

On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

Capital Reserve Account Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve, by the recommendation of the Auditor, the closing of Capital One Capital Reserve Bank Account and the transfer of full balance to the Capital One General Operating Account. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

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Finance (continued)

Mr. Gaffney thanked Mr. Bleeker for his due diligence and following through with the Bond Ordinance Refinancing.

**Audience
Participation**

Mr. Scerbo moved moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to open meeting to public participation. On a roll call vote: ALL AYES.

Ms. Vivian King - 113 Hiawatha Blvd.

- Commented that Ramsey BOE recently voted to move their election and asked if the BOE was entertaining a move as well.
- Mr. Gaffney responded that the BOE is always continuously actively discussing it
- Commented that PARCC is a polarizing issue and that children should not be mules for money
- Implores the District to revisit the idea of having an alternative for students that are not taking the test
- Recommend that students discuss current events in a classroom setting
- Funds are not based on how they do but how many take the test

Ms. Elizabeth Benducci - 9 Valley View Avenue

- Asked why Dogwood Hill School does not have scoreboard and all the other schools do
- Ms. Vivian King encouraged Ms. Benducci to attend the next Rec Commission meeting to discuss it
- Mr. Gaffney responded we will look into it

Ms. Heather Tirino - 21 Andrew Avenue

- Since students in Oakland are taught the Singapore Math method but the high school does not, has there been any conversation to ensure that when students transition to the high school, the teachers there are familiar with the math curriculum at the elementary schools.
- Dr. Coffaro responded that there has been dialogue and that Mr. Clark has attended meetings. Mr. Desiderio and Ms. Manganelli have also been participating
- Mr. Desiderio commented that just last week all Ramapo math teachers as well as math teachers and principals from the three middle schools meet to discuss transition.

Mr. Scerbo moved moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to close meeting to public participation. On a roll call vote: ALL AYES.

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Adjournment

Ms. Cooper moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to adjourn meeting.
On a voice vote: ALL AYES.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Kyle J. Bleeker
Board Secretary/Business Administrator