

Branchburg Township School District

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 17, 2020

Remote Meeting - Live Streamed on District Website

Executive Session - 6:30 p.m.

Public Meeting – 8:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

On a motion by Mr. Carpentier, seconded by Mr. Tuma, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to convene to public session at 7:03 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Board President, Theresa Joyce, who stated that the meeting was convened in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, the Sunshine Law; notices were sent to the *Courier News*, filed with the Township Clerk and posted in the Branchburg Township Schools.

The following members of the Board of Education were present: Vincent Carpentier, Cathy Curcio, Kristen Fabriczi, Noah Horowitz, Theresa Joyce, Keerti Purohit, Jonathan Sarles and Charles Tuma.

The following member was absent: Olga Phelps

Also present were: Superintendent of Schools Rebecca Gensel and Business Administrator/Board Secretary Theresa Linskey

II. The Secretary called the roll.

III. CALL TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Horowitz, seconded by Mr. Tuma, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to convene to Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. to discuss Personnel, Student Matters, Contracts and Legal Issues.

On a motion by Mr. Tuma, seconded by Mrs. Fabriczi, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to adjourn Executive Session at 7:47 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Tuma, seconded by Mrs. Fabriczi, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to reconvene to public session at 8:04 p.m.

IV. The assembly saluted the flag.

V. Statement of Adequate Notice

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Gensel thanked parents for sending in photos of their children playing in the snow, and for saying how grateful they were to have a snow day.

Jennifer Anderson, Director of Curriculum, gave a presentation on Branchburg's Assessment Plan 2020-2021.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

VIII. GOVERNANCE

Motion by Mr. Tuma, seconded by Mrs. Fabriczi that Item VIII.A. be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

On call of the vote, Item VIII.A. was approved by Roll Call, with Mrs. Purohit abstaining on Item VIII.A.

Mrs. Joyce spoke about the following:

- The January 4, 2021 Board of Education meeting is the Reorganization Meeting, which will be held at 7:00 p.m.;
- The Reorganization Meeting will be a virtual meeting;
- She thanked Mr. Tuma, for his years of service on the Board and for his dedication to the residents and children of the Branchburg Township School District;
- She thanked Robert Cline, Supervisor of Transportation, for his many years of hard work and dedication to the Branchburg Township School District; and
- She recognized the resignation of the district's School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Theresa Linskey.

A. Approval of Minutes

It is recommended that the Board approve the Minutes of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of November 19, 2020.

IX. POLICY

Motion by Mr. Tuma, seconded by Mrs. Fabriczi that Items IX.A. through IX.B. be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

On call of the vote, Items IX.A. through IX.B. were unanimously approved by Roll Call.

Mr. Horowitz discussed the Policies and Regulations listed on the agenda.

A. Policy and Regulations Second Reading		
Policy/Regulation	Title	Discussion
Regulation 7410.01	Facilities Maintenance, Repair Scheduling, And Accounting (M)	

B. Policy and Regulations First Reading		
Policy/Regulation	Title	Discussion
P 1620	Administrative Employment Contracts (M)	Revised
P 1648	Restart and Recovery Plan (M)	Revised
P 1648.03	Restart and Recovery Plan – Full-Time Remote Instruction (M)	New
P 2431	Athletic Competition (M)	Revised
R 2431.1	Emergency Procedures for Sports and Other Athletic Activity (M)	Revised
P 2464	Gifted and Talented Students (M)	Revised
P 2468	Independent Educational Evaluation	New
P 5330.05	Seizure Action Plan (M)	New
R 5330.05	Seizure Action Plan (M)	New
P 6440	Cooperative Purchasing (M)	Revised
P 6470.01	Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification (M)	New
R 6470.01	Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification (M)	New
P 7440	School District Security (M)	Revised
R 7440	School District Security (M)	Revised
P 7450	Property Inventory (M)	Revised
P 8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations (M)	Revised

X. EDUCATION

Motion by Mr. Tuma, seconded by Mrs. Fabriczi that Items X.A. through X.D. be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

On call of the vote, Items X.A. through X.D. were unanimously approved by Roll Call.

There was no Education Committee report.

A. Conferences/Travel

WHEREAS, the employees listed below are requesting Board of Education authorization to attend the conferences/workshops listed below; and

WHEREAS, the attendance at the stated function was previously approved by the Chief School Administrator as work related within the scope of the work responsibilities of the attendee and within the funds budgeted for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the attendance at the function was approved as promoting delivery of instruction or furthering efficient operation of the school district; and fiscally prudent;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes attendance at the stated conferences/workshops and reimbursement for the related expenses in accordance with Board policy on conference and workshop attendance.

Conferences/Workshops	Employee/ Account Number	Date(s)	Registration Fee	Hotel	Meals /Exp.	Tolls/Parking /Mileage	Total
Assessment of Learning from a Distance Institute Virtual	Jennifer Anderson 11-000-221-580-02-189-999	1/14/21	\$199	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$199
Intermediate Virtual IMSE Orton-Gillingham Training Virtual	Lauren Knoke 20-270-200-500-02-649	1/13/21 1/20/21 1/27/21 2/3/21	\$1,275	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,275
Reflective Teaching and Transformation Coaching Virtual	Danielle Puglisi 20-270-200-500-02-649	2/23/21 2/25/21	\$99	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$99
Teaching Word Problems in Middle School Math Virtual	Danielle Puglisi 20-270-200-500-02-649	4/1/21 4/8/21 4/15/21	\$129	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$129

Conferences/Workshops (continued)	Employee/ Account Number	Date(s)	Registration Fee	Hotel	Meals /Exp.	Tolls/Parking /Mileage	Total
Supporting Students in Using Core Ideas to Make Sense of Phenomena at Home Virtual	Danielle Puzzo 20-270-200-500-02-649	1/19/21 1/27/21	\$75	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$75
Teaching Word Problems in Elementary Math Virtual	Danielle Puzzo 20-270-200-500-02-649	1/28/21 2/4/21 2/11/21	\$129	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$129
Distance Learning: Strengthening Your Online Math Instruction (Grades 1-5) Virtual	Danielle Puzzo 20-270-200-500-02-649	2/8/21	\$279	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$279
Using Performance Tasks to Support Student Investigations at Home or in School Virtual	Danielle Puzzo 20-270-200-500-02-649	2/9/21 2/16/21	\$75	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$75
Making Crosscutting Concepts Explicit for Students at Home or in School Virtual	Danielle Puzzo 20-270-200-500-02-649	3/2/21 3/10/21	\$75	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$75
Visual Models and Digital Manipulatives in Elementary Math Virtual	Danielle Puzzo 20-270-200-500-02-649	3/2/21 3/9/21 3/16/21	\$129	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$129
Comprehensive Virtual IMSE Orton-Gillingham Training Virtual	Amanda Roper 20-270-200-500-02-649	2/6/21 2/7/21 2/13/21 2/14/21	\$1,275	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,275

B. Approval of Contracted Educational Service						
Vendor	Account Number	Student ID#	Rate	Total (not to exceed)	Effective Dates	Discussion
Learn Well Education Newark Beth Israel Medical Center Newark, NJ	11-000-100-566-03-109-000	7130617798	\$63.84 per hour	\$1,787.52	11/13/20- 12/4/20	Bedside instruction, 10 hours per week, not to exceed 28 hours.

C. Approval of Related Services					
Evaluator	Account Number	Student ID #	Total (not to exceed)	Dates	Discussion
Atlantic Health System Goryeb Children's Hospital Morristown, NJ	11-000-219-320-03-181-340	7087080485	\$575	12/18/20- 2/18/21	1 Independent Educational Evaluation

D. Approval of 2020-2021 Out of District Program						
Program/Location	Account Number	Student ID #	SY Tuition	SY OT Service	Dates	Total Cost
Greenbrook Township Public Schools Greenbrook, NJ	11-000-100-562-03-105-000	1137705037	\$34,222.72	\$22.50 per 30 minutes (not to exceed \$517.50)	1/4/21- 6/17/21	\$34,740.22

XI. HUMAN RESOURCES

Motion by Mr. Tuma, seconded by Mrs. Fabriczi that Items XI.A. through XI.M., be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

On call of the vote, Items XI.A. through XI.M., were unanimously approved by Roll Call.

There was no Human Resources Committee report.

A. Approval of Non-Athletic Stipend				
Name	Account Number	Location	Position	Stipend (not to exceed)
Brian Gornick	11-401-100-101-01-078-020	BCMS	Assistant Drama Coach	\$2,094

B. Approval of Retirement				
Name	Account Number	Position	Location	Effective Date
Janet Muraskin	11-000-270-160-01-462	Bus Driver	Transportation	12/31/20

C. Approval of Transfers				
Name	From	To	Dates	Discussion
Robin DiBetta	BCMS-Instructional Aide 11-213-100-106-01-057-020	SBS-Instructional Aide 11-213-100-106-01-057-060	9/1/20-6/30/21	Support was needed at SBS
Michelle Dooley	Math Instructional Support 11-230-100-101-01-072-090	3 rd Grade Teacher 11-120-100-101-01-012-090	1/4/21-6/30/21	Class changes due to COVID-19
Allison LeMieux	Literacy Instructional Support 11-230-100-101-01-072-090	2 nd Grade Teacher 11-120-100-101-01-012-090	1/4/21-6/30/21	Class changes due to COVID-19
Linda Kaminsky	Literacy Instructional Support 11-230-100-101-01-072-090	1 st Grade Teacher 11-120-100-101-01-012-090	1/4/21-6/30/21	Class changes due to COVID-19
Danielle Puzzo	Kindergarten Teacher - WES 11-110-100-101-01-001-090	STEM Coach 11-424-100-178-01-013-090	1/4/21-6/30/21	Replacing Jocelyn Muzychko
Amanda Roper	Literacy Instructional Support 11-230-100-101-01-072-090	1 st Grade Teacher 11-120-100-101-01-012-090	1/4/21-6/30/21	Class changes due to COVID-19

D. Approval of Resignation				
Name	Account Number	Position	Location	Effective Date
Theresa Linskey	11-000-251-100-01-528	School Business Administrator	BOE	2/9/21

E. Approval of Substitute			
Name	Position	Rate	Dates
Stephanie Keck	Substitute Bus Driver (subject to delivery of documents)	\$18.87 per hour	12/18/20-6/30/21

F. Approval of Revision of Leave			
Employee #	Account Number	From	To
4495	11-120-100-101-01-012-090	Paid Sick Leave 11/6/20-12/4/20	Paid Sick Leave 11/6/20-12/30/20
5889	61-910-310-110-01-001	FFCRA: 9/8/20-9/21/20 Unpaid Leave: 9/22/20-11/27/20	FFCRA: 9/8/20-9/21/20 Unpaid Leave: 9/22/20-2/17/21
4485	11-120-100-101-01-012-090	FFCRA: 9/1/20-11/20/20 Paid Sick Leave: 11/21/20-1/3/21	FFCRA: 9/1/20-11/20/20 Paid Sick Leave: 11/21/20-3/26/21
5274	11-000-240-105-01-343-090	Paid Sick Leave 10/19/20-12/14/20	Paid Sick Leave 10/19/20-1/4/21
5772	11-000-217-106-01-000-090	Accumulated Sick: 9/8/20-9/21/20 FFCRA: 9/22/20-12/8/20	Accumulated Sick: 9/8/20-9/21/20 FFCRA: 9/22/20-12/8/20 Unpaid Leave: 12/9/20-1/22/21

G. Approval of Personnel							
Name	Account Number	Position	Location	Step/Level	Salary/Rate	Dates	Discussion
Samantha Bongiovanni (subject to delivery of documentation)	11-120-100-101-01-012-090	Leave Replacement (no tenure accrual)	WES	1/BA	\$58,685 (prorated)	1/4/21-3/31/21	Leave replacement for Employee #4485
Frederick Boosmann (subject to delivery of documentation)	11-000-270-160-01-462	Bus Driver	Transportation	1/NA	\$29.95 (4.75 hours per day)	1/4/21-6/30/21	Replacing Jill Datesman
Dennis Chu (subject to delivery of documentation)	11-110-100-101-01-001-090	Kindergarten Virtual Teacher	WES	1/150	\$60,835 (prorated)	1/4/21-6/30/21	New Position due to COVID-19

H. Approval of Home Instruction Revision				
SID #	Teacher	Account Number	Hourly Rate	Dates
From: 2772485663 To: 1137705037	Paul Cutaneo Emma Ryan	11-150-100-101-03-066-060	\$45 per hour (not to exceed 6 hours per week, 12 hours total)	11/1/20-12/31/20

I. Approval of Extended Day Counseling					
SID #	Teacher	Position	Account Number	Hourly Rate	Dates
3557364937	Margaret Ryan	LCSW	11-000-218-104-01-141-020	\$63.68 per hour (45 minutes per week, not to exceed 12.15 hours total)	12/18/20-6/30/21
5877428198	Margaret Ryan	LCSW	11-000-218-104-01-141-020	\$63.68 per hour (45 minutes per week, not to exceed 12.15 hours total)	12/18/20-6/30/21

J. Approval of Revision of Maternity Leave			
Employee #	Account Number	From	To
5341	11-130-100-101-01-021-020	Paid Maternity/Disability Leave of Absence: 2/16/21-3/26/21 Personal Days: 4/6/21-4/7/21 NJ Family Leave Act/FMLA: 4/8/21-6/18/21	Paid Maternity/Disability Leave of Absence: 2/1/21-3/26/21 Personal Days: 4/6/21, 4/7/21, 4/8/21 NJ Family Leave Act/FMLA: 4/9/21-6/18/21

K. Approval of Status Change					
Name	Account Number	Position	From	To	Effective Date
Jill Datesman	11-000-270-161-01-470	Bus Driver	Part-Time	Full-Time	1/4/21

L. Approval of Revision of RTI Coordinators					
Name	Account #	Location	From	To	Dates
Kelly Boyle	20-231-200-101-02-649	WES	\$41 per hour (not to exceed 100 hours)	\$41 per hour (not to exceed 121 hours)	9/8/20-6/30/21
Lauren Knoke	20-231-200-101-02-649	SBS	\$41 per hour (not to exceed 100 hours)	\$41 per hour (not to exceed 121 hours)	9/8/20-6/30/21
Danielle Puglisi	20-231-200-101-02-649	BCMS	\$41 per hour (not to exceed 100 hours)	\$41 per hour (not to exceed 121 hours)	9/8/20-6/30/21

M. Approval of Revision of Title One Tutors					
Name	Account #	Location	From	To	Dates
Lauren Bockus	20-231-200-101-02-649	WES	\$41 per hour (not to exceed \$2,542)	\$41 per hour (not to exceed \$4,264)	9/8/20-6/30/21
Colleen Repoli	20-231-200-101-02-649	WES	\$41 per hour (not to exceed \$2,542)	\$41 per hour (not to exceed \$4,264)	9/8/20-6/30/21

XII. BUSINESS

Motion by Mr. Tuma, seconded by Mrs. Fabriczi that Items XII.A. through XII.K. be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

On call of the vote, Items XII.A. through XII.K. were approved by Roll Call.

Mr. Tuma said the Business Committee met on December 15, 2020, and discussed the following:

- Building and Grounds capital projects;
- Cove molding at Branchburg Central Middle School is still on-going;
- Masonry repairs at Branchburg Central Middle School have been completed;
- Music room renovations are almost complete;
- The partition wall in the auxiliary gym at Branchburg Central Middle School has been replaced;
- Bid opening for the HVAC Upgrades and Window Replacement Projects at Stony Brook School is scheduled for December 22, 2020, and will be awarded at the January 21, 2021 Board of Education meeting;
- LED lighting at Whiton Elementary School is still on-going;
- Whiton Elementary School gym floor replacement;
- New transportation parking lot has been placed on hold;
- 2020/2021 budget review items;
- Review of the Long Range Facilities Plan;
- Harlan School Road Wetland application;
- 2020/2021 Budget capital projects;
- The Jointure issues;
- The policies listed for first reading; and
- Old York School well.

A. Bill List

It is recommended that the Board approve the List of Bills for the period November 20, 2020 through December 17, 2020, totaling \$2,009,312.41, and ratify the Payroll for the period November 16, 2020 through November 30, 2020, totaling \$925,863.52, and for the period of December 1, 2020 through December 11, 2020, totaling \$1,069,241.61.

B. Secretary's Report

The Report of the Secretary for November 2020 has been submitted for Board review. As required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)(3) I, Theresa Linskey, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, certify that no line item account has been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations this fiscal year.

It is recommended that the Secretary's Report for November 2020 be accepted and filed, and the Board of Education hereby certifies that no major account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)(4) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

C. Treasurer's Report

It is recommended that the Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2020 be accepted and filed.

D. Line Item Transfers

It is recommended that the Board accept the list of Line Item Transfers for the month of November 2020.

E. Monthly Transfer Report

It is recommended that the Board approve the November 2020 Monthly Transfer Report.

F. Approval of Resolution Authorizing Contracts with Approved State Contract Vendors

It is recommended that the Board approve the Resolution Authorizing Contracts with Approved State Contract Vendors for Boards of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10a.

G. Approval of Purchase of Two 54 Passenger School Buses

It is recommended that the Board approve the purchase of two new 54 passenger school buses through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey, School Bus Bid Award Contract #20/21-33, from Truck King International, at a cost of \$106,012.36 per bus for a total for two buses of \$212,024.72, to be paid by purchase order through the General Fund from Account #12-000-270-733-07-389, and sufficient funds are available in the 2020-2021 budget.

H. Approval of Purchase of One 24 Passenger School Bus Van

It is recommended that the Board approve the purchase of one new 2022 24 passenger school bus van through the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission Bus Bid Award Contract #HCEC Trans-19-17 from H.A. DeHart & Son, at a cost of \$63,815.48, to be paid by purchase order through the General Fund from Account #12-000-270-733-07-389, and sufficient funds are available in the 2020-2021 budget.

I. Resolution to Approve the Somerset County CARES Act Reimbursement Application/Agreement

WHEREAS, the Branchburg Township Board of Education approves the Somerset County CARES Act Reimbursement Application/Agreement, pursuant to the CARES Act, in the amount of \$35,000.

J. Approval to Amend the CARES Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Application

It is recommended that the Board approve an amendment to the CARES Act Grant Application to include an additional \$2,933 for a total sum \$56,626.

K. Approval of Use of School Buses

It is recommended that the Board approve the use of school buses for the emergency evacuation of children from the following, if needed:

Facility	To
Kangaroo Kids Child Care and Learning Center 1047 Route 28 Branchburg, NJ	1. The North Branch Firehouse 1169 Route 28, Branchburg 2. RVCC Children's Campus 118 Lamington Road, Branchburg 3. South Branch Reformed Church 870 River Road, Hillsborough

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michele Jordan, 305 Lilac Court, Bridgewater, supports the Branchburg Township Education Association's request that the Branchburg Township Board of Education move to a totally virtual teaching model following the upcoming winter break. The Branchburg School District is so advanced with technology, and the staff is so adapted to teaching using the latest software and tools for teaching virtual, it only makes sense. She said the students are doing a great job virtually and have accomplished so much at such an early age.

Regina Santangelo, 126 Old York Road, Bridgewater, supports the Branchburg Township Education Association's request that the Branchburg Township Board of Education move to a totally virtual teaching model following the upcoming winter break.

Jennifer Palermo, 516 Presidential Drive, Lebanon, supports the Branchburg Township Education Association's request that the Branchburg Township Board of Education move to a totally virtual teaching model following the upcoming winter break. She said the district has been extremely lucky that during the fall, the COVID-19 numbers were low and we were able to provide hybrid instruction to our students. She is proud of how well the staff and students adapted to the hybrid model, and asked the Board to consider halting in-person instruction until New Jersey COVID numbers come back down.

Cristina Pernini, Whiton Elementary School Teacher, supports the Branchburg Township Education Association's request that the Branchburg Township Board of Education move to a totally virtual teaching model following the upcoming winter break. She asked, going forward, to have snow days be virtual. She felt adding make up snow days at the end of the year is not in the students' best interest academically.

Debbie Glick, Branchburg Central Middle School 8th Grade Teacher, supports the Branchburg Township Education Association's request that the Branchburg Township Board of Education move to a totally virtual teaching model following the upcoming winter break. She said making this move proactively will ensure not only the safety and health of our staff and community, but it will also ensure uninterrupted instruction where staff can be prepared knowing ahead of time how to best plan their lessons.

Nicole Kepner, 2311 Monica Place, Scotch Plains, supports the Branchburg Township Education Association's request that the Branchburg Township Board of Education move to a totally virtual teaching model following the upcoming winter break. She expressed her thanks for a good old fashion snow day. She said school in person is the best for students to learn, however, two weeks of virtual school to offer a buffer, and additional protection against transmission in our schools, is the best way to keep our numbers from following what had happened in other districts.

Tiffany Stulack Polak, Branchburg Central Middle School 6th Grade Language Arts Teacher, supports the Branchburg Township Education Association's request that the Branchburg Township Board of Education move to a totally virtual teaching model following the upcoming winter break.

Kristen Cardona, 6 Robeson Ridge, Oxford, supports the Branchburg Township Education Association's request that the Branchburg Township Board of Education move to a totally virtual teaching model following the upcoming winter break. She expressed her thanks for a good old fashion snow day. She said school in person is the best for students to learn, however, two weeks of virtual school to offer a buffer, and additional protection against transmission in our schools, is the best way to keep our numbers from following what had happened in other districts.

Wendy Michels, 8 Lydecker Place, supports the Branchburg Township Education Association's request that the Branchburg Township Board of Education move to a totally virtual teaching model following the upcoming winter break. She expressed her thanks for a good old fashion snow day. She said school in person is the best for students to learn, however, two weeks of virtual school to offer a buffer, and additional protection against transmission in our schools, is the best way to keep our numbers from following what had happened in other districts.

Kathleen Gaston, 41 East Street, South River, supports the Branchburg Township Education Association's request that the Branchburg Township Board of Education move to a totally virtual teaching model following the upcoming winter break.

Tara Kolbe, thanked the Branchburg Board of Education for making it a priority to have students attend in person. She said she feels very comfortable and safe coming to school every day, and loves seeing the students smiling faces while she is teaching.

Kathryn Grant-Bontomase, North Avenue, Stirling, supports the Branchburg Township Education Association's request that the Branchburg Township Board of Education move to a totally virtual teaching model following the upcoming winter break. She said while in-person instruction is the best possible scenario for children, she is greatly concerned when travel and gatherings are inevitable, and will undoubtedly increase COVID cases. Many of her colleagues and family members practice safe protocols of social distancing, and wearing masks, however, even with the best of intentions, upcoming Holiday events will put many of our students, staff and families at risk. Using caution, and recommendations from the medical professionals will allow everyone to remain healthy and safe.

Randi Lee Childers 68 Tussel Lane, Scotch Plains, and Branchburg Township Education Association President, supports the Branchburg Township Education Association's request that the Branchburg Township Board of Education move to a totally virtual teaching model following the upcoming winter break. She commended her fellow members on their diligence in regards to following safety protocols and wearing and enforcing the wearing of PPE. She said while Branchburg's numbers have remained relatively low within Somerset County, they have most definitely increased since Thanksgiving. She said with the Holiday Season in full swing, and exposure to people not in your bubble, the rise is again inevitable. She is requesting the Board of Education to make the decision to proactively move to a fully virtual teaching model from January 4 to January 15, 2021.

Danielle Puglisi, Branchburg Central Middle School S.T.E.M. and Teacher of R.T.I. Math, supports the Branchburg Township Education Association's request that the Branchburg Township Board of Education move to a totally virtual teaching model following the upcoming winter break.

XIV. BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

Mrs. Fabriczi attended the Somerville Board of Education meeting on December 8, 2020, and discussed the following highlights of the meeting:

- H.I.B. report was discussed;
- Board meetings will now begin at 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m.;
- New Board meeting dates were discussed;
- Two student members of the Board gave a report;
- A new chapter at Somerville High School was created called Student Movement Against Cancer (SMAC);
- Virtual and hybrid learning are going well;
- HVAC renovations are being done to the Guidance Suite; and
- During the Curriculum report, if they move back to a block schedule, there is going to be a class called Freshman Seminar.

Mr. Horowitz said the last day for the PTO Holiday Happiness fundraiser is December 18, 2020.

Mr. Sarles said the Somerset County Educational Services Commission met earlier this month, and discussed how well the school and students are doing. He mentioned that their Resource Officer passed away and everyone is mourning the loss.

Mr. Carpentier said training sessions and workshop classes are posted on the New Jersey School Boards Association website.

Mrs. Joyce said she attended the Branchburg Township Committee meeting where they mentioned how well our school district is doing managing to keep the students in school. She also said they discussed the Resolution to purchase the Silver Saddle Swim Club property using the open space money for the purchase.

Ms. Gensel said the district is continuing to do safety drills.

Mrs. Joyce attended the Delegate Assembly meeting on November 21, 2020, where they discussed creating a policy to clarify if a Board member can put in a nominating petition for a different position on the Board before their current term is over.

XV. BOARD FORUM

Mr. Horowitz spoke about the following:

- Students in Branchburg Central Middle School will be doing some type of show instead of a play this year;
- He congratulated Bob Cline on his retirement, and said his work in the district has been paramount to the district's success; and
- He wished Mr. Tuma well. He said he looked at Mr. Tuma like a mentor, and that his presence on the Board has been fundamental.

Mrs. Purohit wished Bob Cline and Mr. Tuma well, and shares the same sentiment that Mr. Horowitz expressed. She also wished everyone a safe Holiday Season.

Mr. Sarles commended Ms. Gensel for staying on top of the safety for the students, teachers and staff. He said it was a pleasure working with Mr. Tuma, and will miss his expertise, and character as well.

Mrs. Curcio thanked Bob Cline for all of his work, and that he will be missed. She also thanked Mr. Tuma for his dedication and knowledge, and that although their opinions would differ at times, they always came together for what was best for the students.

Mrs. Fabriczi spoke highly of how Bob Cline ran the Transportation Department, and that he will be missed. She also thanked Mr. Tuma and said that he will be missed.

Mr. Carpentier thanked Mr. Tuma, and hopes that he will one day be part of the Board once again. He also wished everyone to have a Happy Holiday.

Ms. Linskey congratulated Bob Cline on his retirement, and said that it was a pleasure working with him. She said his dedication brought so much to the district. She also thanked Mr. Tuma, and said it was a pleasure working with him and that he will be missed.

Ms. Gensel spoke about the following:

- She thanked Janet Muraskin for her years of service to the school district;
- She thanked Bob Cline for his years of service and dedication to the school district; and
- She told Mr. Tuma that he made her a better Superintendent, appreciates the lessons she learned from him, and hopes he will one day be back on the Board working on behalf of the students of Branchburg.

Mr. Tuma said it was a pleasure working with everyone, the Board made his job easy, and that he enjoyed his time on the Board. He also wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Mrs. Joyce thanked the Board for being a great Board to work with. She wished everyone a happy and healthy Holiday Season.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no second Executive Session.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Tuma, seconded by Mrs. Fabriczi, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Theresa Linskey
School Business Administrator/Board