

**GREEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES**  
**Special Meeting**  
**January 27, 2021**

**Time: 7:30p.m.**

**Place: Remotely via WebEx**

**I. CALL TO ORDER** President Bilik

**A. FLAG SALUTE** President Bilik

**B. MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT** Read by President Bilik

This is a special meeting of the Green Township Board of Education held for the purpose of transacting appropriate Board business. In compliance with Chapter 31, Laws of 1975, and N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 et seq. having to do with conducting public business in a transparent manner during a declared emergency, the New Jersey Herald was properly notified, the remote meeting notice was properly posted on the District's website and copies of the agenda of this meeting were appropriately posted and made available for the public.”

**C. ROLL CALL**

	<u>Term</u> <u>Expires</u>	<u>Roll Call</u> _____
Mrs. Marie Bilik	2023	X
Mrs. Ann Marie Cooke	2021	X
Mr. Scott Guzzo	2022	X
Mr. Noah Haiduc-Dale	2022	Absent
Ms. Deana Lykins	2023	7:46pm
Ms. Kristin Post	2021	X
Mr. Michael Rose	2021	X
Mr. Rob Strasser	2022	X
Dr. Melissa Van Blarcom	2023	X
Dr. Lydia Furnari, Interim Superintendent		
Dr. Vincent Occhino, Interim SBA/Bd. Secretary		

In Addition:

Marc Zitomer, Attorney for the Green Township Board of Education  
 Approximately 1 Community Member

**D. MISSION STATEMENT** Read by Read by President Bilik

Our mission at Green is to educate every student in a safe and secure environment to become a confident and caring life-long learner, who can communicate and contribute positively to the changing needs of society. The district, in cooperation with the community, will provide an academic environment that values excellence, initiative, and diversity of our students and community, while supporting a program of studies that is congruent with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

**II. CORRESPONDENCE** - None

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA TOPICS** Read by President Bilik

This remote public session is designed for members of the public to speak on this evening's agenda topics. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comment. If the Board of Education chooses to respond, it does not waive its right thereafter not to respond. Length of comments is limited to three minutes to the individual who has been recognized by the Board president. That recognition will be made in the order names appear in the chat box of the digital platform. Each individual may be limited to one opportunity to speak per topic. Members of the public are asked to state their name and address for the record.

Open at 7:34 pm

None

Closed at 7:35 pm

**IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

A. Discussion of the Green Township School District 2021-2022 school year calendar draft.

President Bilik asked Dr. Furnari to start the discussion on the school district proposed 2021-2022 calendar. Dr. Furnari stated that she used the Green Township School District 2021-2022 school year calendar and the Sussex County School Calendar for 2021-2022 as the basis for the discussion. A Board member asked if the use of remote learning days could be counted as part of the mandated 180 student days instead of inclement weather days. This would allow the school year to end earlier in June. Dr. Furnari responded that remote learning days only count toward the 180 days due to executive order during the health emergency. Any change to this would require legislative action. Dr. Furnari stated that she discussed the

calendar with Newton Superintendent Greene and Andover Superintendent Tobin, and would follow up with them.

V. **BOARD BUSINESS** – Mrs. Ann Marie Cooke

A. Motion to accept minutes as amended of the following meeting:  
Regular Meeting of January 20, 2021. (**attachment**)

Motion ... MRS. COOKE

Second DR. VAN BLARCOM

	MR. GUZZO	MR. HAIDUC-DALE	MS. LYKINS	DR. VAN BLARCOM	MS. POST	MR. ROSE.	MR. STRASSER	MRS. COOKE	MRS. BILIK	ALL IN FAVOR
<b>YES</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NO</b>										<b>0</b>
<b>Abstain</b>						<b>Abstain</b>				<b>0</b>
<b>Absent</b>		<b>Absent</b>								<b>0</b>

B. Board of Education Ethics Training – Marc Zitomer, attorney for the Green Township Board of Education.

Mr. Zitomer’s, power point presentation included examples of the legal responsibilities of being a member of a Board of Education. Mr. Zitomer discussed the ethical response that would assist a board member in dealing with public request for Board information regarding school personnel or how to suggest referring complaints. President Bilik asked Mr. Zitomer for a brief definition of indemnification.

C. Approval of Board of Education Code of Ethics

Be it resolved that the Green Township Board of Education accepts the New Jersey School Boards Association Board Member Code of Ethics as the official Code of Ethics, and further that each Board member has read, understands and shall abide by same. The Board of Education Members had the required Board Ethics Training session as required under N.J.A.C. 6:3-1.3 and N.J.A.C.6A:30.

**CODE OF ETHICS**

1. I will uphold and enforce all laws, state board rules and regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
2. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.
3. I will confine my Board action to policy-making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
4. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow Board members, to see that they are well run.

5. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board of Education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the Board.
6. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan, political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
7. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. But in all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow Board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.
8. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
9. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
10. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. FINANCE** - Mr. Scott Guzzo, Chairperson reported on the January 25<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting. He stated that recent concerns were resolved. During discussion, Mrs. Bilik, in preparation of developing the 2021-2022 school budget, requested that the Finance Committee begin to prepare budget constructs and parameters.

Mr. Guzzo asked for consent agenda on Motions 1 through 10.

Motion .....Mr. Guzzo

Second....Ms. Post

### **November 2020 Financial Reports (attachment)**

1. Motion to accept the preliminary Board Secretary's monthly certification, as attached, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(d) that as of November 30, 2020 no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.S.A. 18A-22-8 and 18A-22-8.1.
2. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 the Green Township School District Board of Education, after review of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's monthly financial reports certify that as of November 30, 2020 and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2. and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
3. Motion to accept the financial reports from the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of November 2020.
4. Motion to approve transfers for November 2020.

### **December 2020 Financial Reports (attachment)**

5. Motion to accept the preliminary Board Secretary’s monthly certification, as attached, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(d) that as of December 31, 2020 no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.S.A. 18A-22-8 and 18A-22-8.1.
6. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 the Green Township School District Board of Education, after review of the Board Secretary’s and Treasurer’s monthly financial reports certify that as of December 31, 2020 and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2. and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
7. Motion to accept the financial reports from the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of December 2020.
8. Motion to approve transfers for December 2020.
9. Motion to approve the Audit Corrective Action Plan for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. **(attachment)**
10. Motion to accept the proposal submitted by the Industrial Appraisal Company of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, to provide an appraisal for the Green Township Board of Education for fixed asset accounting control and insurance valuation purposes at a fee of \$1,995.00. **(attachment)**

***/Roll Call/***

	MR. GUZZO	MR. HAIDUC-DALE	MS. LYKINS	DR. VAN BLARCOM	MS. POST	MR. ROSE.	MR. STRASSER	MRS. COOKE	MRS. BILIK	<b>ALL IN FAVOR</b>
<b>YES</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NO</b>										<b>0</b>
<b>Abstain</b>										<b>0</b>
<b>Absent</b>		<b>Absent</b>								<b>0</b>

**VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NEW BUSINESS TOPICS** Mrs. Bilik read the following:

This remote public session is designed for members of the public to speak on issues for Board consideration. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comment. If the Board of Education chooses to respond, it does not waive its right thereafter not to respond. Length of comments is limited to three minutes to the individual who has been recognized by the Board president. That recognition will be made in the order names appear in the chat box of the digital platform. Each individual may be limited to one opportunity to speak per topic. Members of the public are asked to state their name and address for the record.

Open at 8:31 pm  
None

Closed at 8:32 pm

**VIII. CLOSED MEETING NO CLOSED SESSION**

**IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Dr. Furnari gave an update on the return of K-2 students to the district. She mentioned additional desktop protective barriers have been purchased and social distancing was not a problem. A survey is being sent to parents of K-2 students by Mr. Bollette, Green School Principal, to gather information. Mr. Scott Guzzo asked when the anticipated 4 day plan would be implemented and Dr. Furnari indicated the District was hoping for a mid-February start.

**X. ADJOURNMENT 8:40 pm**

Motion...Ms. Post

Second ...Mr. Rose

	MR. GUZZO	MR. HAIDUC-DALE	MS. LYKINS	DR. VAN BLARCOM	MS. POST	MR. ROSE.	MR. STRASSER	MRS. COOKE	MRS. BILIK	<b>ALL IN FAVOR</b>
<b>YES</b>										<b>8</b>
<b>NO</b>										<b>0</b>
<b>Abstain</b>										<b>0</b>
<b>Absent</b>		<b>Absent</b>								<b>0</b>