

## Special Meeting

May 2, 2018

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at the Early Childhood Center, 270 First Street, Palisades Park, NJ.

Agenda: Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Palisades Park.

Roll Call: J. Woo, P. Kim, K. Bruno, C. Hwang, S. Jang, J. Kim, J. Mattessich, B. Woo  
Dr. Cirillo, Louis Flora, Esq.

Absent: T. Matarazzo

### Statement of Presiding Officer: Jeffrey Woo

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, I hereby state that adequate notice of this Special meeting has been provided by written notice dated April 30, 2018. The meeting has been:

- Posted on bulletin boards located inside each school building
- Communicated with at least one of the Board's designated newspapers
- Filed with the Borough Clerk of Palisades Park

### Discussion:

The discussion of the shared services agreement was initiated by Ken Bruno, who stated that this is a much needed program in our school district. The officers hired by the Borough are good officers and provide hands-on security at our 3 school buildings.

Board member Stephanie Jang questioned how many officers are being hired and placed in our schools, how the rotation of these officers will be conducted, and how many shifts there will be scheduled in a school day.

Board member Barnabas Woo remarked that the Board only received the agreement the day after the April 26<sup>th</sup> board meeting and has not had sufficient time to review the entire agreement. He also stated that there are no signatures on the agreement that was provided to the BOE. The signatories include: Borough – David Lorenzo, Borough Administrator, Police Department – Chief Mark Jackson, Board of Education, Dr. Joseph Cirillo, Superintendent of Schools.

Barnabas Woo is in favor of an agreement, but questioned the term of the agreement - 5 years. "Why can't we try for 1 year and then decide if we want to continue?"

Ken Bruno responded that the agreement can be terminated at any time with 30 days notice.

Paul Kim remarked that the agreement took 3 months to set-up. "As a member of the personnel committee, I made sure that every single officer was carefully screened prior to being hired. I also asked the Board Attorney and the Borough Attorney if there were any conflicts of interest." There are not.

Jeffrey Woo: "If any student or faculty member has a problem with any of the assigned officers, does the Board have the right to terminate the agreement?" Yes

Jeffrey Woo: "Who is responsible for hiring the security officers?" Answer: The Borough and the Chief of Police.

Mr. Woo further stated that he asked for a copy of the agreement on April 20<sup>th</sup> and he did not receive a copy of the entire agreement until the day after the April 26<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Stephanie Jang commented that she did not think it was right for the Borough to assign guards to our schools until the BOE has reviewed and approved the Shared Services Agreement.

Dr. Cirillo said that he took it upon himself to allow the guards in the school buildings, prior to BOE approval. He felt as if it was a great program.

**Audience Participation:**

Charles Stark, resident/parent, asked why the Chairman of the Personnel Committee was not present at this meeting. "Isn't he concerned about the children?"

Dr. Matarazzo is an adjunct professor at St. Peter's University and had to be present this evening at his students' final exams/dissertations.

Dr. Cirillo commented that the Borough has hired 9 retired police officers. They will be scheduled on a rotating basis. They are presently unarmed. The BOE was given \$55,000.00 as part of the agreement and asked to hire a coordinator for this program.

Mr. Frank Donohue, high school principal, spoke regarding a meeting at the Borough with Councilmen Chris Chung, Henny Ruh, Borough Administrator Dave Lorenzo, Mayor James Rotundo, Board Attorney Louis Flora and Borough Attorney John Schettino. He said the agreement was discussed, reviewed and approved for implementation. He also remarked that both the students and faculty expressed relief at the idea of security guards being present in the school buildings.

Maria Pesantes, resident/parent, asked whether or not the officers have training in dealing with juveniles? "Are the officers familiar with our diverse student population?" "What steps were taken into consideration when vetting these officers?"

Dr. Cirillo introduced Councilman Henny Ruh who commented that he took it upon himself to get this program off the ground and begin the vetting for these officers. "They are all excellent men and they have all been vetted." They are not Class III officers or SRO's. They cannot enforce discipline or perform search & seizure operations. They are licensed to carry firearms.

**Formal Action:**

- 1.) A motion by Paul Kim to approve the Shared Services Agreement, seconded by Jason Kim. All ayes on roll call: J. Woo, P. Kim, K. Bruno, C. Hwang, S. Jang, J. Kim, J. Mattessich, B. Woo
- 2.) A motion by Paul Kim to approve the creation of a school safety coordinator, seconded by Ken Bruno. All ayes on roll call: Woo, Kim, Bruno, Hwang, Jang, Kim, Mattessich, Woo
- 3.) A motion by Paul Kim to approve the appointment of Councilman Henny Ruh as the school safety coordinator, seconded by Connie Hwang.

Roll Call:

Jeffrey Woo	No
Paul Kim	Yes
Ken Bruno	Abstain
Connie Hwang	Yes
Stephanie Jang	No
Jason Kim	No
John Mattessich	Abstain
Barnabas Woo	No

Motion does not pass: 4 – Nays, 2 Abstentions, 2 Ayes

A motion made by B. Woo, seconded by J. Kim, all ayes on roll call to adjourn the meeting.

*John Mattessich*