



**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL
Board of Education**

**REGULAR MEETING
August 23, 2021**

1. **Call to Order** – President Cama called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

1.01 Pledge of Allegiance

1.02 Open Public Meeting Announcement

In accordance with requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., adequate notice has been given of tonight’s meeting in the Hunterdon County Democrat and have been posted on the bulletin board by the main office of the Franklin Township School, sent to the Township Clerk and to all Board of Education members and posted on the school website on January 21, 2021.

1.03 Roll Call – Lori Tirone, SBA/BS, determined that a quorum was present.

C. Cama, Pres.	Present	V. Evans	Present	A. Luciano	Present
R. Falcon	Present	K. Sutton, V. Pres.	Present	E. Tomasini	Present
J. Witkowski	Present	N. Diaz, CSA	Present	L. Tirone, SBA/BS	Present

2. **Superintendent’s Report - Nicholas Diaz**

- I would like to thank our custodial staff for all their hard work this summer. It is thanks to their efforts that our school is ready for our students and staff.
- This week our school reopens for staff and students
- Today was our new teacher orientation for both districts.
- August 24-25 are our teacher in-service days. Our training focus will be on using data to raise student achievement and the science of reading.
- August 26th is the first day of school and we look forward to the return of all of our students!

Summer Programs

- We successfully hosted three in-person summer programs in July and August.
- We hosted the Extended School Year program for our special needs students.
- We hosted the Summer Scholar Program for our intervention students in general education.
- And we hosted Camp Achieve which was focused on enrichment activities such as team building, design thinking, physics and rocketry, and activities related to nature.
- All three programs were well attended and we received very positive feedback from families.
- Since 2017, we have expanded our summer program offerings to our students. Previously, we only offered an Extended School Year Program but thanks to various grants we have secured we have expanded to three summer programs.

A big thank you to our teachers and leadership team because without them we would not be able to offer these great programs.

Goals for the 2021-22 School Year

A few of our District goals and priorities for the 2021-22 school year are:

- The mental and physical health, safety, and welfare of all our school community members.

- During the 2021-2022 school year, the district will be creating a Wellness Room. This room will serve as a safe zone for students. The room can be utilized by individuals when feeling overwhelmed, stressed, or for a “brain break.” Mindfulness tools, such as breathing exercises and videos, along with the Zones of Regulation curriculum will be encouraged to assist with self-regulation.
- Raising student achievement particularly in ELA and Math on the NJSLA.
- Successfully implementing the Science of Reading which is based on a body of research that incorporates insights and research from disciplines that include developmental psychology, educational psychology, cognitive science, and cognitive neuroscience.

Recognition

- Franklin Township School is a New Jersey Sustainable School with silver certification. The school applied for and was awarded a \$2,000 grant through PSEG Foundation. A school garden was completed during the 2020-2021 school year.
- As a part of Theme 1 of our Strategic Plan, Excellence in Education, one goal was to create an interventionist position. For the 2021-2022 school year, Mrs. Trina Lahman will serve as the intervention teacher and will provide support to elementary school students in math and language arts.

3. Presentation - FTS Safe Return Plan - 2021-2022 – Mr. Diaz, Superintendent

Mr. Diaz presented the Franklin Township School Safe Return Plan as follows and stated that a letter will go out to the community on August 24th, 2021.

- During the past three Board meetings, the District administration and Board of Education have discussed our Safe Return Plan. The DOE required 10 items to be in the plan.
 - Universal and correct wearing of masks
 - Physical distancing
 - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
 - Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
 - Contact Tracing
 - Screening
 - Vaccine Efforts
 - Accommodations for Children with Disabilities
 - Continuity of Services
 - Public Comment
- This month’s committee meetings to discuss the plan were centered around cleaning up the language in the document and adding the newest mandate. Governor Murphy recently announced EO 251 which requires every individual inside district and school buildings to wear a face mask, regardless of vaccination status. Exceptions include the following circumstances:
 - When doing so would inhibit the individual’s health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
 - When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face mask without assistance;
 - When a student’s documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face mask;
 - When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
 - When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face mask;
 - When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
 - When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or
 - When wearing a face mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

- Masks are also required while on a school bus as masks are mandated on public transportation
- We discussed moving to 3 feet of social distancing to ensure all students could return to school for in-person instruction.

3.01 **Resolved**, to approve the Franklin Township School Safe Return Plan - 2021-2022.

Motion Luciano	Second Sutton	By Voice Vote	Yes ----	No ----	Abstain ----	Absent ----
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No vote.

3.01 **Resolved**, to amend the order of the agenda to go to public comments for the “Safe Return Plan.”

Motion Evans	Second Luciano	By Voice Vote	Yes 7	No 0	Abstain 0	Absent 0
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4. Public Comments – Safe Return Plan

Several members of the public spoke. Most of the comments made were regarding concerns with children wearing masks. Comments made were both in favor, and not in favor of children wearing masks.

4.01 Board Discussion – Safe Return Plan

Each Board member commented. Again, most of comments were on masks and their effect on children. Some members felt that there was no choice but to follow the executive order. Developing a policy, and acceptable documentation from children’s physicians were also discussed, along with possibly including these items in the plan.

Mr. Diaz, Superintendent, said that the best approach is to adopt a policy and procedure and include it as part of the plan.

4.02 Resolved, to amend the “Safe Return Plan” with exceptions.

Motion Evans	Second Luciano	By Voice Vote	Yes ----	No ----	Abstain -----	Absent ----
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No vote.

4.03 A new section was discussed to be added to the “Safe Return Plan” the new paragraph is as follows:

“The District shall accept an individual or parental testimonial letter as evidence that wearing a mask inhibits an individual’s health. Any such letter must describe how wearing a mask specifically affects that individual or student. General statistics or assertions about mask wearing are not acceptable.”

Motion by: Luciano Seconded by: Falcon

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans		X		
Mr. Falcon		X		
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton		X		
Mrs. Tomasini		X		
Mr. Witkowski		X		
Mr. Cama		X		
Totals:	1	6	0	0

Vote was 6-1 against; motion failed.

4.04 A new section was discussed to be added to the “Safe Return Plan” the new paragraph is as follows:

“The District shall accept correspondence from an individual’s health care provider, without being subject to District Physicians review that wearing a facemask inhibits an individual’s health.”

Motion by: Luciano Seconded by: Evans

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon		X		
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini		X		
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama		X		
Totals:	4	3	0	0

Vote was 4-3 in favor; motion carried.

4.05 **Resolved**, to approve the amended Franklin Township School Safe Return Plan - 2021-2022.

Motion by: Luciano Seconded by: Sutton

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon	X			
Mrs. Luciano		X		
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini			X	
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama	X			
Totals:	5	1	1	0

Vote was 5-1-1 in favor; motion carried.

5. Executive Session - #1

5.01 Adopt the Following Resolution

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Franklin Township Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4 -13 and 10:4 -12 that said public body hold a closed session on August 23, 2021 for the purpose of discussing an appeal regarding a student matter. It is expected that the results of the discussion undertaken in closed session will be made public at the time official action is taken. The board expects to reconvene into public session in approximately 20 minutes. Action will be taken.

Motion Luciano Second Sutton By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

The motion carried. The Board adjourned to closed session at 8:50 p.m.

5.02 **Resolved**, to return to Open Public Session.

Motion Falcon Second Sutton By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

The motion carried. The Board reconvened in open session at 9:10 p.m.

6. **Minutes**

6.01 July 19, 2021 – Regular Meeting
6.02 July 19, 2021 – Executive Session

Resolved, to approve the above listed minutes.

Motion Witkowski Second Luciano By Voice Vote

Yes 6	No 0	Abstain 1 (CC)	Absent 0
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7. **Business Administrator Report – Lori Tirone**

Good Evening.

Transportation:

Del Val, who we contract our busing from, has a new computer system. They are still getting the bugs out of it. The bus passes were emailed immaturity on Friday afternoon. We have reviewed with Del Val and they will be resending revised bus passes.

Food Service:

This year, again, all students will be eligible for free meal daily. The meals are subsidized from the Seamless Summer Option Program which is sponsored by the National School Lunch Program. We will start this year with one hot and one cold lunch daily. Please fill out the 2021-2022 application for Free and Reduced School Meals if you are eligible. It can be found on our website. We appreciate your assistance. This documentation is required when applying for Title 1 Grants.

Facilities:

The custodians have done an outstanding job cleaning and maintaining the school over the summer to prepare for the students return. Unfortunately, our gym renovations project will not be complete for the 1st day of school but we should be able to use it by the end of September.

The Window and Door replacement was completed over the summer along with the implementation of a new phone system. Please review the new phone extensions on our website.

We look forward to a great year.

8. **Public Comments - #2**

There were no public comments at this time.

9. **Correspondence**

10. **Subcommittee Discussion and Action Items**

All resolutions are upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

10.01 **Ad Hoc** (Board Goals, Supt Goals/Personnel)/**Strategic Plan** – Mr. Cama, Mrs. Luciano, Mrs. Tomasini

10.02 **Facilities and Finance** - Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Witkowski
Resolved to approve items 10.02.1 – 10.02.15.

10.02.1 School Health Insurance Fund (SHIF)

Be it Resolved by the Franklin Township Board of Education that Lori Tirone be and is hereby appointed as FUND Commissioner to the Schools Health Insurance Fund to represent the Franklin Township Board of Education.

And

Be it Further Resolved that Kim Schuler be and is appointed as Alternate Fund Commissioner to the Schools Health Insurance Fund effective August 23, 2021.

10.02.2 **Preschool Tuition Contracts**

Resolved to approve the following parent-paid Preschool Tuition Contract for the 2021-2022 school year:

Student ID# XXXXX	\$5,362.30
Student ID# 38269	\$3,215.00
Student ID# 36313	\$7,150.00

10.02.3 Motion Amendment

Amend motion made at the August 17, 2020 meeting to approve a withdrawal from Capital Reserve for the Window replacement project instead of the Maintenance Reserve.

10.02.4 Contracted Services Agreement – Media Specialist Consultant

Resolved to approve a Contracted Services Agreement for September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 between 4M Consulting, LLC and Franklin Township Board of Education for Media Specialist Consulting Services service at a rate of \$100/hr. Not to exceed \$4,000.00.

10.02.5 Educational Services Contract – Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Resolved to approve a contract between Franklin Township Board of Education and the State of New Jersey, Commission for The Blind and Visually Impaired, for September 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022, for Student ID# 1821266702 at Education Level 1 at the cost of \$2,200.00 for Educational Services.

10.02.6 Educational Services Contract – Lebanon Township BOE

Resolved to approve a contract between Franklin Township Board of Education and the Lebanon Township Board of Education, for September 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022, for Student ID# 9303861870 and Student ID# 2135812138 for educationally handicapped educational services at \$32,000.00 a student.

10.02.7 Extended School Year Contract – Mountain Lakes BOE

Resolved to approve a contract between Franklin Township Board of Education and the Mountain Lakes Board of Education, for (9) days of the Extended School Year at the rate of \$400.20 a day, for Student ID# XXXX for educationally handicapped educational services.

10.02.8 Educational Services Contract – Mountain Lakes BOE

Resolved to approve a contract between Franklin Township Board of Education and the Mountain Lakes Board of Education, for September 9, 2021 - June 23, 2022, for Student ID# XXXX for educationally handicapped educational services at \$72,037.00.

10.02.9 Change Order #1 – Gymnasium Renovation Project

Resolved to approve Change Order #1 for the Gymnasium Renovation Project in the amount of \$6,710.00 to add "LIONS" on the baseline and to stain both keys.

10.02.10 Change Order #2 – Gymnasium Renovation Project

Resolved to approve Change Order #2 for the Gymnasium Renovation Project in the amount of \$1,492.00 to install (9) cages to protect clocks, emergency lights and exit signs.

10.02.11 Contracted Services Agreement – Child Study Team

Resolved, to approve the amended Contracted Services Agreement between the Franklin Township Board of Education and the Union Township Board of Education for Child Study Team Services (Case Manager, LDTC, Psychologist and Social Worker, and Secretary) for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

10.02.12 Contracted Services Agreement – Coordinator of Curriculum

Resolved, to approve the Contracted Services Agreement between the Franklin Township Board of Education and the Union Township Board of Education for a Coordinator of Curriculum for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

10.02.13 Contracted Services Agreement – Eastern Armored Services, Inc.

Resolved, to approve the contracted services agreement between Franklin Township Board of Education and Eastern Armored Services, Inc. for the period of September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022.

10.02.14 Professional Services Agreement – J and B Therapy, LLC

Resolved, to appoint the following individuals to participate on the DEAC/SCIP Committee for the 2021-2022 school year.

- Nicholas Diaz - Superintendent
- Lindsay Gooditis - Principal
- Anita Petersen - Kindergarten Teacher
- Hunter Timko - P.E./Health Teacher
- Laura Marchese - Special Education Supervisor
- Erin Tomasini - BOE Member
- _____ - Parent

Discussion: Mrs. Sutton was on this committee previously. They meet monthly. Mrs. Tomasini agreed to participate.

Motion Sutton	Second Witkowski	By Voice Vote	Yes 7	No 0	Abstain 0	Absent 0
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10.04 **Policy** - Mrs. Evans, Mr. Falcon, Mrs. Tomasini
 10.04.1 First reading of the following policy:

2224.1	Title IX – Sex Based Discrimination
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Discussion: Policy has different wording/shift in verbiage.

10.04.2 **Resolved** to approve the following revised policies:

3542.2	School Meal Arrears
6140	Curriculum Adoption
5111	Admission
5131R	Student Code of Conduct

Motion Witkowski	Second Luciano	By Voice Vote	Yes 7	No 0	Abstain 0	Absent 0
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10.05 **Negotiations** - Mr. Cama, Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Witkowski
 The committee did not meet.

11. **Consent Agenda**

The matters listed below have been referred to the Board for reading and studying and are to be considered routine. They will be enacted with one motion. If separate discussion is desired, an item may be removed by Board assent.

11.01 **Budget and Finance**

11.01.1 Secretary and Treasurer Report

Approve the Secretary and Treasurer Reports submitted for the months ending July 2021, which agree with each other and the bank.

11.01.2 Financial Reports Certification

Approve the following resolution:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3(c)3, the Board Secretary certifies that no line account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10(a) and; pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3(c)4, we certify that as of July 2021 after review of the monthly reports (appropriation section) and upon consultation with the appropriate officials, to the best of our knowledge no

major line account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the entire fiscal year.

11.01.3 Transfer of Funds

Approve the transfer of uncommitted funds within the 2021-2022 school year budget as per the attached list.

11.01.4 Bill List

Approve the July, 2021 bill list in the amount of \$276,289.12.

11.02 Education

No Consent Items

11.03 Personnel

11.03.1 Approve the increase in per diem rates for the following substitute personnel:

- Substitute Teachers (Includes Paras) - \$135.00
- Substitute Secretary - \$135.00
- Substitute Nurse - \$150.00

11.03.2 Approve the following substitute teacher:

- Laura Backer

11.04 Facilities

11.04.1 Approve the following use of facility requests:

Name of Group	Purpose	Location	Days/Dates	Time
PTA	Monthly Meetings	Library	9/22, 10/20, 11/17, 12/8, 1/19, 2/16, 3/23, 4/27, 5/18, 6/8	7:00 – 9:00 pm
PTA	Book Fair	Library	Sept. 17-24, 2021 9/22/21 (family night)	8:30 am – 3:30 pm 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Work Family Connection	Before/After Care Program	Cafeteria	M-F 2021-2022 School Year	7:00 – 8:45 a.m. 2:30 – 6:30 p.m.

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Nicholas Diaz, to approve the above stated consent agenda items 11.01 and 11.04.

Motion by: Sutton Seconded by: Luciano

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon	X			
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama	X			
Totals:	7	0	0	0
Motion Carried				

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Nicholas Diaz, to approve the above stated consent agenda items 11.03.

Motion by: Sutton Seconded by: Luciano

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon			X	
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski			X	
Mr. Cama	X			
Totals:	5	0	2	0
Motion Carried				

12. Board Matters/New Business

Mrs. Sutton: Mentorship

Mrs. Luciano had a question about the part time G.T. posting. Mr. Diaz explained that the program was held outside of school hours and that parents would rather have it during the school day. It was suggested to leave the program as is.

13. Public Comments- Privilege of the Floor (3 minutes)

Jackie Bradley, PTA, announced that there will be a Welcome Back for staff on Tuesday, August 24th. She also spoke about the PTA website, Spirit Wear and PTA meetings.

There was a comment on the G.T. program interfering with after school activities and that they prefer the program to be within the school day.

A parent expressed concerns regarding the health forms, and children’s health. She also had an inquiry about mask breaks.

14. Personnel - All resolutions are upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

14.01 Appointment – Leave Replacement Teacher

Resolved, to appoint Maura Perry as Leave Replacement Teacher beginning August 24, 2021 through December 31, 2021 at an annual salary of \$58,555.06 (to be prorated).

Motion by: Luciano Seconded by: Sutton
 Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon	X			
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama	X			
Totals:	7	0	0	0
Motion Carried				

14.02 Appointment of Stipend Positions

Resolved, to approve the following employees for the stipend positions listed below for the 2021-2022 school year.

Name	Position	Amount
Jen St. Laurent	Student Council Advisor	\$2,647.00
Karen Brokaw/Jen St. Laurent	Yearbook Advisor	\$2,517.00 (\$1,258.50 ea.)
Steven Hunter Timko	Athletic Director	\$2,702.00
Steven Hunter Timko	Baseball Coach	\$2,106.00

Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama	X			
Totals:	7	0	0	0
Motion Carried				

14.05 **Resolved**, to approve Stephani Stephens as the substitute school nurse at the per diem rate of \$150.00 beginning August 26th through approximately December 1, 2021 (not to exceed 60 days).

Motion by: Witkowski Seconded by: Luciano
Discussion: Was there anymore interest in the position?

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon	X			
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama	X			
Totals:	7	0	0	0
Motion Carried				

15. **Executive Session #2**

15.01 Adopt the Following Resolution

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Franklin Township Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4 -13 and 10:4 -12 that said public body hold a closed session on August 23, 2021 for the purpose of discussing personnel and an appeal regarding a student matter. It is expected that the results of the discussion undertaken in closed session will be made public at the time official action is taken. The board expects to reconvene into public session in approximately 45 minutes. Action will be taken.

Motion Luciano Second Witkowski By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

The motion carried. The Board adjourned to closed session at 9:57 p.m.

15.02 **Resolved, to return to Open Public Session.**

Motion Luciano Second Witkowski By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

The motion carried. The Board reconvened in open session at 10:43 p.m.

16. **Other Business**

17. **Adjournment**

17.01 **Resolved to** Adjourn from the Public Meeting at 10:45 p.m.

Motion Witkowski Second Evans By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Tirone, SBA/BS