

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE ELK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 AURA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VIRTUAL MEETING.**

Purpose: 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR REGULAR BOARD MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER  
SEE PAGE (S) \_\_\_\_\_ OF MINUTES AGENDA

Special Note: THE MEETING APPROVED AND PRE-SCHEDULED BEGAN 7:00 P.M.

Board Mem.	Ms. Danielle Bland	Mrs. Mary Snively
Pres.	Mr. J. Wilson Hughes, Jr.	Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin
	Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett	Ms. Courtney Vance
	Ms. Cheryl Potter	Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz
	Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent	

Admin. Pres. Dr. Piera Gravenor, Superintendent, Dr. Anthony Fitzpatrick, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Joseph Collins, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Statement: As Board President of the Elk Township Board of Education, I hereby certify that all provisions of the  
Regular "Open Public Meeting Law" P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, have been met. Notice of this meeting was mailed to  
Session: "The South Jersey Times", "The Sentinel", as well as to the Municipal Clerk of Elk Township.

Pledge: Mr. J. Wilson Hughes, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mission Statement: Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin read the below statement:

We strive to educate students and assist them in realizing their full potential as responsible, productive, contributing members of society by providing an educational environment in which students are challenged, differences are valued, and excellence is expected.

**MINUTES:**

Aprv. Motion by Ms. Cheryl Potter, seconded by Mrs. Mary Snively to approve the minutes as listed:  
Minutes:

1. Regular Session – August 12, 2021
2. Executive Session – August 12, 2021

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0  
Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Motion carried unanimously

**COMMUNICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

None

**CITIZENS**

Open Public: Motion by Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett, seconded by Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz to open the first public portion

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0  
Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Motion carried unanimously

Ms. Colleen Barbaro questioned why the Board of Education meetings are not in person  
Mr. Joseph Collins stated that the requirements set forth by the state cannot be met  
Ms. Colleen Barbaro questioned if the Delsea Board of Education had voted to send a letter to the Governor in regards to masks being optional

Dr. Piera Gravenor stated that they had voted to send a letter to the Governor

Ms. Leighanna Roth stated that she agrees with asking for masks to be optional due to the mental stress the masks create

Ms. Leighanna Roth questioned what climate and culture surveys have been done and how the survey answers been implemented

Mr. Wayne Murschell reviewed some of the highlights of what is being done to better the climate and culture of the school

Ms. Lynette Patterson stated that she agrees with masks being optional

Ms. Lynette Patterson questioned why all panelists are not visible to the public during the zoom meeting

Dr. Piera Gravenor stated that the meetings are set up as a webinar not as zoom meeting

Ms. Lynette Patterson questioned Covid-19 testing within the school

Dr. Piera Gravenor stated that the Covid-19 testing would be for staff only

Ms. Lynette Patterson questioned the curriculum for health and sex education

Mr. Wayne Murschell stated that the information given to third and fourth graders is sent out to parents

Ms. Lynette Patterson questioned if genders are separated during the teaching of sex education

Mr. Wayne Murschell stated that the genders are separated

Ms. Colleen Barbaro questioned if back to school night will be held in person

Mr. Wayne Murschell stated that Back to School Night will be held in person

Ms. Katie Franklin questioned if the school was giving the students agenda books this year

Mr. Wayne Murschell stated that they would not be distributing agenda books this year

Ms. Leighanna Ross stated that she hopes that future Board meetings will be held in person

Ms. Nicole Lucarine requested that the Board of Education petition the Governor to make masks optional as well as stating that she would like to see in person meetings in the near future

Ms. Lynette Patterson stated that she would like to see Board meetings be in person in the near future

Close Public: Motion by Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett, seconded by Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin to close the first public portion

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0

Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Motion carried unanimously

**COMMITTEES:**

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** - Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz

*(All hiring is pending completion of required state paperwork and is dependent upon COVID 19 legislation and funding)*

Aprv. 21-22  
Climate Team  
Members/Hrly  
Rates:

Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approved the following Climate Team members for the 2021-2022 school year to be paid at a rate of \$45/hr for climate grant work and \$25/hr for monthly grant newsletter writing as listed:

Brian Cogle	Dina Holmes	Judy Jusko
Tara Palmer	David Paoline	Brooke Tharp
Marielle Walker		

Motion by Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz, seconded by Mrs. Mary Snively

Roll Call Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0

Ms. Danielle Bland - Yes  
 Mr. J. Wilson Hughes, Jr. - Yes  
 Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett - Yes  
 Ms. Cheryl Potter - Yes  
 Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent  
 Mrs. Mary Snively - Yes  
 Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin – Yes  
 Ms. Courtney Vance - Yes  
 Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz – Yes

Motion carried unanimously

Aprv. LOA:

Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approved the amended leave of absence as listed:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Leave Requested</u>	<u>Federal Medical Leave Act</u>	<u>State Medical Leave Act</u>	<u>Sick Days</u>
Sonya Cramer (teacher)	2/8/2021 through 5/8/2021	2/8/2021 through 5/8/2021 (benefit 12 weeks)	N/A	Unpaid leave 2/8/2021 through 5/8/2021

Motion by Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz, seconded by Ms. Cheryl Potter

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0  
 Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Motion carried unanimously

**POLICY** – Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin

Aprv. Policies/  
 Regulations:

Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approved on first reading the following policies as listed:

Policy # 1642	Earned Sick Leave Law (M) (N)
Policy # 1648.11	The Road Forward COVID-19 - Health & Safety (M) (N)
Policy # 1648.13	School Employee Vaccination Requirements (M) (N)
Reg. # 2431.1	Emergency Procedures for Sports and Other Athletic Activity (M) (R)
Policy # 6470.01	Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification (M) (N)
Reg. # 6470.01	Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification (M) (N)
Policy # 8613	Waiver of Student Transportation (N)

Motion by Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin, seconded by Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz to table Policy #1648.11

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0  
 Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Motion carried unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin, seconded by Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – \*0 Abstentions – 0  
 Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent  
 \*Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz – No (Policy 1648.13)

Motion carried

**CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY – Ms. Cheryl Potter**

Aprv. 21-22  
McRel TED  
for Teachers  
Eval. System:

Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approved the 2021-2022 McRel Teacher Evidence Document for the teacher’s evaluation system

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Motion by Ms. Cheryl Potter, seconded by Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0

Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Motion carried unanimously

Aprv. Rowan  
NAFME  
Chapter to  
Promote  
Music:

Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approved the Rowan University student NAFME Chapter to promote the music program at Rowan on the following dates:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Grade</u>
9/27/2021	9:00 am & 10:30 am	3rd and 4th grade
9/29/2021	9:00 am & 10:30 am	5th and 6th grade

Motion by Ms. Cheryl Potter, seconded by Ms. Danielle Bland

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0

Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Motion carried unanimously

**BUDGET & FINANCE/FACILITIES/CAFETERIA/TRANSPORTATION**

**BUDGET & FINANCE – Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett**

Aprv. Board  
Secretary’s  
Report:

Approved Board Secretary’s Report in accordance with 18A: 17-36 and 18A: 17-9 for the month of July 2021. The Board Secretary certifies that no line item account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A – 16.10 (c) 3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year

Motion by Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett, seconded by Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0

Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Motion carried unanimously

Aprv.  
Treasurer’s  
Report:

Approved the Treasurer’s Report in accordance with 8A:17-9 and 18A:17-36 for the month of July 2021. The Treasurer’s Report and Secretary’s Report are in agreement for the month of July 2021.

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Motion by Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett, seconded by Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0

Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Motion carried unanimously

Aprv Board Sec. Cert.: Approved in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 16.10 (c) 2 the certification of the Board Secretary that there are no changes in anticipated revenue amounts or revenue sources

Motion by Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett, seconded by Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0  
Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Motion carried unanimously

Aprv Board Cert: Approved Board of Education Certification – pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 16.10 (c) 4. We certify that after review of the secretary’s monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge no major accounts or funds have 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 remainder of the fiscal year

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Motion by Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett, seconded by Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0  
Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Motion carried unanimously

Aprv. Transfers: Approved the July 2021 Transfer Report

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Motion by Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett, seconded by Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz

Roll Call Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0  
Ms. Danielle Bland - Yes  
Mr. J. Wilson Hughes, Jr. - Yes  
Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett - Yes  
Ms. Cheryl Potter - Yes  
Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent  
Mrs. Mary Snively - Yes  
Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin - Yes  
Ms. Courtney Vance - Yes  
Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz – Yes

Motion carried unanimously

Aprv. Bills: Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approved the monthly bill list as distributed:

1. General Bill List	\$	146,251.65
2. Hand Check	\$	37,594.82
3. Cafeteria Bill List	\$	493.96

Motion by Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett, seconded by Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz

Roll Call Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0  
Ms. Danielle Bland - Yes  
Mr. J. Wilson Hughes, Jr. - Yes  
Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett - Yes  
Ms. Cheryl Potter - Yes

Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent  
 Mrs. Mary Snively - Yes  
 Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin - Yes  
 Ms. Courtney Vance - Yes  
 Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz – Yes

Motion carried unanimously

**FACILITIES** – Ms. Courtney Vance

Aprv. Facility  
 Use Request:

Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approved the following facility requests as listed:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Facility Requested</u>	<u>Dates Requested</u>	<u>Time Requested</u>
Elk Township Fire Department	Parking Lot & Restrooms	10/6/2021 (Wednesday)	6:00 pm through 9:00 pm

*(All facility requests are pending proper insurance certificates)*

Motion by Ms. Courtney Vance, seconded by Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0  
 Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Motion carried unanimously

**CAFETERIA** – Ms. Courtney Vance

None

**TRANSPORTATION** - Ms. Danielle Bland

Aprv. Trans.  
 Jointure:

Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approved the following 2021-2022 transportation jointure as listed:

1. Delsea Regional High School District

Motion by Ms. Danielle Bland, seconded by Mrs. Mary Snively

Roll Call Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0  
 Ms. Danielle Bland - Yes  
 Mr. J. Wilson Hughes, Jr. - Yes  
 Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett - Yes  
 Ms. Cheryl Potter - Yes  
 Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent  
 Mrs. Mary Snively - Yes  
 Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin - Yes  
 Ms. Courtney Vance - Yes  
 Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz – Yes

Motion carried unanimously

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Aprv. July  
 HIB:

Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approved the July 2021 HIB report as previously submitted

Motion by Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin, seconded by Mrs. Mary Snively

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0

Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Motion carried unanimously

Board Reports: Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent acknowledge the receipt of the following reports as listed:

1. Enrollment - N/A
2. Staff Attendance
3. Nurse’s Report – N/A
4. HIB Report – August 2021
5. Facility Manager’s Report
6. Principal’s Report
7. Fire Drills/Crisis Drills

Fire Drill	08/31/2021	2:35 pm
Lockout Drill	08/31/2021	2:40 pm

Motion by Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin, seconded by Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0

Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Motion carried unanimously

**LEGISLATION** – Mrs. Mary Snively

None

**GLOUCESTER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION** – Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin

None

**SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT** – Mr. Joseph Collins

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz questioned if the Board would be interested in sending a letter to the Governor in regards to the mask mandate

Mr. J. Wilson Hughes, Jr. stated that it would need to go to be voted on

Denied Motion to Write Letter: Motion by Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz, seconded by Ms. Cheryl Potter to write a letter to the Governor in regards to mask mandate

Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin questioned if parents can write letters on their own behalf

Dr. Piera Gravenor stated that parents could write letters

Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett stated that this is a State requirement and she does not feel that writing a letter will be beneficial

Roll Call Vote:

Yes – 5 No – 3 Abstentions – 0

Ms. Danielle Bland - No

Mr. J. Wilson Hughes, Jr. - No

Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett - No

Ms. Cheryl Potter - Yes

Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Mrs. Mary Snively - Yes

Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin - No

Ms. Courtney Vance - No  
Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz – Yes

Motion Denied

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Cheryl Potter reminded everyone that WAWA is offering free coffee to all teachers for the month of September

**CITIZENS**

Open Public: Motion by Mrs. Jennifer Wirtz, seconded by Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin to open the second public portion

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0

Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Motion carried unanimously

Ms. Lynette Peterson stated that if meetings were in person she could prove to the Board that masks are not needed

Ms. Katie Franklin questioned if there was an option for Females to be taught sex education by a female  
Dr. Piera Gravenor stated that at this time there is not a female teacher for this subject however there are females within the building for the children to talk to

Ms. Katie Franklin questioned if the videos that are used for sex education are able to be viewed by parents prior to the children viewing them

Dr. Piera Gravenor stated that if a parent would like to view these videos to please contact Mr. Wayne Murschell and he will be happy to help

Ms. Angela Prisco questioned if a child can be opted out of the sex education class

Dr. Piera Gravenor stated that a parent could opt a child out of the class

Ms. Angela Prisco stated she is ok with the sex education class as long as parents are informed as to what is being taught in the class

Ms. Angela Prisco stated that kids being quarantined is very difficult for working parents

Ms. Angela Prisco stated that her child has told her they are not getting any mask breaks

Ms. Colleen Barbaro stated that the parents in attendance are educated people including two nurses and one nurse practitioner and that the concerns of all parents should be listened to without being dismissed

Ms. Lynette Peterson stated that some of the parents within the district are not aware of how the chain of command works for issues that may arise

Dr. Piera Gravenor explained the chain of command

Close Public: Motion by Mrs. Angelique Stoney-Siplin, seconded by Mrs. Joyce Massott-Burnett to close the second public portion

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0

Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent

Motion carried unanimously

Aprv. - Meeting Adjourned 9:02 p.m.: Motion by Ms. Cheryl Potter, seconded by Mrs. Mary Snively that the meeting be adjourned 9:02 p.m.

Voice Vote:

Yes – 8 No – 0 Abstentions – 0

Mrs. Sarah Ruczynski - Absent



Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

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Joseph M. Collins,  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary