

**BANGOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 16, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by President Richard Kowalski at 4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT	Richard Kowalski, President; John Loop, Vice-President; Melissa Kaczmarek, Secretary; Brian Tobin, Treasurer; Jason Forgash, Trustee; Mark Seymour, Trustee; and Patrick Shaffer, Trustee
MEMBERS ABSENT	None
EXPRESSIONS/ COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC	Mr. Kowalski welcomed Jason Forgash and Patrick Shaffer to the Board of Education.
ACTION ITEM	Recommendation to Approve Out of State Trip to Presidential Inauguration, Washington DC – A motion was made by Melissa Kaczmarek, supported by Mark Seymour to approve this trip.

Mr. Shaffer asked how long this trip has been planned and why it was not brought to the Board prior to this week for approval. Kristin Aimar presented the timeline which began in April 2016 confirming a lot of planning did go into this trip. There were several parent meetings and two fundraisers and it was reopened for new students that started in the fall. As the school administrator, Dan Decuf took full responsibility and apologized for not having this trip brought to the Board for approval. Holly Paul apologized to the Board as Kristin Aimar's mentor for not following the process for out of state trips. Mr. Schmidt confirmed the process was not followed and stated he will follow through and communicate to administration and staff the process for all out of state trips. All out of state field trips must be submitted to the Board with educational objectives before beginning any fundraising events.

Mr. Kowalski asked how much the trip cost per student and if every student was given the opportunity to participate. Mr. Kowalski asked if assistance was available to students who were in need. Ms. Aimar stated World Strides offered and encouraged students to apply for financial aid via a 1-800 number. Also, there is a program called "Gift of Education" on social media which allows friends and relatives to gift funds in an account that is applied toward their trip. 28 Students are going on the inauguration trip along with three teachers and four parent volunteers. Mr. Decuf encouraged teachers to work with students with exams that are being given during their absence. Most students will be taking exams before departing to Washington DC.

Jason Forgash asked about the security throughout the entire trip. Ms. Paul and Ms. Aimar felt very confident with World Strides, which emphasizes student safety is their #1 concern. World Strides specializes in school trips and has taken many schools on trips similar to this. Some of the safety precautions include: World Strides checks daily to make sure it is a safe environment right up to the time they arrive. There will be additional hotel security placed on the floor at 9:45 p.m. where the students are staying. There is no free time on the agenda and parent volunteers were told all students must stay with their teacher and group. All chaperones have medical/emergency forms on their person, and World Strides has emergency/medical forms for each individual. Parent volunteers were notified that they will not be allowed to take any child not even their own child on their own excursion.

Mr. Kowalski asked for a show of hands in favor of the motion. Motion approved; 7-0.

OTHER DISCUSSION

The Board agreed this is a phenomenal opportunity for the students and it will be an experience the students will never forget and to have a great trip and be safe!

**EXPRESSIONS FROM
THE PUBLIC**

Holly Paul and Kristin Aimar thanked the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Mark Seymour made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

**RESPECTFULLY
SUBMITTED,**

**MELISSA KACZMAREK
SECRETARY**