

CEDAR GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Cedar Grove, New Jersey
MINUTES

December 15, 2020

Virtual Board Meeting (via GoToMeeting)

Public Session 6:30 PM

Mrs. Dye, Board President, called the Regular Meeting of the Cedar Grove Board of Education to order at 6:30 pm

Roll Call:

- ✓ Mrs. DiChiara
- ✓ Mrs. Mega
- ✓ Mr. Splendoria
- ✓ Mr. Schoner
- ✓ Mrs. Dye

Mr. Anthony Grosso, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Michael DeVita, Board Secretary were also present.

The following motion was made by Mrs. Mega and seconded by Mr. Splendoria and unanimously carried.

E1. Motion to **adjourn to executive session to discuss the following items:**

- Student matter relative to **HIB**. Action is not expected to follow the discussion in the executive session. Due to the confidentiality of student matters, public release of this discussion will probably never occur.
- Legal matter relative to a **pending litigation against the Board**. Action is not expected to follow the discussion in the Executive Session. Public release of the discussion will occur upon completion of the matter.
- Personnel matter relative to **candidates for employment**. Action may follow the discussion in the Executive Session. Public release of the discussion will occur upon completion of any contracts.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:41 pm and Mrs. Dye led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the following announcement:

Announcement: The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of, and to attend the meeting of, public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Cedar Grove Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be advertised, by having the date, time, and place thereof posted on bulletin boards in the District, published and/or transmitted to the *Verona-Cedar Grove Times* and *Star Ledger* newspapers, TAPinto online news, filed with the Township Clerk, and posted on the District's web site.

Roll Call:

- ✓ Mrs. DiChiara

- ✓ Mrs. Mega
- ✓ Mr. Splendoria
- ✓ Mr. Schoner
- ✓ Mrs. Dye

Mr. Anthony Grosso, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Michael DeVita, Board Secretary were also present.

The meeting was opened to the public for comment on items on the agenda. No one from the public wished to be heard.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Mega reported that residents are allowed to pick up the candle bag of lights at the town hall.

Mr. Grosso read a statement from the high school student representative. The music dept is putting on a production of "It's a Wonderful Life" in the form of a live radio play, Tickets are currently available for December 18 and 19 at 7 pm. The Key Club and All School Council are giving out gift cards to Nancy's Place in Montclair for young adults with mental illness. Plan on having a small spirit week the week before the holiday break. They are going to have a snowflake making competition between the grades instead of the Deck the Halls competition. There will be a clothing fundraiser.

BOARD PRESENTATIONS:

High School Principal, Dustin Bayer spoke about a fundraiser that two high school students, Matthew and Michael McAuliffe, did called "Kindness for Christopher Pajama Drive."

Athletic Director, Robert Gogerty, spoke about the accomplishments for the Fall Athletic Season. The boys soccer team had another successful season finishing 9-4 on the year and reaching the state sectional semifinal for the first time in school history. The girls cross country team finished 3rd in the NJSIAA state sectional meet, their highest finish at this meet in a long time. The girls tennis team finished with a successful 7-4 season and had a big upset win over Waldwick HS in the state tournament first round. The girls soccer team battled and played hard through a very tough SEC Liberty division all year. The football team were the National White Division Champions with a record of 7-1.

Superintendent Update

Mr. Grosso thanked and congratulated the Fall athletes. He gave a district COVID update, all schools are all virtual, cases increased last week but positive cases are decreasing. Reported on each school's Governor's Educator of the Year Award winners. A new dual enrollment program at Montclair State University called PADE (Panther Academic Dual Enrollment) Program where

high school seniors will be allowed to enroll in college level courses. The first Equity and Diversity Advisory Council meeting was held. The CGHS robotics team qualified for the playoffs of the @GoCoderZ Virtual Cyber Robotics Competition. The Peer to Peer leadership program will mentor younger students. The HS will have a live radio play and tickets are on sale. Spoke about weather closures for the forecasted storm on 12/17/2020 and the reasonings for school closing or remaining all virtual.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR and BOARD SECRETARY

A motion was made by Mr. Splendoria and seconded by Mrs. Mega and unanimously carried to approve items B1 through B5.

- B1. Motion to **approve the Public and Executive minutes** of November 17, 2020.
- B2. Motion to **approve the budgetary transfers** for the months of November 2020.
- B3. Motion to **approve the Treasurer's Report** for the month of October 2020.
- B4. Motion to **approve the Board Secretary Report** for the month of October 2020.
- B5. Motion to **approve the Board Secretary's certification to the Cedar Grove Board of Education, pursuant to NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)3, that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which, in total, exceed the line item appropriation in violation of NJAC 6A:23-2.11(a); and further pursuant to NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)4, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23-2.11(b).**

The following motion was made by Mrs. Mega and seconded by Mrs. DiChiara and unanimously approved.

- B6. Motion to **pay the following List of Bills: \$3,688,016,85 for 11/18/2020-12/15/2020**

A motion was made by Mrs. DiChiara and seconded by Mr. Schoner and unanimously carried to approve items B7 through B14.

- B7. Motion to **approve the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklists for the 2020-21 school year** and authorize submission of the Statement of Assurance to the Essex County Superintendent of Schools.
- B8. Motion to **approve the School Safety and Security Plan** for the 2020-2021 school year and authorize submission of the Statement of Assurance to the Essex County Superintendent of Schools.

B9. Motion to **approve offering a Governmental 457 Deferred Compensation Plan** to all eligible employees and authorize the Business Administrator to execute a plan agreement to establish employee accounts.

B10. Motion to **approve the removal of \$51,670 from the Capital Reserve account**, pursuant to 6A:23A-14.1, to be used in the General Fund for the purchase of a new boiler, demolish and to remove the existing leaking boiler at Memorial Middle School.

B11. Motion to **approve the submission of the amendment to the IDEA FY 2021 Grant to reflect the additional carryover amounts** as follows:

BASIC: \$34,430

PRESCHOOL: \$7,782

B12. Motion to **approve the submission of the amendment to the ESEA FY 2021 Grant to reflect the additional carryover amounts** as follows:

TITLE I: \$8,919

TITLE IIA: \$6,475

TITLE IV: \$2,697

B13. Motion to **accept the generous donation from Matt Naughton of the Cedar Grove Lions Club** in the amount of (8) Shoprite Gift Cards valued at \$25 each.

B14. Motion to **approve the location agreement with Biscuit Filmworks**, and the Cedar Grove Board of Education for a commercial film shoot at Cedar Grove High School on December 16, 2020 for a fee of \$7,500. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A motion was made by Mr. Schoner and seconded by Mr. Splendoria and unanimously carried to approve items S1 through S14.

S1. Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation Involving SID# 20240760522 from 11/2/2020 for reason set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Board Secretary/ School Business Administrator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

a. HIB Conflict

S2. Motion to **appoint the following staff in accordance with the State Emergent Hiring Start Date procedures:**

- **Nancy Chiang**, High School Chemistry Teacher at MA+30, Step 5, \$60,224 prorated with a start date of January 4, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

- **Brian Fisher**, High School Night Custodian, at step 1, \$38,876, prorated with a start date of December 16, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

G. Aramando	Mat'y	MMS/ Resource	9/11-11/10/20 (40)	11/11-11/22/20 (8)	11/23-2/23/21 (60)	2/24/21	Return to Work
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S12. Motion to **approve the following students for Classroom Observation:**

<i>Student</i>	<i>College/Univ. Student Attends</i>	<i>School Observing in Grade/Subject</i>	<i>Date(s)/Hours of Observation</i>
Elizabeth Tieu	William Paterson University	Memorial Middle School 6-8 Music/Instrumental	January 21, 2021 – June 30, 2021
Jennifer Montejo	Caldwell University	High School Jen Jessen	January 1, 2020 - June 20 2021

S13. Motion to **approve the submission of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary's Merit Goals**, two Qualitative, for the 2020-2021 school year, as approved by the County Executive Superintendent of Schools.

S14. Motion to **approve and adopt the Residency Officer job description** for the district for the 2020-21 school year.

The following motion was made by Mr. Splendoria and seconded by Mrs. Mega and unanimously carried.

S15. Motion to **approve the Second Reading of the following Policy: Bylaw 0164.6 Remote Public Board Meeting During A Declared Emergency (M) (New)**

The following motion was made by Mrs. Mega and seconded by Mrs. DiChiaria and unanimously carried.

S16. Motion to **approve the contract for Cedar Grove High School students with the Montclair State University Dual Enrollment Program**, as recommended by the Superintendent, for the 2021-2022 school year:

WHEREAS, the Cedar Grove Board of Education consistently explores opportunities to provide Cedar Grove High School students with a broad offering of challenging coursework during their high school career, and

WHEREAS, in order to expose Cedar Grove High School students to the rigors of a university education, and

WHEREAS, Montclair State University and Cedar Grove High School are creating an opportunity for Cedar Grove High School students to take college-level coursework at Montclair State University during their senior year, and

WHEREAS, Cedar Grove High School and Montclair State University wish to enter into an educational affiliation whereby high school students in grades 12 may, with the recommendation of the Cedar Grove Public School District, do advanced college level work, enrolled at Montclair State University and receive a possible total of 12 college credits from Montclair State University for successful completion of each enrolled course,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education, in consideration of the mutual promises hereinafter contained, approves the agreement between Cedar Grove High School and Montclair State University.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Mrs. Dye welcomed Dustin Bayer as he officially started as the CGHS principal, wished Trustee Schoner a Happy Birthday and wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

Announcement of future meetings:

January 5, 2021 (Reorg) CGHS Auditorium, 6:30 pm Exec Session; 7:30 pm Regular Mtg

Motion by Mrs. DiChiara and second by Mr. Schoner and unanimously carried to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Cedar Grove Board of Education and enter executive session to discuss litigation and negotiations at 8:23 pm. No further action will occur in public.

Roll Call:

✓ Mrs. DiChiara

- ✓ Mrs. Mega
- ✓ Mr. Splendoria
- ✓ Mr. Schoner
- ✓ Mrs. Dye

Mr. Anthony Grosso, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Michael DeVita, Business Administrator were also present.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael DeVita
Board Secretary