

CEDAR GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Cedar Grove, New Jersey
MINUTES

February 16, 2022

Cedar Grove High School Auditorium

Public Session

6:30 PM

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

Roll Call:

- ✓ Mrs. Dye
- ✓ Mr. Marzullo
- ✓ Mr. Schoner
- ✓ Mrs. Mega
- ✓ Mrs. Daura

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

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

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

- 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 7:39 pm and Mrs. Daura 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. Dye
- ✓ Mr. Marzullo
- ✓ Mr. Schoner
- ✓ Mrs. Mega
- ✓ Mrs. Daura

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA:

Keith Kawecki asked about the following resolutions: B8, B10, B11 and S32.
Jeanine Patel asked about resolution S18.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Daura attended the town council meeting and met with the union leadership.

Mrs. Mega attended the HS APT meeting and reported they are doing a dollars for scholars program and looking for new officers. The SELC committee met and discussed the zen den in the HS, 7 Mindsets and the Mental Wellness Festival on 5/14. The Black and Gold club is looking for new officers and committee volunteers.

Mr. Marzullo attended the recreation meeting and reported about the shared services agreement for the new field by Panther Park and thanked the community for their support for a parent that is undergoing cancer treatments.

Mr. Schoner spoke about the autism fundraiser puzzle tournament on 4/2/22 in the HS.

Mrs. Dye asked about PILOT money, the next EDAC meeting and the next GSA meeting.

Mrs. Daura spoke about a South End fundraiser to support the playground expansion in honor of Nicky Storms.

Board Presentation:

- Dave Coster presented students who are members of the Robotics Team and presented a powerpoint of things that they have done this school year and of the competition they participated in at Millburn HS where they came in second place.

Superintendent Update

Mr. Grosso reported on the following: COVID update, mask mandate will be optional on 3/7/22, C & I reading programs, Linkit data, Alphabest aftercare program update and thanked teachers for their hard work.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR and BOARD SECRETARY

A motion was made by Mr. Marzullo and seconded by Mr. Schoner to approve items B1 through B5.

B1. Motion to **approve the Public and Executive minutes** of January 18, 2022 and the Public minutes for January 26, 2022.

B2. Motion to **approve the budgetary transfers** for the month of January 2022.

B3. Motion to **approve the Treasurer's Report** for the month of December 2021.

B4. Motion to **approve the Board Secretary Report** for the month of December 2021.

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 Mr. Marzullo

B6. Motion to **pay the List of Bills totaling \$3,857,143.04 for the time period of January 19, 2022 – February 16, 2022**

On roll call, the following vote was taken: Mrs. Dye, “yes”; Mr. Marzullo, “yes”; Mr. Schoner, “yes”; Mrs. Mega, “yes”; Mrs. Daura, “yes with the exception of not voting on check # 064458.”

The motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Marzullo and seconded by Mr. Schoner to approve items B7 through B12.

B7. Motion to **accept the donation of student council medals.** This donation was provided by Mrs. Reside, as she was not able to utilize the medals at her school. These medals will be worn by our 8th grade graduates currently on student council.

B8. Motion to **approve the Shared Services Agreement** with the Cedar Grove Board of Education and the Township of Cedar Grove for the use and maintenance of Panther Park Multipurpose Field.

B9. Motion to **accept the generous donation from Matthew Schoner in the amount of \$2,457** as part of his Eagle Scout project for the renovation of a storage area in Cedar Grove High School so the school can create a Career Center.

B10. Motion for **approval of professional appointment:**

WHEREAS, there exists a need for board counsel services, and;

WHEREAS, such board counsel services can be provided only by specialized firms and individuals, and the below firm is so recognized as such a firm or individual and;

WHEREAS, funds are or will be available for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Cedar Grove Board of Education hereby approves the following:

1. The professional appointments of the below firm is retained for the term

commencing February 17, 2022 to and including the date of the next board reorganization meeting:

Board Attorney: Weiner Law Group
629 Parsippany Road
Parsippany, NJ 07054

\$160 per hour for attorneys
\$75 per hour for paralegal

2. The contract is awarded without competitive bidding as “Professional Services” in accordance with the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18(A)(a)(1), because it is for services performed by persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession.
3. A copy of this resolution, as well as any engagement letters or contracts shall be placed on file with the Secretary of the Board.

B11. Motion for approval of professional appointment:

WHEREAS, there exists a need for special board counsel services, and;

WHEREAS, such special board counsel services can be provided only by specialized firms and individuals, and the below firm is so recognized as such a firm or individual and;

WHEREAS, funds are or will be available for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Cedar Grove Board of Education hereby approves the following:

1. The professional appointments of the below firm is retained for the term commencing February 17, 2022 to and including the date of the next board reorganization meeting for open cases only, including Brahma Construction Corp and any existing employee grievances/claims:

Board Attorney: Sciarrillo, Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborne.
238 St. Paul St.
Westfield, NJ 07090

\$160 per hour for attorneys
\$75 per hour for paralegal

2. The contract is awarded without competitive bidding as “Professional Services” in accordance with the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18(A)(a)(1),

because it is for services performed by persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession.

3. A copy of this resolution, as well as any engagement letters or contracts shall be placed on file with the Secretary of the Board.

B12. Motion to approve the following bid:

Whereas: Bids were advertised on January 26, 2022 for the removal and disposal of asbestos containing materials from the boiler room in LRP School and,

Whereas: Sealed bids were publicly opened and read aloud on February 15, 2022 at 11:00 am in the Cedar Grove Board Office Conference Room located at 520 Pompton Ave., Cedar Grove, NJ 07009 and

Whereas: The following bids were received:

Company	Base Bid	Alternate # 1
Spes Contracting, LLC	57,800	3,600
Hazmat Diagnostic, LLC	59,000	10,000
Lilich Corporation	59,500	2,800
Neuber Environmental, Inc.	96,744	5,000
Unicorn Contracting Corp.	69,500	5,500
Nari Construction, LLC	94,000	12,600
Shade Environmental, LLC	98,700	5,900
Academy Construction, Inc	71,000	25,000
Apex Development, Inc.	210,000	18,000
Two Brothers Contracting, Inc.	111,100	4,800
B & G Restoration, Inc.	88,000	6,800
MTM Metro Corp.	67,800	78,500
VMC Company, Inc.	83,790	5,350
Plymouth Companies	118,000	5,800

Whereas: The bid of Spes Contracting, LLC appears to meet all specifications,

Whereas: The funds for this project will come from the District's Capital Reserve Account,

Resolved: That the Cedar Grove Board of Education, based upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary and the Districts Indoor Air Quality/Asbestos Consultant hereby approves awarding a contract for the removal and disposal of asbestos containing materials from the boiler room in LRP School to Spes Contracting, LLC as the apparent low qualified bidder in their base bid amount of \$57,800.

Mrs. Dye had questions on resolutions B8 and B10 about selling the field, retaining rights to the field and the interview process.

On roll call, the following vote was taken: Mrs. Dye, "No on B8 and B10 and yes on all others"; Mr. Marzullo, "yes"; Mr. Schoner, "Not voting on B8, No on B10 and yes on all others"; Mrs. Mega, "yes"; Mrs. Daura, "yes."

The motions passed.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A motion was made by Mr. Marzullo and seconded by Mr. Schoner to approve items S1 through S32.

S1. Motion to **retroactively approve Gretchen Bowie, HS medical leave science teacher** for Matt Bellantoni, MA Step 1 \$56,564 prorated, non-tenurable position, extending employment from February 8 to Feb 28, 2022.

S2. Motion to **approve Gretchen Bowie, HS science teacher** at MA Step 1 \$56,564 prorated, tenured track position, starting on March 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022.

S3. Motion to **approve Patricia Hart, HS maternity leave science teacher** for Irina Shutovsky, MA, Step 1, \$56,564 prorated, non-tenurable position, extending employment from February 9 to March 25, 2022.

S4. Motion to **approve Carmella Varricchio, MMS Special Education teacher** for maternity leave non tenure position (D Spallino), MA Step 1 \$56,564 prorated, starting on or before March 14 to June 22, 2022.

S5. Motion to **retroactively approve the resignation of Erica Slota, HS Guidance Counselor**, last work day as of February 4, 2022.

S6. Motion to **retroactively approve the resignation of Samantha Nemeth, North End School paraprofessional** last work day as of February 7, 2022.

S7. Motion to **retroactively approve Cara DePeri, HS Interim Guidance Counselor, MA**, Step 1, \$56,564 prorated including the guidance counselor stipend for the prorated period

beginning February 4, 2022 through June 22, 2022.

S8. Motion to **approve the following coaches for the 2021-2022 school year:**

Softball:	Peter Velardi	Volunteer	
Baseball:	Anthony Dalbo	JV/Assistant Coach	step 5 \$6,179
Baseball	Michael Manfra	Volunteer	
Boys Lacrosse	Joseph Amati	Volunteer	
Girls Lacrosse	Emma Bolton	Head Coach	step 1 \$8,223
Girls Lacrosse	Mary Lawshe	JV/Assistant Coach	step 2 \$5,158

S9. Motion to **retroactively increase part time hourly custodians rate of pay** from \$14 (no Black Seal) to \$15 and \$17 (Black Seal) to \$18 per hour as of January 19, 2022.

S10. Motion to **rescind S31 on December 21, 2021 agenda for Jenna Bentley, as high school artistic designer** for the 2021-2022 school year and approve Jenna Bentley for fall/winter play only at a stipend rate of \$1445.

S11. Motion to **approve Amanda Hatzikyriakou, MMS Art teacher**, as high school artistic designer for the Spring Musical at a stipend of \$1445 for the 2021-22 school year.

S12. Motion to **retroactively approve the following advisors for SAT Prep** to be offered to all 11th graders beginning Tuesday, January 18, 2022 and ending March 11, 2022. Classes will meet from 7:10am – 8:00am (zero period), at the rate of extra period stipend, \$6300, prorated:

- Meagan Amador; English (4x per week)
- Joan Oehm; Math (4x week)

S13. Motion to **rescind S26 motions on July 20 2021 agenda** for:
*MMS Peer Leadership stipend of \$835 and approve stipend amount of \$1014
* NE & SE Literary Publication Editors stipend of \$735 and approve stipend amount of \$753. Both stipend amounts are according to CGEA contract.

S14. Motion to **rescind S21 on December 21, 2021 for approve Tom Cutalo, high school stage crew advisor**, starting on December 22 - June 22 2022 at a stipend amount of \$1,445 and approve Tom as high school set designer for spring musical from start date and stipend amount on S21 motion. Change is due to CGEA contract verbiage of stipend position.

S15. Motion to **rescind S.25 from the January 18, 2022 agenda** regarding Tuition Reimbursement for employee Bobbie Bolandi.

S16. Motion to **approve the following staff members for the position of LinkIt!** District Liaison, each receiving a stipend of \$2000 for the 2021-2022 school year:

- MMS: Jeremy Luogameno (Sept 1, 2021 to Feb 4th, 2022)
- MMS: Kathy Asaro (Feb 7th to June 22, 2022)
- NE: Katie Danieli
- SE: Melinda Milano / Victoria Tedesco (split)

S17. Motion to **retroactively approve the following staff for before care at a rate of \$35 per hour starting on January 18, 2022 through March 14, 2022:**

Lisa Lawless, Robin Rosa, Rachel Badalamenti, Elizabeth Daniel, Brenda Conyngham
Nancy Leostakas, Jill Gurhan.

S18. Motion to **retroactively approve Nancy Leostakas**, HS paraprofessional for Saturday Detention starting on Feb 10 - June 22, 2022 at curr rate of \$35/hour.

S19. Motion to **prorate the stipends for Jeremy Luogameno, MMS STEM Teacher** who will be out on medical leave:

- Makers Club - Sept 1, 2021 through Feb 28, 2022
- Technology Club - Sept 1, 2021 through Feb 28, 2022

S20. Motion to **approve the prorated MMS STEM stipend** for the following staff members:

- Makers Club - Craig Pickrell: March 1 - June 22/ 2022
- Technology Club - Jesse Lab: March 1 - June 22, 2022

S21. Motion to **approve the following staff members additional STEM 7th period stipend** prorated from March 2nd until approx. May 23rd for Jeremy's medical leave:

Carl Ernst Alex Potts Cassie Imperatore
Alan Brown George Czergovits Christa Matera

S22. Motion to **approve the extension of Suzanne Marzouka, MMS maternity leave coverage** teacher, non tenure track, for Jackie Seugling from May 1 to May 26th, 2022, at BA, step 1, \$52,564 prorated.

S23. Motion to **approve Suzanne Marzouka, district substitute teacher** from May 27 through June 22, 2022

S24. Motion to **approve the following individuals to complete 40 hours of Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) training** online at the rate of \$35 per hour:

Danielle McLaughlin Amy Carnuccio
Elizabeth Daniel Rachel Badalamenti
Heather Donnelly Karen Moran
Luann Longo

S25. Motion to **approve Kindergarten registration beyond the hours of a school day** to include *school secretaries and **school nurses receiving the curriculum rate of \$35/hour.

***N. Anderson, P. Arbucci, T. Infante, M. Benanti, V. Sinisi, E. Williams, M. Fox**
L. Wilder, S. Zunic, T Lombardi
**** R. Desrosiers and D. DeTrizio**

S26. Motion to **approve Shauna Perna**, North End paraprofessional at Step 1 salary of \$20,824 prorated starting on March 3, 2022.

S27. Motion to **authorize attendance** at the following event/s:

Program	Date	Employee(s)	Board Member(s)	Cost
PESI	1/27/22 (retroactively)	B. Conyngham	0	\$53.30
Multilingual Learners Early Childhood	2/2/2022	C. Karabetsos	0	\$0
Syracuse Acctg Seminar	5/17/2022	V. Galambos	0	Travel only
NJSIAA	2/14/2022	T. Jones	0	\$0
NJEA	3/11 & 3/25/2022	C. Cannella	0	\$0

S28. Motion to **approve the following** leaves of absence:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Position / Location</i>	<i>Number of Employee Sick Days used for Leave</i>	<i>FMLA Start Date</i>	<i>NJ(FLA) Start Date</i>	<i>Return Date</i>	<i>Modifications / Updates</i>
L Searle	Mat'y	SE/Resource	2/14-5/11/22 (55)	n/a	5/12-6/22/22 (30)	9/1/22	Sick days
D. Spallino	Mat'y	MMS/Resource	3/18-3/28/22 (7)	3/29-6/3/22 (43)	6/6-6/22/2 (13) + 47 (9/1/)	TBD	Sick days
J. Schomaker	Mat'y	HS/Social Studies	3/2-5/6/22 (41)	n/a	5/9-6/22/22 (33)	9/6/22	Sick & Family
J. Seugling	Mat'y	MMS/Math	11/8-1/28/22 (50)	n/a	1/31 - 5/31/22 (60) Gen Lv: 5/2-5/31 (20)	6/1/22	New Gen-Leave Request
D. McLaughlin	Mat'y	NE/K Teacher	5/31-6/22 (17)	n/a	9/6-11/28 (60) Gen Lv: 11/29-8/31/23 Approx.(7 months)	9/1 <u>2023</u>	New Gen-Leave Request
J. Luogameno	Medical	MMS/STEM	3/1 - 5/31/22 (58)	n/a	n/a	6/1/22	New Request

S29. 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>
Holly Posnett	MSU	North End Grade 3/ ESL Christine Karabetsos	February -June 2022

S30. Motion to **approve the internal transfer of Anthony Longo from the HS night custodian position to the MMS night custodian** position effective Thursday, February 24, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

S31. Motion to **approve the internal transfer of Gjon Lahu from the MMS night custodian position to the SE day custodian** position effective Thursday, February

24, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

S32. Motion to **appoint the following staff in accordance with the State Emergent Hiring Start Date procedures:**

Paul Palek: HS Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach at Step 5 Stipend of \$6,179
starting with a start date of March 8, 2022

Ronald Torromeo: HS Night Custodian at Step 1, \$41,655 prorated beginning on March 21, 2022 or sooner depending on his current employer releasing him earlier.

Mrs. Dye had a question on resolution S32 about the hiring process.

On roll call, the following vote was taken: Mrs. Dye, “No on S32 and yes on all others”; Mr. Marzullo, “yes”; Mr. Schoner, “yes”; Mrs. Mega, “yes”; Mrs. Daura, “yes.”

The motions passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sandra Haize spoke about the health and safety of students.

Kathleen Gosselink spoke in support of the superintendent.

Keith Kawecky spoke about social justice and education.

Marleen Connor spoke in support of the superintendent.

Glen Lenihan spoke about masks and contact tracing.

Yvonne Cardenas spoke in support of the superintendent.

David Vissering spoke in support of the superintendent.

Patricia Montana spoke against the superintendent.

Vincent Vollero spoke about the mask mandate.

Michelle Mauriello asked about legal fees.

Ashley SanGiacomo spoke about transportation.

Daniella Barraco spoke about the aftercare program.

Christine Perri spoke about media services and masks.

Sam Ventola spoke about the turnover of staff.

David Newman spoke against the superintendent.

Edith Fusco spoke about snacks and bullying.

Janet DeSiano asked about tuition reimbursement for S15.

Sue Kolakowski spoke about the aftercare program.

Lisa Cassilli asked about tuition reimbursement and a sidebar agreement on 6/2021.

Leo Stringer spoke about security.

Romany Behkit spoke about the winter concert being canceled and snack policy.

Len Splendoria spoke in support of the superintendent.

Michael Palamaro spoke in support of the superintendent.

Agnes Norman spoke against the superintendent.

Eric Silverman spoke in support of the superintendent.

Don Elting asked about PILOT money and the People Protections Act.

Heather Rosetto Delera spoke about children with disabilities, ESSER and masks.

Laura Marinelli asked about teacher loss and the superintendent hiring.

Nicole DiChiara spoke in support of the superintendent.

Kelly White spoke in support of the superintendent.

Mrs. Dye apologized for not saying something when somebody used the “N” word.

Announcement of future meetings:

March 15, 2022 CGHS Auditorium 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Mtg

April 26, 2022 CGHS Auditorium 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Mtg

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 pm by President Daura.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael DeVita

Board Secretary