

CEDAR GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Cedar Grove, New Jersey
MINUTES

March 21, 2022

Cedar Grove High School Auditorium

Public Session 6:00 PM

Mrs. Daura, Board President, called the Regular Meeting of the Cedar Grove Board of Education to order at 6:00 pm

Roll Call:

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

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

The following motion was made by Mr. Marzullo and seconded by Mrs. Mega 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.
- Attorney client issues. Action may follow the discussion in the Executive Session. Public release of the discussion may occur upon completion of the matter.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:37 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, Mr. Michael DeVita, Business Administrator and Mr. Steve Edelstein, Board Attorney were also present.

Nobody addressed the board for public comment on items on the agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Daura read a statement regarding an incident at the last board meeting.

Mrs. Daura attended TREPS and thanked all involved to help and support the students. She attended the South End FSA where they talked about academic growth in math and ELA and concerns about increased enrollment. The facilities committee met to discuss a referendum and they will get info out to the community. The finance committee met and the preliminary budget is balanced and will be sent to the county office for their approval and the final budget will be presented at the next board meeting.

Mrs. Mega spoke about the dedication to school crossing guard, Peggy Tower. March 4th will be Mrs. Tower Day. She attended TREPS and was happy to see it back. the SELC committee met to discuss students well being and on May 14th there will be a wellness fair. The Black & Gold club is looking for volunteers.

Mr. Marzullo attended the Middle School FSA meeting and reported that the students at TREPS were creative and innovative and he was impressed with them. The Spring Art Gala will be on April 25 and they will be having a 5th and 6th grade social and the 8th grade promotion.

Mr. Schoner attended the North End FSA and reported about their fundraisers and an outdoor classroom. He also attended the music show, Chicago, which was great.

Mrs. Dye asked about the finance committee and facility committee and Mr. DeVita and Mrs. Daura answered.

Board Presentation:

Paul Lerch, district auditor, presented the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2020/2021 and discussed the findings including old outstanding checks on all districts bank account reconciliations be cleared of record and contract awards and related purchases be made in accordance with the public school contracts law..

Dustin Bayer presented the dual enrollment program with Universal Technical Institute.

Janine Barboza presented the LEGO Summer Build program.

Superintendent Update

Mr. Grosso reported on the following: autistic student winning an art project, March 25 art showcase, TREPS, Verona/Cedar Grove health wellness festival, parent series virtual seminar on policy, seeds program with MSU, attended the music show Chicago, and thanked the administrative team for their hard work.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR and BOARD SECRETARY

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

- B1. Motion to approve the Public and Executive minutes of February 16, 2022.
- B2. Motion to approve the budgetary transfers for the month of February 2022.
- B3. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2022.
- B4. Motion to approve the Board Secretary Report for the month of January 2022.
- 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 and unanimously carried.

- B6. Motion to pay the List of Bills totaling \$4,697,185.60 for the time period of February 17, 2022 – March 21, 2022

A motion was made by Mr. Schoner and seconded by Mr. Marzullo and unanimously carried to approve items B7 through B19.

- B7. Motion to retroactively approve the location agreement with Xinyu Deng (School of Visual Arts) and the Cedar Grove Board of Education for a filming at Cedar Grove High School for a student thesis film shoot on February 26, 2022 at a cost of \$500. The agreement is on file in the Board office.
- B8. Motion to approve the location agreement with Found it, LLC and the Cedar Grove Board of Education for a photo and video shoot at Cedar Grove High School for Steve Madden kids on March 19, 2022 at a cost of \$3,500, plus custodial overtime if necessary. The agreement is on file in the Board office.
- B9. Motion to retroactively approve the location agreement with Stephanie Pascale (Montclair State University) and the Cedar Grove Board of Education for a filming at Cedar Grove High School for a student short film project on March 20, 2022 at a cost of \$300. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

- B10. Motion to retroactively approve, on First Reading, the proposal to allow the qualified wrestler(s) from Cedar Grove High School to attend the NJSIAA Individual Wrestling State Championships in Atlantic City, NJ from March 3-5, 2022. Scheduled participants include (2) student athletes along with Coaches/Chaperones Michael Risimini, Omer Ersen, and Dominick

Russo. Estimated cost for travel, lodging and meal allowance for coaches and students athletes is \$2,000.00.

B11. Motion to approve the School Integrated Pest Management Plans for all schools for the 2021/2022 school year.

B12. **RESOLVED**, that the following Tentative Budget, Annual District Budget Statement and Supporting Documentation for the 2022/23 school year be submitted for approval to the Essex County Superintendent of Schools:

	<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$33,493,998	\$29,334,477
Special Revenue Fund	\$1,958,178	-0-
Debt Service Fund	<u>\$2,264,913</u>	<u>\$1,976,683</u>
Total Budget	<u>\$37,717,089</u>	<u>\$31,311,160</u>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, school district Policy 6471 – Expense Reimbursements and N.J.A.C. 6a:23b-1.2(B) provides that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school district budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel, expense reimbursement and registrations. The Board of Education hereby establishes the maximum expenditure amount from the 2022/23 school year to be **\$175.00** per employee, or an annual amount of \$60,550.

RESOLVED, that the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget be held on April 26, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cedar Grove High School Auditorium.

B13. Motion to **approve the subscription busing contract** with the parents of student no. 9023271487 in the amount of \$350.00 (prorated) for the 2021-2022 school year.

B14. Motion to **approve the cooperative agreement between Clifton High School, Passaic Valley High School and Cedar Grove High School** to play as a registered Tri-Op in Ice Hockey within the NJSIAA for the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 seasons.

B15. Motion to **approve the donation of shed** to be installed at South End Elementary School from the Cub Scout Pack 838.

B16. Motion to accept the donation from the New Jersey Football Coaches Association in the amount of \$500 towards Rob Gogerty for receiving the honor of Group 1 Football Coach of the Year.

B17. Motion to **accept the Cedar Grove Board of Education Comprehensive Annual**

Financial Report, as of June 30, 2021,

WHEREAS, the district has prepared the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the 2020/2021 school year, and

WHEREAS, the audit of the financial records of the school district for the 2020/2021 school year has been made, according to the requirements of Title 18A, by the firm of Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP.

NOW, THEREFORE

discussed at the public board meeting of March 21, 2022, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Corrective Action Plan responding to the recommendations of the auditor and that a copy of the Corrective Action Plan be submitted, as required, to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools.

B18. Motion to approve the application for use of Cedar Grove Fields and Facilities with REALISE and the Cedar Grove Board of Education for an Autism Awareness Fundraiser/Puzzle Tournament at Cedar Grove High School on April 2, 2022. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

B19. Motion to approve the green infrastructure project at Cedar Grove High School through the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission and Rutgers University at no cost to the district.

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 S30 and A1.

S1. Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation involving SID # 20270760986 for reasons 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. Confirmed HIB

S2. Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation involving SID # 202907601164 for reasons 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. Confirmed HIB

S3. Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation involving SID # 203007601532 for reasons 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. Confirmed HIB

S4. Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation involving SID # 202807602431 for reasons 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. Confirmed HIB

S5. Motion to **appoint the following staff in accordance with the State Emergent Hiring Start Date procedures:**

- **Michelle Cosenza**, Paraprofessional at the High school at Step 2, salary of \$21,074 prorated retroactively started on March 14, 2022 to June 22, 2022.

S6. Motion to **approve Brittany Tamburro, SE/NE maternity leave Speech Therapist**, non tenure track, MA Step 1 \$56,564 prorated, starting on or before April 14 - June 22, 2022 for C. Leva.

S7. Motion to **approve Beryl Goodman, District Payroll Clerk**, at a rate of \$30.00 per hour, retroactively beginning March 9, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

S8. Motion to **approve resignation of Beryl Goodman, District Payroll Clerk**, effective 3/12/2022, per personal reasons.

S9. Motion to **retroactively approve Gabriela VanLenten**, North End paraprofessional at Step 5 salary of \$21,824 prorated starting on March 3, 2022.

S10. Motion to **rescind S26 on February 16, 2022 agenda and approve Shauna Perna**, NE paraprofessional with a revised start date of March 1 2022 at Step 1 salary of \$20,824 prorated through June 22, 2022.

S11. Motion to **approve the resignation of Steve Gallagher**, HS Social Studies Teacher, for purposes of retirement as of June 30, 2022.

S12. Motion to **approve resignation of Lauren Mastria**, SE Kindergarten Teacher, as of June 30, 2022, for the purpose of assuming home duties.

S13. Motion to **approve the resignation of Irina Shutovsky, High School Science Teacher** for the purpose of assuming home duties. Upholding the contract term of 60 days, May 6, 2022 will be the last day of work. Release can be sooner pending a suitable replacement.

S14. Motion to **approve the resignation of Nick Franciosa, District Computer Technician**,

last work day April 7, 2022, for the purpose of working in the business sector.

S15. Motion to **rescind the stipend of Tech Crew Advisor from Nick Franciosa**, last day of work April 7, 2022.

S16 Motion to **approve the building changes for the following Paraprofessionals:**
Anna Wrocenski from HS to SE retroactively effective 3/7/2022
Mary Lawshe from SE to HS retroactively effective 3/7/2022

S17. Motion to **approve Spring Coaches** with a retroactive start date of March 7, 2022:
Boy's Track: Ed Puchalski Assistant **step 3 \$5,497**
Girl's Track: Alyssa Lever Assistant **step 1 \$4,816**
Girl's Track: Ryan Corbosiero Assistant/freshman **step 3 \$5,203**

S18. Motion to **retroactively approve the following staff members additional 6th period stipend** prorated from February 23rd through June 22, 2022 to cover J Schomaker's classes while on maternity leave.

- **Joan Oehm**
- **Adriana Durso**
- **Alyssa Minelli**
- **Gretchen Bowie**

S19. Motion to **retroactively approve the following staff member additional 7th period stipend** prorated from February 23rd through June 22, 2022 to cover J Schomaker's classes while on maternity leave:

- **Nicolette McCarthy**

S20. Motion to **retroactively approve the following substitute teachers** starting on March 14 to June 22, 2022 at a rate of \$100/diem:

- **Cara Ogulin**
- **Ellen Wirtshafter Ephros**
- **Elain Coltre**
- **Ava Mandala**

S21. Motion to **approve the following as school volunteers:**

- **Shannon Altieri SE**
- **Allison Grande SE**

S22. Motion to **approve Lou Marzullo reimbursement of fingerprinting** as a board trustee in the amount of \$78.38.

S23. Motion to **approve the following Employees for MMS Lunch Duty** at the curriculum rate of \$35 per hour retroactive to February 15th, 2022:

- **Colleen Merklinger**
- **Alexa Rubino**

J. Schomaker	Maty	HS/Social Studies Teacher	2/16-4/26/22 (42)	n/a	4/27-6/22/22 (41)	9/1/22	Start Date
D. Spallino	Maty	MMS/Resource Teacher	2/28-3/8/22	3/9-6/3 (57 days)	6/6-6/22/22(13) 9/1-? (47)	TBD	Start Date
J. Seugling	Mat'y	MMS/Math Teacher	11/8-1/28/22 (50)	n/a	1/31 - 4/29/22 (60) Gen Lv: 5/2-5/31 (20)	6/1/22	Rev NJFLA Dates

S29. Motion to **approve Cynthia Alayo, District Payroll Clerk**, at a rate of \$28.00 per hour, start date to be determined, but no later than April 4, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

S30. Motion to retroactively approve Samantha Petritis, SE paraprofessional for morning duty as of January 18 - June 22, 2022 at the curriculum rate of \$35/hour.

A1. Resolved, the Board approves the termination of employment for employee # 2415, due to failure to have a license required for the job, effective March 22, 2022.

Mrs. Mega thanked Steve Gallagher and wished him well on his retirement.

Mr. Schoner wished Steve Gallagher well on his retirement and thanked him for his help with Cedar Grove Waves.

On roll call, the following vote was taken: Mrs. Dye, “yes”; Mr. Marzullo, “yes, with the exception of not voting on S4 and abstaining on S22”; Mr. Schoner, “yes”; Mrs. Mega, “yes”; Mrs. Daura, “yes.”

The motions passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Schoner and seconded by Mr. Marzullo and unanimously carried to approve items S31 through S34.

S31. Motion to **approve the New Jersey Department of Education English Language Learner Three-Year Program Plan.**

S32. Motion to **approve the following employees to write curriculum for the following courses** not to exceed 20 hours at the curriculum rate for the 2021-2022 school year:

- Michal DiChiara and Jennifer Manning - Physical Education
- Randy Nelson - Physical Education - Grades 5-8
- Heather Dapuzzo - Physical Education - Grade 9
- Michael Valenzano - Physical Education - Grade 10
- Heather Dapuzzo and Thomas Jones - Physical Education - Grade 11
- Thomas Jones - Physical Education - Grade 12

- Maggie Stroh - Music - Grades 2-4
- Cassandra Imperatore-Dangler - Middle School Band - Grade 5
- Cassandra Imperatore-Dangler - Middle School Band - Grade 6
- Cassandra Imperatore-Dangler - Middle School Band Grades 7-8
- Jenna Bentley - AP Art and Design
- Rachael Germann - Digital Photography
- Yancy Sandoval - Spanish I Honors
- Rachel Germann - Advanced Pottery

S33. Motion to **approve the following employees to write curriculum for the following half-year elective courses** not to exceed 10 hours at the curriculum rate for the 2021-2022 school year:

- Jessica Schomaker - History and Sports
- Christian Gehman - Introduction to Organic Chemistry
- Gretchen Bowie - Anatomy and Physiology of Sports
- Adriana Durso - Journalism
- David Coster - Engineering
- David Coster - Circuitry
- David Coster - Drones
- David Coster - 3d Printing
- David Coster - Robotics
- Jennifer Jessen - Rock of Ages
- Steven Goodman - Entrepreneurship
- Steven Goodman - Personal and Business Law
- Veronica Galambos - Introduction to Business

S34. Motion to **approve the following employees to revise curriculum for the following courses** not to exceed 5 hours at the curriculum rate for the 2021-2022 school year:

- Veronica Galambos - Marketing
- James DeStefano - Film Study I
- James DeStefano - Media & American Pop Culture -
- Christian Gehman - Forensics
- Chris Cannella - Contemporary U.S. History
- Jen Jessen - Fundamentals of Music

A motion was made by Mrs. Mega and seconded by Mr. Marzullo and unanimously carried to approve items S35 through S36.

S35. Motion to **approve the following contracts for special education students**, as recommended by the Director of Special Services, for the 2021-2022 school year:

Chapel Hill Academy

Student 8432735393

Tuition for the remainder of 21-22 school year
\$22,080.00

S36. Motion for APPROVAL OF THE UNIVERSAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM

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 postsecondary education, Universal Technical Institute and Cedar Grove High School are creating an opportunity for Cedar Grove High School students to take advanced placement coursework at Universal Technical Institute during their senior year of high school, and

WHEREAS, Cedar Grove High School and Universal Technical Institute wish to enter into an educational affiliation whereby high school students in grade 12 may, with the recommendation of the Cedar Grove Public School District, take advanced placement courses, enrolled at Universal Technical Institute and receive college credits towards the fulfillment of the requirements for their high school diploma, as issued by Cedar Grove High School, and will also be recognized by Universal Technical Institute as advanced placement coursework earned at Universal Technical Institute.

NOW 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 dual agreement between the Cedar Grove High School and Universal Technical Institute.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Yvonne Cardenas spoke about changing law firms.

Keith Kawecky spoke about the ice hockey co-op and curriculum.

Afi Lamptey spoke about the UTI and LEGOS programs and the use of a racial slur.

Cienne Keegan spoke about the superintendent talks and moving the district forward.

Laura Marinelli spoke about the hiring process of the superintendent.

Leo Stringer spoke about resolution B19, Link it and data holding and COVID guidelines.

Romany Bekhit spoke about school.

Michelle Mauriello spoke about legal fees and EDAC members.

Patricia Montana spoke about the conduct of Christine Dye.

Agnes Norman spoke about the conduct of Christine Dye.

Vincent Vollero spoke about the EDAC committee.

Sal Mineri spoke about ethics.

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Tom Perri spoke about the audit and professional services.

Announcement of future meetings:

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

May 17, 2022 CGHS Auditorium 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Mtg

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 pm by President Daura.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael DeVita
Board Secretary