

CEDAR GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Cedar Grove, New Jersey
MINUTES

January 19, 2021

Cedar Grove High School Auditorium

Public Session 6:31 PM

Mrs. Dye, Board President, called the Regular Meeting of the Cedar Grove Board of Education to order at 6:31 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. Schoner 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.
- Personnel matter relative to a **current employee**. 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. 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

Mr. Splendoria attended the virtual South End FSA meeting and reported that they honored the recipient of the educator of the year award, the online directory is available, pre-k Saturdays will be starting in March and a clothing drive is being planned.

Mr. Schoner attended the virtual North End FSA meeting and reported that they honored the recipient of the educator of the year award and they are talking about trying to get an outdoor classroom.

Board Presentation:

Memorial Middle School Principal Nick DeCorte recognized student John Tzavlakis for his selflessness and creativity in creating ear savers and donating them to frontline workers with his 3D printer at his house.

Superintendent Update

Mr. Grosso gave a COVID update, spoke about the Social Emotional Learning Committee, the EDAC, gave an update on what is happening in each school, spoke about MMS student John Tzavlakis, and gave a security update

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 B3.

- B1. Motion to **approve the Public and Executive minutes of January 7, 2021**
- B2. Motion to **approve the budgetary transfers** for the month of December 2020
- B3. 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 carried.

B4. Motion to **pay the following List of Bills: \$3,583,252.49 for 12/16/2020-1/19/2021**

A motion was made by Mrs. DiChiara and seconded by Mr. Schoner and unanimously carried to approve items B5 through B9.

B5. Motion to **approve the 2nd quarter Unemployment Insurance for \$9,701.20** check number 1053.

B6. Motion to **approve the following resolution to commend the efforts of Board members** throughout New Jersey during School Board Recognition Month:

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2020 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, The Cedar Grove Board of Education is one of more than 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, The Cedar Grove Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Cedar Grove Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2021 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Cedar Grove Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staffs toward the advancement of our children's education.

B7. Motion to **retroactively approve the location agreement with Division 7**, and the Cedar Grove Board of Education for a commercial film shoot at Cedar Grove High School Athletic Field on January 12, 2021 for a fee of \$6,000. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

B8. **RESOLVED, that in accordance with the CGEA Agreement, the following employee shall be paid for unused vacation days:**

Employee #2145: \$169.48

B9. Motion to **approve Letter of Understanding** for Emergency Procurement and Contract Modification due to COVID-19 with Pomptonian Food Service.

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 S9.

Mr. Schoner recognized custodian Frank Pfiel and was saddened by his passing.

S1. Motion to **acknowledge the passing of Mr. Frank Pfiel**, January 7, 2021, High School Custodian and employee of the Cedar Grove school district since June of 1981.

S2. Motion to **approve the Denise Geddis, North End staff to provide** temperature checks for staff and students starting at 8:00am retroactive to January 11, 2021 through June 30, 2021 at a rate of \$35 per hour.

S3. Motion to **approve the resignation of Gionna Aramando**, MMS Special Education Teacher, last work day being February 23, 2021.

S4. Motion to **rescind the hiring of Troy Spinetta for Freshman Boys Basketball Coach**, as he is resigning from that stipend position.

S5. Motion to **approve Ed Puchalski, substitute Freshman Boys Basketball Coach**, retroactive to January 14, 2021.

S6. Motion to **approve the following personnel to provide home instruction** at the curriculum rate of \$35 per hour retroactively starting on January 18, 2021:

Kathleen Hull Tracey Comerford

S7. Motion to **authorize attendance** at the following event/s:

Program	Date	Employee(s)	Board Member(s)	Cost
Broadway Teachers Workshop	1/9, 10 & 17/2021	J. Foose	0	\$112.50
Practical Solutions	2/19 & 2/26/2021	C. Leva	0	\$124.50

S8. Motion to **approve the following students for classroom observation:**

<u>Student Name</u>	<u>College/University</u>	<u>School/Subject</u>	<u>Dates/Hours</u>
Lisa Mascera	Caldwell University	MMS/Soc. Studies D. Candia	Clinical Intern Jan 20,2021 - June 30, 2021

S9. ___ Motion to **approve the following school nurses**, to provide temperature checks, as needed, for attendees at the board meetings starting on January 19, 2021 through June 30, 2021, at a rate of \$35/hr.

J. Lindt R. Cali A. Miller D. DeTruzio

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

A1. Resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the termination of benefits for Jerry Williams, due to failure to respond to administrative requests and failure to provide appropriate documentation regarding his employment with the district, effective January 31, 2021

The meeting was opened to the public for comment on items on or off the agenda and no one from the public wished to be heard.

Mr. Grosso presented Mrs. Dye with her certificate for winning the latest board election and Mrs. Dye thanked everyone for their support.

Mr. Grosso presented each board member with a framed resolution for school board recognition month.

Announcement of future meetings:

February 9, 2021 CGHS Auditorium. 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Meeting
 February 23, 2021 CGHS Auditorium. 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Meeting

Motion by Mrs. DiChiara and seconded by Mrs. Mega and unanimously carried to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Cedar Grove Board of Education at 8:13 pm.

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