

CEDAR GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Cedar Grove, New Jersey
MINUTES

April 26, 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:

- ✓ 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.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Daura attended the arts showcase at the middle school, the autism puzzle tournament fundraiser at the high school, the South End tricky tray fundraiser, the high school musical, the EDAC committee will now be led by Reverend Sarah Welsh, the Facilities committee is meeting to discuss the overcrowding issues at the elementary schools and thanked the township for the PILOT money.

Mrs. Mega attended the arts showcase at the middle school, the autism puzzle tournament fundraiser at the high school, the finance committee to review the 2022/2023 budget, thanked the township for the PILOT money, the North End and South End concerts and the upcoming wellness event with Verona.

Mr. Marzullo attended the recreation board meeting and reported that the 4th of July fireworks will be on 6/30, on 7/15 is Cedar Grove night at the Jackels game and Panther Park has been utilized by athletic teams. The curriculum committee met to discuss the K-6 curriculum, phonics program, professional development for grade levels, writers workshops, course requirements, electives at the High School, the UTI program and the robotics program. He thanked the township for the PILOT money.

Board Presentation:

Jennifer Jessen presented a proposed Music Matters trip to Hershey Park for the High Note Music Festival.

Mr. DeVita presented a powerpoint presentation on the 2022/2023 budget.

Mr. DeVita spoke about a previous request from the public regarding attorney fees. The attorney fees spent on the survey totaled \$16, 714.50 from July 2021 to February 2022 and attorney fees spent on ethics charges against board members totaled \$19,387.50 from July 2021 to February 2022.

Superintendent Update

Mr. Grosso reported on the following: the district arts showcase, autism awareness month and the puzzle tournament, South End tricky tray, the North End/South End concerts, the advanced placement student breakfast, the Verona/Cedar Grove Mental Health Festival, NJ student learning assessments and the NJ comprehensive health and gym standards.

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 March 21, 2022
- B2. Motion to **approve the budgetary transfers** for the months of March 2022.
- B3. Motion to **approve the Treasurer's Report** for the month of February 2022 and March 2022.
- B4. Motion to **approve the Board Secretary Report** for the month of February 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 \$3,649,352.15 for the time period of March 18, 2022 – April 26, 2022

A motion was made by Mr. Marzullo and seconded by Mrs. Mega and unanimously carried to approve items B7 through B15.

B7. Motion to **approve the donation of 2 composters** provided by Mrs. C. Corso and Toni’s Kitchen valued at \$200 to the Memorial Middle School to be utilized in the courtyard garden.

B8. Motion to retroactively approve the location agreement with Marie Tagbo (NYU Tisch School of the Arts Student) and the Cedar Grove Board of Education for a filming at Cedar Grove High School for a student film production on April 10, 2022 & April 17, 2022 at a cost of \$1,000, plus custodial fees if necessary. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

B9. Motion to retroactively approve the location agreement with Emily Massey (NYU Tisch School of the Arts Student) and the Cedar Grove Board of Education for a filming at Cedar Grove High School for a student film production on April 23, 2022 & April 24, 2022 at a cost of \$1,000, plus custodial fees if necessary. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

B10. Motion to retroactively approve the location agreement with Understood For All and the Cedar Grove Board of Education for a commercial filming for kids with dyslexia on April 19, 2022 at Cedar Grove High School at a cost of \$3,000, plus custodial fees if necessary. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

B11. Motion to approve the location agreement with Eva Nosidam, LLC. and the Cedar Grove Board of Education for a Draftkings commercial on April 30, 2022 and May 1, 2022 at Cedar Grove High School at a cost of \$12,000, plus custodial fees if necessary. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

B12. **RESOLVED, that the Final Budget be approved for the 2022/2023 school year using the 2022/2023 state aid figures:**

	<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$ 34,576,042	\$ 5,204,027	\$ 29,959,455

Special Revenue Fund	\$ 2,037,331	\$ 2,037,331	-0-
Debt Service Fund	\$ <u>2,264,913</u>	\$ <u>288,230</u>	\$ <u>1,976,683</u>
Total Budget	\$ <u>38,878,286</u>	\$ 7,529,588	\$ <u>31,936,138</u>

B13. Motion to **approve setting the travel maximum for the 2022/2023 school year**. The Cedar Grove Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2021/2022 school year at the sum of \$60,550; and Be It Further Resolved, that the School Business Administrator, in accordance with 6A:23A-7.3, shall track and record these costs to insure the maximum amount is not exceeded, and that the pre-budget year maximum was \$56,700; and the total spent to date is \$7,348.48.

B14. Whereas, the Cedar Grove Board of Education has determined that a true and very real need exists for the **acquisition of 19 new copy machines/printers through a five year lease with an option to Purchase Agreement** between Cedar Grove Board of Education (Lessee) and Canon Financial Services (Lessor), and

Whereas, the Cedar Grove Board of Education has determined that the Agreement, substantially in the form presented to this meeting, are in the best interests of the Lessee for the acquisition of such Equipment, and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Cedar Grove Board of Education hereby approves the entering into of the Agreement at a monthly lease amount of \$4,187 by the Lessee and hereby designates and authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute and deliver the Agreement on Lessee's behalf with such changes thereto as he deems appropriate. Such approval and authorization extends to any related documents, including any Escrow Agreement, necessary to the consummation of the transaction contemplated by the Agreement. The purchase is being made through New Jersey State Contract number 40462 with United Business Systems and a quarterly billed maintenance and supplies agreement of \$.006 per page for black and white images and \$.062 for color images.

B15. Motion to **approve the following bid**:

Whereas, Bids were advertised on March 29, 2022 for new boilers, water heaters and associated equipment at the LRP School and,

Whereas, Sealed bids were publicly opened and read aloud on April 20, 2022 at 10:30 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:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Kappa Construction Corp.	\$ 600,000	\$ 6,000
Excelsior Plumbing Co. Inc.	\$ 677,000	\$ 7,500
Mechanical Preservation Associates	\$ 563,000	\$ 7,150
William J. Guarini, Inc.	\$ 485,000	\$ 3,500
CJ Vanderbeck and Son, Inc.	\$ 649,500	\$11,590

Sunnyfield Corporation	\$ 643,000	\$ 500
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Whereas, The bid of William J. Guarini, Inc. 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 Architect hereby approves awarding a contract for new boilers, water heaters and associated equipment at the LRP School to William J. Guarini, Inc. as the apparent low qualified bidder in their base bid amount of \$485,000 and accept alternate in the amount of \$3,500 for a total contract price of \$488,500.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A motion was made by Mrs. Mega and seconded by Mr. Marzullo to approve items S1 through S19.

- S1. Motion to **approve the 2022-2023 District Calendar.**
- S2. Motion to **approve Dineen White, High School Biology teacher**, starting May 9, 2022 to June 30, 2022 at BA Step 9 salary of \$61,014 prorated. This is the teacher replacing Irena Shutovsky, last day effective May 6, 2022 to assume home duties.
- S3. Motion to **approve Colleen Murphy, High School maternity leave art teacher** for Jenna Bentley, non tenure track, BA step 1 \$52,564 prorated, with a retroactive start date April 25th, through June 22, 2022.
- S4. Motion to **retroactively appoint the following staff in accordance with the State Emergent Hiring Start Date procedures:**
 - **Patryk Zielonka: MMS English Teacher, non tenurable medical leave position, MA, Step 1 \$56,564 prorated from April 25 - June 22, 2022. This position is replacing A. Escobar who is currently on medical leave.**
- S5. Motion to **approve Michael Cruz, MMS leave replacement non-tenurable English teacher**, starting on May 3, 2022 through June 22, 2022 at a BA, Step 1, \$52,564 prorated. This position is replacing S. Poll who will be going out on maternity leave.
- S6. Motion to **approve the resignation of Barbara Schwartz, MMS Spanish & ESL Teacher** as of June 30, 2022 who is leaving to accept a salary increase in another school district.
- S7. Motion to **accept the resignation of Eulalia Wilder, SE part time secretary** as of June 22, 2022 for the purpose of moving out of state due to husband's employment.
- S8. Motion to **approve the payment of \$2,131.43 to employee # 2071 for unused vacation days.**

S9. Motion to **approve the payment of \$1,171.49 to employee # 2415 for unused vacation days.**

S10. Motion to **retroactively approve Jennifer Costantini to provide home instruction** for student #5343302172 retroactively starting the week of March 28, 2022 at the rate of \$35 per hour.

S11. Motion to **approve the following employee for planning and grading coverage for 3 additional classes** due to medical coverage for A. Escobar, retroactively from 3/14/2022 through 4/14/2022 at a prorated amount of \$6,300 per class:

- Casey Tinston

S12. Motion to **rescind resolutions S18 & S19 from the March 21, 2022 agenda and retroactively approve the following High School teachers to instruct extra classes from** February 23, 2022 through June 22, 2022 (being last day) at a stipend of \$6,300 prorated to cover J Schomaker's classes while on maternity leave:

- Joan Oehm
- Adriana Durso
- Alyssa Minelli
- Gretchen Bowie
- Nicolette McCarathy

S13. Motion to **rescind resolutions S21 from the February 16, 2022 agenda and retroactively approve the following Middle School teachers to instruct extra classes from** March 2, 2022 through May 23, 2022 (being last day) at a stipend of \$6,300 prorated to cover J Luogameno's classes while on medical leave:

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

S14. Motion to **approve the following students for Classroom Observation:**

Student	College/Univ. Student Attends	School Observing in Grade/Subject	Date(s)/Hours of Observation
Giovanna Di Lauri	Montclair State U.	South End School Counseling Kevin Skowronek	Counseling Intern 2022-2023 school year

S15. Motion to **authorize attendance** at the following event/s:

Program	Date	Employee(s)	Board Member(s)	Cost
Broadway Teachers	7/25-27-2022	J. Foose	0	\$424.50
NJASBO	6/7-6/9/2022	M. DeVita	0	\$749./inc reg
University of Delaware HS Field Trip	5/10/2022	B. Bolandi G. Testa J. Oehm D. LaFoon	0	\$0

S16. Motion to **approve the following** leaves of absence:

Name	Reason	Position / Location	Number of Employee Sick Days used for Leave	FMLA Start Date	NJ(FLA) Start Date	Return Date	Modifications / Updates
Amanda Escobar	medical leave	English Teacher MMS	3/11/22 to 4/25/22	4/26/2022 to 6/30/2022 48 Days		tbd 9/1/2022	New Request
Tracy Comerford	medical leave	Special Ed Teacher HS	5/18-6/22/2022	n/a		tbd 9/1/22	New Request

S17. Motion to **approve the following students for Classroom Observation:**

Student	College/Univ. Student Attends	School Observing in Grade/Subject	Date(s)/Hours of Observation
Vienna Bonato	St. Peter's University	MMS Art Classes A. Hatzrkyriakou	Clinical I and Clinical II April 25 - May 13 2022

S18. Motion to **retroactively approve an administrative leave for Staff ID# 2638** as of March 11 through June 30, 2022.

S19. Motion to **approve an adjustment to the 2021-2022 District Calendar to reflect the use of (2) available emergency closing days on Thursday, May 26, 2022 and Tuesday, May 31, 2022.** As a result, all Cedar Grove public schools and offices will be closed on these dates.

It was clarified that the district will be closed on 5/26/22 and 5/31/22 for unused snow days.

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

S20. Motion to **approve the following contracts for special education students**, as recommended by the Director of Special Services, for the 2021-2022 school year:

Developmental Learning Center Warren

Student 8034958778
ESY 2022
\$16,637.00

Cornerstone Day School

Tuition for the 22-23 school year
Student:9584774801
Total: 93,445.00

Pillar High School

Tuition for the 2022-2023 School Year
Student: 5154981512
Tuition \$85,081.50 Aide: \$46,200.00
Total: \$131,281.50

Pillar Care Continuum Pillar Elementary School

Student 202607602500
Tuition for the 22-23 school year
\$ 78,409.80

PUBLIC COMMENT

Keith Kawicki asked about public comment being harassment.
Marlena O’Conner spoke about EDAC.
Michele Mauriello spoke about the health curriculum.
John Martinelli spoke about curriculum.

Announcement of future meetings:

May 24, 2022 CGHS Auditorium 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Mtg
June 15, 2022 CGHS Auditorium 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Mtg

Motion by Mrs. Mega and seconded by Mr. Marzullo and unanimously carried to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Cedar Grove Board of Education at 8:47 pm.

Roll Call:

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

Cedar Grove Board of Education

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael DeVita
Board Secretary