

**CEDAR GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Cedar Grove, New Jersey**  
**MINUTES**

**February 23, 2021**

**Cedar Grove High School Auditorium**

**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. DiChiara and seconded by Mr. Splendoria 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 7:37 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. Dye reported that the finance committee has met to discuss the budget and over the next couple of meetings, we will have presentations and that it is going to be tough to stay within the 2% budget cap.

### **Board Presentation:**

Paul Lerch presented and discussed the results of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2019/2020.

### **Superintendent Update**

Mr. Grosso gave a district COVID update, spoke about the EDAC committee, state standardized testing, a collaboration with Kean University, goals in the schools, theatre competition award winners and presented updated features of the district webpage.

### **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 B4.

- B1. Motion to **approve the Public and Executive minutes of February 9, 2021.**
- B2. Motion to **approve the Treasurer's Report** for the month of January 2021.
- B3. Motion to **approve the Board Secretary Report** for the month of January 2021.
- B4. 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.

B5. Motion to **pay the List of Bills totaling: \$3,749,369.35 for the period 1/20/2021 - 2/23/2021**

A motion was made by Mrs. DiChiara and seconded by Mr. Schoner and unanimously carried to approve items B6 through B8.

B6. Motion to **rescind Mr. Mario Gaita on the following Reorganization Appointments and Designations** from the January 6, 2021 Board Meeting:

A.H.E.R.A. Designee	Mr. Mario Gaita
Right to Know Officer	Mr. Mario Gaita
Chemical Hygiene Officer	Mr. Mario Gaita
Safety & Health Designee	Mr. Mario Gaita
Indoor Air Quality/PEOSH Designee	Mr. Mario Gaita
Integrated Pest Mgmt. Designee	Mr. Mario Gaita

B7. Motion to **approve John Bannon on the following Appointments and Designations** through the next Board Reorganization Meeting:

A.H.E.R.A. Designee	Mr. John Bannon
Right to Know Officer	Mr. John Bannon
Chemical Hygiene Officer	Mr. John Bannon
Safety & Health Designee	Mr. John Bannon
Indoor Air Quality/PEOSH Designee	Mr. John Bannon
Integrated Pest Mgmt. Designee	Mr. John Bannon

B8. Motion to **accept the Cedar Grove Board of Education Comprehensive Annual**

**Financial Report**, as of June 30, 2020,

WHEREAS, the district has prepared the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the 2019-2020 school year, and

WHEREAS, the audit of the financial records of the school district for the 2019-2020 school year has been made, according to the requirements of Title 18A, by the firm of Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP.

discussed at the public board meeting of February 23, 2021, and

NOW, THEREF

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.

**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 S7.

Mrs. Mega congratulated Lisa Tower on her retirement.

Mr. Schoner congratulated John Bannon on his appointment.

S1. Motion to **approve John Bannon, Supervisor Buildings & Grounds**, at \$110,000 prorated, effective February 24, 2021 to June 30, 2021

S2. Motion to **accept the resignation of Lisa Tower for the purpose of retirement as Elementary Teacher after 31 years in the district**. Last work day being June 30, 2021.

S3. Motion to **approve Jennifer Constantini, MMS, Special Education Teacher at MA, Step 4, \$57,224 prorated beginning** February 26, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

S4. Motion to **approve the resignation of Colleen Cecire, MMS Math Teacher**, effective last day of work February 26, 2021.

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

Theresa Ardo Maternity Leave Speech Language Specialist, MA Step 1  
\$55,224 (pro-rated) non tenure, starting on March 3, 2021 - June 30, 2021

S6. Motion to **authorize attendance** at the following event/s:

Program	Date	Employee(s)	Board Member(s)	Cost
NJAHPERD	2/22-23/2021 (Virtual)	M. Moussab	0	\$49.50

S7. Motion to **approve the following Spring Coaches for the 2020-2021** School year, based upon the 2019-2020 bargaining contract:

WHEREAS, the Cedar Grove School District seeks to appoint stipend positions for the 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Cedar Grove School District will pay the full amount associated with the stipend of a particular co-curricular activity in the event that the co-curricular activity is conducted in full; and

WHEREAS, the Cedar Grove School District will not pay the amount of the stipend or pay a prorated amount of the stipend associated with the co-curricular activity in the event that all or a portion of the co-curricular activity is not conducted due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure or a directive from the appropriate representative of the New Jersey Department of Education or a directive from the Governor or designee or the New Jersey Legislature or designee or should the Cedar Grove School District adopt a permissible

virtual or remote learning platform where the co-curricular activity cannot be performed or that the school year itself might be modified; and

WHEREAS, in the event that a co-curricular activity is either cancelled or reduced or modified, the stipend will not be paid or will be prorated to commensurate with the percentage of the co-curricular activity that is actually conducted.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cedar Grove School District approves the following appointments, contingent on the co-curricular activity running and becoming operational, and the stipend not be paid if the co-curricular activity is cancelled or prorated should the activity not be completed because of a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure or a directive from the appropriate representative of the New Jersey Department of Education or a directive from the Governor or designee or the New Jersey Legislature or designee:

**Cedar Grove Board of Education – Coach Positions – Spring 2021**

**Boy's Track**

Mike Moussab	head	5	\$ 9280
Thomas Moogan	assist	5	\$ 6179

**Girl's Track**

Colleen Bulger	head	5	\$ 9280
Vincent LoProto	assist	5	\$ 6179
Jillian Lagattuta	assist/f	2	\$ 4898Tra

**Softball**

Nicole Velardi	head	5	\$ 9280
Eddie Capozzi	assist	4	\$ 5837
Cheryl Marion-Zenobi	JV/ast	5	\$ 6179

**Baseball**

Vincent Cordasco	head	1	\$ 8223
Anthony Dalbo	JV/ast	5	\$ 6179

**Boy's Tennis**

Robert Dunn	head	5	\$ 6038
Heather Reid	JV	5	\$ 3782

**Boy's Lacrosse**

Lou Aboyoun	head	5	\$ 9280
Mike Caposella	JV	3	\$ 5497

**Girl's Lacrosse**

John Murphy	head	1	\$ 8223
Mary Lawshe	JV/ast	1	\$ 4816

A motion was made by Mr. Splendoria and seconded by Mrs. Mega and unanimously carried to approve items S8 through S9.

Mr. DeVita summarized the policies being approved for a first reading.

S8. Motion to suspend Bylaw 131 that requires two readings to adopt a bylaw or policy and adopt the below numbered policy with one reading to be in compliance with the remote learning options that are being offered at Cedar Grove High School.  
1648.02 - Remote Learning Options for Families

S9. Motion to **approve the First Reading of the following Policy:**

*General Policy and Regulation Guide*

P 0145	Board Member Resignation and Removal (M) (Revised)
R 1642	Earned Sick Leave Law (M) (Revised)
P 1643	Family Leave (M) ( <b>New</b> )
P 3431.1	Family Leave (M) ( <b>Abolished</b> )
P 4431.1	Family Leave (M) ( <b>Abolished</b> )
P 3431.3	New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program ( <b>Abolished</b> )
P 4431.3	New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program ( <b>Abolished</b> )
P & R 5330.01	Administration of Medical Cannabis (M) (Revised)
P 7425	Lead Testing of Water in Schools (M) (Revised)
R 7425	Lead Testing of Water in Schools (M) ( <b>New</b> )
P & R 7430	School Safety (M) ( <b>Abolished</b> )

*No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) to Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Policy and Regulation Guides*

P 2415	Every Student Succeeds Act (M) (Revised)
P 2415.01	Academic Standards, Academic Assessments, and Accountability (M) ( <b>Abolished</b> )
P 2415.02	Title I – Fiscal Responsibilities (M) (Revised)
P 2415.03	Highly Qualified Teachers (M) ( <b>Abolished</b> )
P 2415.05	Student Surveys, Analysis, and/or Evaluations (M) (Revised)
P & R 2415.20	Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints (M) (Revised)
P 4125	Employment of Support Staff Members (M) (Revised)
P 6360	Political Contributions (M) (Revised)
P 8330	Student Records (M) (Revised)
P 9713	Recruitment by Special Interest Groups (M) (Revised)

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

S10. Motion to **approve the following employees to write curriculum:**

- **Brian Meisner to write curriculum for Social Media Marketing:** 20 hours per curriculum at the rate of \$35.00 per hour.
- **Michele Rack to write curriculum for Statistics Honors:** 20 hours per curriculum at the rate of \$35.00 per hour.

A motion was made by Mr. Splendoria and seconded by Mrs. Mega to approve items S11 through S12.

S11. Motion to **approve the Collective Bargaining Agreements between the Cedar Grove Board of Education and the Cedar Grove Education Association’s Teacher Unit, Secretarial Unit, Paraprofessional Unit and Custodian Unit for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 years.**

S12. Motion for **APPROVAL OF THE KEAN UNIVERSITY DUAL ENROLLMENT HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES 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 university education, and

WHEREAS, Kean University and Cedar Grove High School are creating an opportunity for Grove High School students to take college-level coursework to expand the knowledge and the sensitivity to Holocaust and genocide studies through a 3 credit undergraduate course, and

WHEREAS, Cedar Grove High School and Kean University wish to enter into an educational affiliation whereby high school students in grades 10, 11 and 12 may, with the recommendation of the Cedar Grove Public School District, do advanced college level work, enrolled at Kean University and receive a possible total of 3 college credits from Kean University for successful completion of the said enrolled course,

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

On roll call, the following vote was taken: Mrs. DiChiara, “yes”, Mrs. Mega, “yes”, Mr. Splendoria, “yes”, Mr. Schoner, “yes, with the exception of not voting on S11”, Mrs. Dye, “yes, with the exception of not voting on S11”.

The motions passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mark Loftus spoke about combining the cohorts in the middle school.

Patricia Montana spoke about in person learning on Fridays, teachers getting vaccinations and extending in person learning.

Chris Cannella thanked the board for ratifying the contract and spoke about union goals.

Patricia Montana spoke about learning in the afternoons on Fridays.

Chris Cannella talked about the afternoons on Fridays.

Announcement of future meetings:

March 2, 2021 CGHS Auditorium. 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Meeting

March 16, 2021 CGHS Auditorium. 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Meeting

Motion by Mrs. DiChiara and seconded by Mr. Schoner and unanimously carried to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Cedar Grove Board of Education at 9:04 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