

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

**March 16, 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. 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.
- 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.
- Personnel matters relative to **employee placements**. 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 7:45 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. 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. DiChiara attended the Recreation Board meeting and reported that the pool will be opening this summer and the rates have been published.

Mrs. DiChiara attended the North End FSA meeting and reported that the superintendent attended to answer questions. They spoke about an outdoor learning space that is being proposed.

Mrs. Mega attended the High School APT meeting and reported that they discussed project graduation, an outdoor prom, an APT scholarship and a calming room.

Mrs. Dye attended the Middle School FSA meeting and reported that they are planning a virtual fundraiser, a virtual career day, motivational speaker, 8th grade graduation, no TREPS this year and that board seats are open at the end of the school year.

Mr. Schoner spoke about virtual career day.

### **Board Presentation:**

Rob Gogerty spoke about the Cedar Grove Girls Basketball Team, which finished 8-0 in their conference and 14-0 overall. They are the 2021 SEC Colonial Division Champions. Coach Bill Scanlon spoke about the team.

Michael DeVita presented the 2021/2022 proposed Budgets for Instructional, Administration, Building & Grounds, Transportation and Benefits.

### **Superintendent Update**

Mr. Grosso gave a district COVID update, a SELC update and presented a powerpoint on mental health and what the plan is for next school year and new positions.

### **FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR and BOARD SECRETARY**

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

- B1. Motion to **approve the Public and Executive minutes of March 2, 2021**

- B2. Motion to **approve the budgetary transfers** for the months of February 2021.
- B3. Motion to **approve the Treasurer’s Report** for the month of February 2021.
- B4. Motion to **approve the Board Secretary Report** for the month of February 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 Mr. DiChiara and seconded by Mr. Schoner and unanimously carried.

- B6. Motion to **pay the following List of Bills totaling: \$4,027,337.17 for the period 2/24/2021 - 3/16/2021**

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

- B7. **RESOLVED**, that the following Tentative Budget, Annual District Budget Statement and Supporting Documentation for the 2021-22 school year be submitted for approval to the Essex County Superintendent of Schools:

	<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$33,123,133	\$29,372,015
Special Revenue Fund	688,745	-0-
Debt Service Fund	<u>2,274,100</u>	<u>1,947,708</u>
Total Budget	<u>\$36,085,978</u>	<u>\$31,319,723</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 2021-22 school year to be **\$175.00** per employee, or an annual amount of \$56,700.

**RESOLVED**, that the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget be held on May 4, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cedar Grove High School, Auditorium.

**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

A motion was made by Mrs. Mega and seconded by Mrs. DiChiara and unanimously carried to approve items S1 through S20.

Mrs. Dye thanked Claire Swanson and wished her the best of luck in her retirement.

S1. Motion to **retroactively approve Christa Matera, MMS Math Teacher, BA Step 1 at a salary of \$51,224 (19-20 guide), \$51,929 (20-21)** pro-rated from March 10 - June 30, 2021.

S2. Motion to **approve the following staff members for substitute positions** for the 2020-2021 school year: **Faith Fennelly:** substitute teacher at a rate of \$90/day  
**Ryan Pagano:** substitute custodian at a rate of \$12/hr

S3. Motion to **approve Ryan Fearon, as CGHS Assistant/Varsity Baseball Coach, Step 1,** \$4,816 starting April 1, 2021.

S4. Motion to **approve the following as volunteer coaches** for the Spring 2021:  
\*Peter Velard \*Joe Amati \*Loren Vitale

S5. Motion to **approve the dissolving of School Library Specialist** per policy 3112 for all schools in the Cedar Grove school district.

S6. Motion to **approve the job description for the position of Reading Specialist.**

S7. Motion to **approve the job description for the position of Assistant Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds.**

S8. Motion to **approve After School Math Strategies (virtual) at the Memorial Middle School** beginning on or about March 22, 2021 through June 11, 2021 at the following stipend \$2252 prorated for the following staff members:  
Nicole Ichinco  
Jackie Seugling  
Jessica Lawshe

S9. Motion to **approve Andrew Vander Horn, Spring Weight Room Advisor** from April 1, 2021 to June 11, 2021 per stipend rate of \$2647.

S10. Motion to **approve Anthony Longo, Night Custodian at Step 1, \$38,876(19-20 guide), \$40,390(20-21) guide** effective March 17, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

S11. Motion to **appoint the following staff in accordance with the State Emergent Hiring Start Date procedures:**

- **Gjon Lahu**, Night Custodian at Step 1, \$38,876(19-20 guide), \$40,390(20-21 guide) start date on or before March 23, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

S12. Motion to **accept the resignation of Claire Swanson for the purpose of retirement as high school Media Specialist after 39 years in the district.** Last work day being June

30, 2021.

S13. Motion to **re-employ and set salaries for the tenured professional** staff members shown below for the 2020-2021 school year.

Alberto	Elisa	64,179
Alves Rizzo	Kristen	60,679
Amador	Meagan	54,929
Amato	Ashley	59,929
Arluna	Kristin	55,929
Barilari	Jacquelynn	54,929
Behrle	Meryl	59,929
Bellantoni	Matteo	100,522
Brady	Robert	87,524
Browne	Alan	79,044
Bulger	Colleen	61,929
Bulmer	Jennifer	61,929
Cali	Robyn	100,002
Candia	David	54,929
Cannella	Christopher	100,002
Caravella	Lia	79,154
Carr	Suzanne	101,132
Castillo	Alexandria	59,929
Cheyne	Elizabeth	100,912
Cilento	Cara	93,592
Coakley	Jennifer	100,392
Comerford	Tracy	86,984
Conover	Kathleen	83,984
Conyngham	Brenda	84,183
Costantini	Jennifer	57,929
Czergovits	George	88,253
Damiano	Annmarie	93,462
Danieli	Kathleen	89,793
Denman	Meridith	90,922
DeStefano	James	86,614
DiBenedetto	Ariel	60,904
DiChiara	Michael	56,929
Escobar	Amanda	61,754
Durso	Adriana	58,929
Ernst	Carl	61,679
Farinhas	Mena	94,852
Finley Grossman	Deanne	70,154
Foose	Jennifer	101,002
Galambos	Veronica	59,929

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Gallagher	Steven	80,339
Garofalo	Heather	58,829
Gaviria	Charlotte	63,129
Geddis	Denise	87,977
Grgas	Mark	100,182
Grosvenor	Thomas	89,007
Hanlon	Katie	64821
Hartjen	Laura	59,929
Hartzikyriakou	Amanda	59,929
Hill	Melissa	84,704
Hull	Kathleen	73,004
Ichinco	Nicole	66,904
Imperatore-Dangler	Cassandra	60,929
Jacob	Danielle	94,723
Jarvis	Joan	91,067
Jones	Thomas	55,929
Kay	Stacy	92,082
Kelly	Kelly	56,929
Konopka	Michael	62,679
Lasher	Marie	62,229
Lasky	Jacqueline	73,044
Lawshe	Jessica	60,679
Legras	Beth	101,912
Liberman	Sara	86,102
Licitra	Christina	73,154
Luogameno	Jeremy	61,929
Malagiere	Sandra	59,129
Manning	Jennifer	59,129
Martin	Cynthia	103,552
Massotto	Kristin	84,444
Mastria	Lauren	59,129
McLaughlin	Danielle	60,929
Metallo	Claudine	87,962
Miller	Olivia	64,929
Mills	Allen	88,044
Miscia	Deanna	81,444
Monto	Jennifer	62,229
Moogan	Thomas	59,929
Moussab	Michael	56,929
Mufferi	Vincent	88,977
Nelson	Randy	72,089
Oehm	Joan	78,044
Pace	Eric	63,929
Palmieri	Dianne	67,129

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Perazzone	Virginia	58,979
Petrillo	Shannon	88,264
Pines	Ashley	100,132
Placenti	Dayna	98,692
Poll	Sara	72,154
Potts	Alex	66,229
Powers	Kelly	70,004
Pucilowski	Kristin	58,929
Rack	Michele	59,929
Rego	Stacie	94,982
Reid	Lauren	64,104
Robinson	Lori	57,929
Rodriguez	Maria-Migdalia	84,934
Rubino	Alexa	61,799
Russo-Basso	Stephanie	70,154
Savino	Robert	85,964
Schomaker	Jessica	60,929
Schwartz	Barbara	57,929
Scuralli	Annette	89,744
Searle	Lara	72,154
Servideo	Gayle	99,612
Seugling	Jacqueline	72,154
Slota	Erica	66,629
Skowronek	Kevin	63,129
Spallino	Dana	60,929
Spinelli	Phyllis	85,782
Stanford	Milissa	59,929
Stella	Sandra	68,154
Stepanian	Joanne	68,799
Stitzer	Mimi	82,764
Stroh	Maggie	54,929
Sudol	Casey	63,679
Swanson	Claire	103,342
Sweeney	Linda Sue	87,304
Tedesco	Victoria	56,929
Terzo	Geralyn	100,912
Torchia	Christie	59,929
Tower	Lisa	96,282
Travaglio	Maria	93,542
Valenzano	Michael	86,102
Vanderwolk	Kristen	80,664
Villanueva	Jennie	100,782
Willing	Alyssa	56,929

S14. Motion to **re-employ and set salaries for the non-tenured professional** staff members shown below for the 2020-2021 school year.

Allstaedt	Cristina	55,929
Amato	Kayla	55,929
Asaro	Katarzyna	73,029
Bentley	Jenna	59,929
Bronner	Justin	59,929
Cawley	Katherine	52,429
Chiang	Nancy	60,929
Ciprian	Kimberly	62,229
Coster	David	88,303
Daniel	Elizabeth	52,429
DeNunzio	Mary	62,229
Detrizio	Dana	74,964
Dimler	Jessica	56,429
Donnelly	Heather	56,929
Dorflauffer	Brian	57,929
Germann	Rachel	55,929
Guridys	Gabrielle	52,929
Hios	Stefanie	55,929
Jordan	Kelsey	56,929
Karabetsos	Christine	55,929
Lab	Jesse	53,929
Lafoon	Donna	58,929
Leva	Chantal	58,929
Lindt	Julia	83,882
Marriott	Joanne	53,929
McCarthy	Nicolette	51,929
McElroy	Colleen	63,229
Meisner	Brian	51,929
Milano	Melinda	56,929
Miller	Alexa	64,129
Puchalski	Edward	54,929
Reamer	Brittany	53,429
Reid	Heather	74,964
Sandoval	Yancy	56,929
Shutovsky	Irina	67,129
Straut (11/16/2020)	Dean	54,929
Tedesco	Michael	53,929
Ur	Brittany	59,929
Vander Horn	Andrew	59,929

S15. Motion to **re-employ and set salaries for the tenured secretarial** staff members shown below for the 2020-2021 school year.

Anderson	Nancy	44866
Benanti	MaryLynn	63170
Kennedy	Janice	62670
Kotys	Larissa	43525
Mejias	Nereida	62840
Sinisi	Vickie	52876
Williams	Lisa	46666

S16. Motion to **re-employ and set salaries for the non-tenured secretarial** staff members shown below for the 2020-2021 school year.

Arbucci	Patricia	25215
Hampson	Erica	43525
Infante	Tay	51859
Zunic	Sabrina	51330

S17. Motion to **re-employ and set salaries for the custodial staff members** shown below for the 2020-2021 school year.

Amaya	Concepcion	54470
Cusumano	Michael	43990
D'Anna	John	47490
Franciose	Raymond	54470
Hankerson	Earlie	55170
Ljekocevic	Novo	55605
Marciano	Patrick	44490
Munck	Howard	55605
Nibaldi	Gennaro	54470
Pedicini	Frank	55605
Purcell	Regina	41390
Riordan	Sean	55605
Rustemliu	Jetnor	55170
Salerno	Valentino	51010
Salluce	Michael	55605

S18. Motion to **re-employ and set salaries for the paraprofessional staff** members shown below for the 2020-2021 school year.

Alscher	John	20,412
Amireh	Lina	20,662
Caldera	Florence	20,662
Carnuccio	Amy	20,662
Chokshi	Pinali	20,662
Cifaretto	Colleen	20,662
DiVizio	Rochelle	20,662
Farley	Catherine	20,412
Frias	Laura	20,662
Gibson	Paige	20,662
Gurhan	Gulnaz	20,662
Iurato	Rachelle	20,662
Kennedy	Denise	20,662
Kerrigan	Judith	20,662
Lawless	Lisa	20,662
Lawshe	Mary	20,412
Leotsakas	Nancy	20,662
Levy	Robyn	20,662
Longo	LuAnn	20,662
Lynch	Susan	20,662
Macleod	Megan	20,412
Mitola	Sharon	20,412
Nemeth	Samatha	20,412
Paizis	Elizabeth	20,412
Palma	Michelle	20,662
Pantusa	Margaret	20,662
Raddi	Anne	20,662
Romano	Diana	20,412
Rosa	Robin	20,662
Rubinich	Laura	20,662
Sharif	Tamia	20,412
Turken	Trisha	20,662
Van Natten	Jackie	20,662
Varricchio	Carmela	20,662
Zaturoska	Kristina	20,412

S19. Motion to set salaries for the staff members shown below for the 2020-2021 school year, according to the new bargaining agreement for the CGEA for the purposes of

retroactive pay.

Ardo	Theresa	55,929
Bulbulia	Emily	51,929
Marzouka	Suzanne	51,929
Matera	Christa	51,929
Okker	Lauren	51,929
Palamara	Christine	56,929
Salerno	Gabrielle	51,929
Walter	Jennifer	51,929
Aramando	Gionna	57,929
Caruso	Patricia	101,822
Cecire	Colleen	56,929
Hales	Jennifer	60,929
Heim	Sharon	20,662
Krehel	Walter	88,434
Lagattuta	Jillian	20,662
Pagano	Ryan	42,590
Parrotta	Vincent	20,412
Pelling	Robin	20,662
Pfeil	Frank	55,605
Sacks	Laura	100,392
Sweeney	Sean	55,929
Williams	Jerry	55,605
Fisher	Brian	40390
Straut (10/1/20 - 11/13/20)	Dean	52,929

S20. Motion to **authorize attendance** at the following event/s:

Program	Date	Employee(s)	Board Member(s)	Cost
Pediatric Problems in Ambulatory Care	3/26/2021	J. Lindt	0	\$10.13

A motion was made by Mrs. DiChiara and seconded by Mr. Schoner and unanimously carried to approve items S21 through S22.

S21. Motion to **suspend Bylaw 131 that requires two readings to adopt a bylaw or policy and adopt the below numbered policies with one reading to be consistent with CDC Guidelines:**

**5200.1 Student Travel Advisory Procedures During Pandemic**

**6471.1 School District Travel Advisory Procedures During Pandemic**

S22. Motion to **approve the Second Reading of the following Policy Updates/Revisions:**

**P 8451 Control Of Communicable Disease (M)**

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

S23. Motion to **approve Colleen McElroy to write curriculum** for Financial Algebra: 20 hours per curriculum at the rate of \$35.00 per hour.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mega and seconded by Mrs. DiChiara and unanimously carried to approve items S24 through S25.

S24. Motion to **approve the following contract for a special education student**, as recommended by the Director of Special Services, for the 2020-2021 school year:

**Passaic Valley**

Student 9871658775

Tuition for the remainder of the 20-21 school year

Total: \$24,140,34

S25. Motion to **approve the proposal from LE Consulting, LLC** to serve as the Director of the Panther Dual Enrollment Program (PADE) between the Cedar Grove Board of Education and Montclair State University for the amount of \$5,000.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Martinelli spoke about school curriculum and teaching history.

Tom Perri spoke about distance between students and in person learning on Fridays.

Ornella Eustice read a statement from her daughters about the girls volleyball team.

Chris Cannella congratulated the girls basketball team and Claire Swanson and spoke about diversity in teaching and reopening of schools.

Mrs. Mega spoke about the passing of Mrs. Tower, who served as a crossing guard for over 40 years.

**Announcement of future meetings:**

April 20, 2021 CGHS Auditorium. 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Meeting

May 4, 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 10:00 pm and enter into executive session to discuss a residency issue. No further action will be taken in public.

Roll Call:

- ✓ Mrs. DiChiara
- ✓ Mrs. Mega
- ✓ 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