

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

**October 26, 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, Mr. Michael DeVita, Business Administrator and Jeff Merlino, Board Attorney 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.
- Student matter relative to **HIB**. Action is not expected to follow the discussion in the executive session. Due to the confidentiality of student matters, public release of this discussion will probably never occur.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:47 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, Mr. Michael DeVita, Business Administrator and Jeff Merlino, Board Attorney were also present.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Leo Stringer asked about resolutions S26 and S32

Janine Patel asked about resolution S36

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. DiChiara attended the South End FSA meeting and reported that they are looking to create a scholarship for Nicky Storms, South End has the big fundraiser this year in March, Mrs. DiMatteo thanked all for a great opening to the school year, Kevin Skowronek is now full time only at South End.

Mrs. Mega attended the recreation board meeting and reported that winter programs are now online, a Radio City Hall trip, ski trips, athletic events, congratulated Fall sports, college fair, teen abuse night and the breast cancer walk.

Mrs. Dye attended the college fair and reported that there were 73 colleges in attendance. She thanked the guidance counselors and staff for their hard work.

### **Board Presentation:**

Bard Pierson and Janine Barboza did a powerpoint presentation showing the results of the New Jersey Start Strong Assessment.

### **Superintendent Update**

Mr. Grosso spoke about the NJ Start Strong Assessment results and the different tiers, the opening of the zen den in the high school which is a social and emotional learning space, high school music dept is performing "All Together Now", red ribbon week in October, Governor Educators of the year nominations, mental health parent/caregiver series of workshops held their first topic on teen abuse and their next topic is on vaping, college fair, new superintendent series will be held in all schools and an LRP update.

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

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

- B1. Motion to **approve the Public and Executive minutes** of September 28, 2021.
- B2. Motion to **approve the budgetary transfers** for the month of September 2021.
- B3. Motion to **approve the Treasurer's Report** for the month of August 2021.

B4. Motion to **approve the Board Secretary Report** for the month of August 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).**

On roll call, the following vote was taken: Mrs. DiChiara, "yes", Mrs. Mega, "yes", Mr. Splendoria, "yes", Mr. Schoner, "not voting", Mrs. Dye, "yes".

The motions passed.

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

B6. Motion to **pay the List of Bills totaling \$4,303,821.12 for the time period of September 28, 2021 – October 26, 2021**

A motion was made by Mrs. DiChiara and seconded by Mr. Splendoria to approve items B7 through B15.

B7. Motion to **approve the subscription busing contract with the parents of student no. 1813101690** in the amount of \$900.00 for the 2021-2022 school year.

B8. Motion to **accept the generous donation from the Cedar Grove High School Diamond Club** in the amount of \$1,863.50 for the purpose of purchasing an outdoor batting cage.

B9. Motion to **approve the location agreement with Gabriel Guimaraes (NYU Tisch School of the Arts)** and the Cedar Grove Board of Education for a filming at Cedar Grove High School for a pilot episode of an NYU Tisch Advanced Television Production series on October 30-31, 2021 at a cost of \$1,000, plus custodial overtime. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

B10. Motion to **approve the following for submission of the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the 2021-22 school year:**

Whereas, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting "required" maintenance activities for each of its public school facilities; and

Whereas, the required maintenance activities as listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of the Cedar Grove School District are consistent with these requirements; and

Whereas, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid; and

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Cedar Grove School District hereby authorizes the School Business Administrator to submit the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and the Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet (M-1) for the Cedar Grove School District in compliance with Department of Education requirements.

B11. Motion to **approve the proposals from AME, Inc for the purchase of upgrading HVAC controls for offices, gymnasium and hallways at North End School and South End School** through the Coronavirus Response and Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021(CRRSA)/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) in the amount of \$37,000 through the cooperative bid # ESCNJ 20/21-50.

B12. Motion to **approve the proposals from AME, Inc for the purchase of upgrading HVAC controls for the Media Centers, bathrooms and offices at North End School and South End School** through the Coronavirus Response and Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021(CRRSA)/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) in the amount of \$45,500 through the cooperative bid # ESCNJ 20/21-50.

B13. Motion to **approve the proposals from AME, Inc for the purchase of upgrading HVAC controls in the boiler room including boilers, pumps and exhaust fans at North End School and South End School** through the Coronavirus Response and Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021(CRRSA)/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) in the amount of \$41,310 through the cooperative bid # ESCNJ 20/21-50.

B14. Motion to **approve the removal of one (1) Bobcat Skidster** from the Board of Education equipment list due to being non operational and authorize the selling through the boards account with GovDeals. Any sale proceeds will be used for the purchase of new equipment.

B15. Motion to **approve the removal of one (1) 2010 Walker Lawn Mower** from the Board of Education equipment list due to lack of use/need and authorize the selling through the boards account with GovDeals. Any sale proceeds will be used for the purchase of new equipment.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Schoner and seconded by Mr. Splendoria to approve items S1 through S35.

S1. Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation involving SID # 202107601808 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 Non-HIB

S2.      Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation involving SID # 202507602487 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 Non-HIB

S3. Motion to **rescind S7 on September 28 2021 agenda and approve Suzanne Marzouka, Memorial Middle School Math Teacher, maternity leave replacement for N. Ichinco and Jackie Seugling, non tenure track**, at step 1, \$52,564 prorated starting September 1, 2021 - April 29, 2022.

S4. Motion to **retroactively approve Lauren Okker, medical leave replacement** for Lauren Mastria, non tenurable teacher at South End School from October 1 to on or before January 3, 2022, BA, step 1, \$52,564 prorated.

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

- **Angela DelViscovo**, NE Paraprofessional Step 1, \$20,824 retroactively starting on October 19, 2021 through June 22, 2022.
- **Alicia Gammaro**, NE Paraprofessional Step 2, \$21,074 retroactively starting on October 18, 2021 through June 22, 2022.

S6. Motion to **approve the resignation of Brian Meisner, High School Business Teacher**, upholding the contract term of 60 days, brings the last day of work to November 24, 2021 or sooner pending a suitable replacement.

S7. Motion to **approve the resignation for purposes of retirement Virginia Perazzone**, MMS English teacher effective December 31, 2021.

S8. Motion to **approve the resignation of Laura Frias, paraprofessional**, upholding the contract of 14 days, bring the last day of work to October 22, 2021.

S9. Motion to **approve the building transfer of Rachel Badalamenti, HS Paraprofessional to the North End School** retroactive to October 1, 2021 through June 22, 2022.

S10. Motion to **rescind S44 motion on September 28 2021 agenda and motion to approve the following lunch aides at a salary rate of \$4680**, retroactive to Sept 1st, for the 2021-22 school year. Additional time beyond 2 hours per day will be paid via timesheet at a rate of \$13 per hour.

Mauren Hoehe      Joann Jandoli  
Maria Adubato      Mary Noel Daino

S11. Motion to **retroactively approve the per diem rate for substitute teachers to \$100** as of September 29, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

S12. Motion to **approve Robyn Levy to provide after school extracurricular assistance to students at MMS** as needed and directed by the Director of Special Services, Vice Principal and/or Principal at the rate of \$35 per hour for the 2021-2022 school year.

S13. Motion to **approve the following stipend updates for the 2021-2022** school year:  
**HS Pride Advisor Stipend:** rescind Olivia Miller as of 11/5/2021, approve Adriana Durso as of 11/8/2021.

**HS Asian Club Advisor Stipend:** approve Nancy Chiang to split with Steve Gallagher

**HS Yearbook Business Advisor Stipend:** rescind Brian Meisner as of 11/24/21, approve Veronica Galambos from 11/25/21 through year end 2022.

**HS Fall Set Designer (Drama) stipend:** approve Jenna Bentley for 2021-22 school year.

S14. Motion to **approve Kara Conklin to provide lunch supervision** for MMS student #9641706822 at the rate of \$35 per hour retroactively from September 8, 2021.

S15. Motion to **approve Anne Raddi to provide after school assistance** to designated students as determined by the Principal, VP and/or the Director of Special Services at the rate of \$35 per hour for the 2021-2022 school year.

S16. Motion to **retroactively approve Carol Storm, district substitute nurse** as of October 8, 2021 at a rate of \$175/diem.

S17. Motion to **approve the following volunteers:**

Lauren Miller SE      Kelly Mcfadzean NE      Lauren Gaita NE      Jacqueline Pinho NE  
Melissa Warren SE      Toni Giovatto NE      Giselle Mongiello NE

S18. Motion to **approve the following tenure teachers** for reimbursement of mentoring fees the amount of \$550: Brian Dorflauer and Michael Tedesco.

S19. Motion to **approve the settlement agreement between the Board of Education and the parent of student #9474508524** as recommended by the Director of Special services.

S20. Motion to **approve Beth Legras as a Pathways instructor** for the 2021-2022 school year at the rate of \$35 per hour to be funded by the ESEA Title I grant.

S21. Motion to **retroactively approve Physical Education coverage by Thomas Jones and Heather Dapuzzo**, Cedar Grove High School, at \$50per diem starting on September 13, 2021 until on or before January 2, 2022.

S22. Motion to **authorize attendance** at the following event/s:

Program	Date	Employee(s)	Board Member(s)	Cost
NJ B&G Mtg	10/6; 11/3; 12/1; 4/6;1/5; 2/2;3/2;5/4	J. Bannon	0	0
NJASBO	10/19;11/16;12/21;1/20;2/22;3/17;4/21	M. DeVita	0	\$100 per
Energy Saving Improvement Plan	10/13/2021 (5pm - 7pm)	J. Bannon	0	\$82
NJSIAA Clinic	10/22/21 (retroactively)	M. Valenzano	0	\$0
LDTC Fall Symposium	10/21 - 22/2021 (PM)	A. Santamaria	0	\$50/pd by SS
ChangeMaker Harkness Method	12/3/2021	J. Lab	0	\$159/pd by Board

S23. Motion to **approve the following** leaves of absence:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Position / Location</i>	<i>Number of Employee Sick Days used for Leave</i>	<i>FMLA Start Date</i>	<i>NJ(FLA) Start Date</i>	<i>Return Date</i>	<i>Modifications / Updates</i>
Lauren Mastria	Medical	SE Grade K	n/a	9/13-10/29/21	n/a	11/1/21	New RTW date
C. Metallo	Medical	HS Italian Teacher	11/8-12/20/21 (29)		n/a	1/3/22	New Request
V. Mufferi	Medical	HS Science	10/4-10/29/21 (20)	n/a	n/a	11/1/21	New Request
D. Spallino	Medical	MMS Resource	3/18-3/31/22 (10)	4/1-6/3/22 (40)	6/6-6/22/22 <sup>(13)</sup> 9/1-11/22 <sup>(47)</sup>	TBD pending 22-23 calendar	New Request
D. Miscia	Family	NE/Grade4	n/a	n/a	9/29-11/30/21	12/1/2021	Extend RTW date
L. Searle	Mat'y	SE/Resource	2/14-3/14/22 (19)	3/15-3/22/22 (6)	3/23-6/22/22 (60)	9/1/2022	New Request

S24. Motion to **approve the following students for Classroom Observation**:

<i>Student</i>	<i>College/Univ. Student Attends</i>	<i>School Observing in Grade/Subject</i>	<i>Date(s)/Hours of Observation</i>
Alyssa Lever	Montclair State University	NE School / Suzanne Carr 3rd grade	30 hours of Classroom Observation 2021-2022 school

			year, retroactive to 10/18/21
--	--	--	-------------------------------

S25. Motion to **retroactively approve the following Middle School Grade 5 Math teachers** to instruct extra classes from November 8 through November 23, 2021 (being last day) at a stipend of \$6300 prorated.

**Kathy Asaro                      Christa Matera**  
**Brian Dorflufer                      Dana Spallino**  
**Maria Travaglio                      Alan Browne**

S26. Motion to **retroactively approve the following High School Social Studies Teachers** to instruct extra classes from October 12 through November 29, 2021 at a stipend of \$6300 prorated:

**Jessica Schomaker                      Steve Gallagher**  
**Andrew VanderHorn                      Michael Tedesco**

S27. Motion to **rescind S23 from September 28, 2021 agenda and retroactively approve the following High School Math teachers to instruct extra classes from September 8 through October 18, 2021 (being last day) at a stipend of \$6300 prorated:**

**Joan Oehm -                      Geometry period 1**  
**Dave Coster -                      Algebra II H period 3**  
**Michele Rack -                      Algebra Lab period 4**  
**Dean Stuart -                      Geometry period 7**  
**Robert Brady -                      Geometry period 8**

S28. Motion to **rescind S25 from September 28, 2021 agenda and retroactively approve the following Middle School teachers to instruct an extra class from September 9th through October 18, 2021 (being last day) a stipend of \$6300 prorated:**

**Brian Dorflauer                      Jeremy Luogameno**  
**George Czergovits                      Annamarie Damiano**  
**Justin Bronner                      Maria Travaglio**

S29. Motion to **approve the submission of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary Merit Goal**, one (1) Qualitative, for the 2021/2022 school year to the County Executive Superintendent of Schools for approval.

S30. Motion to **approve the following Winter Coaches for the 2021-2022 school year:**

**Boys' Basketball**

Thomas Jones	Head	5	\$ 10,149
Chris Romano	Asst/JV	5	\$ 6,638

**Girls' Basketball**

Alyssa Lever	Asst/JV	5	\$ 6,638
--------------	---------	---	----------



**Wrestling**

Michael Risimini	Head	1	\$ 8,364
------------------	------	---	----------

**Winter Track**

Colleen Merklinger	Head	5	\$ 5,733
Vincent LoProto	Asst	5	\$ 3,782

**Winter Cheerleading**

Nicolette McCarthy	Head	2	\$ 5,111
Julia Giacobbe	Asst	1	\$ 3,219

S31 was tabled

S32. Motion to **accept the resignation of Alexander Pena**, High School Social Studies Teacher as of November 1, 2021.

S33. Motion to **approve Brittany Maguire, NE Grade 4 Replacement Teacher**, non tenure track position from November 4 to November 30, 2021 at a BA, Step 1 at a salary of \$52,564 prorated for D. Miscia.

S34. Motion to **approve Rachel Root, NE Grade 1 Replacement Teacher**, non tenure track position from November 1, 2021 to November 23, 2021 at a MA, Step 1 at a salary of \$56,564 prorated for M. Stitzer.

S35. Motion to **approve the Memorial Middle School's Chemical Hygiene Plan, naming John Bannon as the District Hygiene Officer, and Liz Cheyne as the Site Chemical Hygiene Manager** for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mrs. Mega congratulated Virginia Perazzone on her retirement and thanked her for her service.

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 S1 and S2", Mrs. Dye, "yes with the exception of not voting on S1".

The motions passed.

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

S36. Motion to **approve the Second Reading of the following Policies:**

P 2422	Comprehensive Health and Physical Education (M) (Revised)
P 2467	Surrogate Parents and Resource Family Parents (M) (Revised)
P 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M) (Revised)
P 5114	Children Displaced by Domestic Violence (Abolished)

- P 5116 Education of Homeless Children (Revised)
- P & R 7432 Eye Protection (M) (Revised)
- P 8420 Emergency and Crisis Situations (M) (Revised)
- R 8420.1 Fire and Fire Drills (M) (Revised)
- P 8540 School Nutrition Programs (M) (Revised)
- P 8550 Meal Charges/Outstanding Food Service Bill (M) (Revised)
- P 8600 Student Transportation (M) (Revised)
- P 8810 Religious Holidays (Abolished)
- P 6115.01 Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Allowability  
of Costs (M) (New)
- P 6115.02 Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Mandatory Disclosures (M) (New)
- P 6115.03 Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Conflict of Interest (M) (New)
- P 6311 Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants (M) (Revised)

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

The motions passed.

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

S37. Motion to **approve the following contracts for special education students**, as recommended by the Director of Special Services, for the 2021-2022 school year:

**Faith Therapy**

OT services for the 2021-2022 school year

In district \$85 per hour

Home based \$100 per hour

**Montclair State University**

Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health

Clinical, Consultation, and Evaluation Services for the 2021-2022 school year

**Shift Transition Services**

Job Coaching for students 2021-2022 school year

**North Jersey Behavioral Health Services**

Behavioral Assessments for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of \$200 per hour

**Dr. Bryan Fennelly**

Psychiatric Evaluations for the 2021-2022 school year

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mike Tedesco thanked the candidates running for the upcoming election for attending their meeting and answering questions.

Leo Stringer spoke about the cafeteria, HVAC contracts and spending.

Afi Lamptey spoke about comments on social media.

Don Elting spoke about mandates for teachers and the EDAC committee selection process.

Cindy Taylor spoke about HIB.

Mayra Medina spoke about her family.

Michelle Mauriello spoke about personnel.

Meonor Ye spoke about SEL.

John Martinelli spoke about EDAC.

Jeanine Patel spoke about Virginia Perazzone retiring.

Nat Harris spoke about the Cedar Grove Artist Alliance.

Board Attorney, Jeff Merlino, spoke about complaints filed to the Commissioner of Education and the school ethics committee.

**Announcement of future meetings:**

November 16, 2021 CGHS Auditorium 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Mtg

December 14, 2021 CGHS Auditorium 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Mtg

Motion by Mr. Splendoria and seconded by Mrs. Mega and unanimously carried to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Cedar Grove Board of Education at 10:53 pm.

Roll Call:

- ✓ Mrs. DiChiara
- ✓ Mrs. Mega
- ✓ Mr. Splendoria
- ✓ Mr. Schoner
- ✓ Mrs. Dye

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael DeVita  
Board Secretary