

CEDAR GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Cedar Grove, New Jersey
MINUTES

November 16, 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
- ✓ 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. Mega 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 7:49 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
- ✓ Mrs. Dye

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Mega reported to the board the following: congratulated the fall sports athletes on the success of their seasons, the “All Together” musical was excellent, attended the breast cancer awareness walk, tree lighting for the town, membership for the black and gold club, acknowledged a former teacher that passed away and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Board Presentation:

Dustin Bayer, High School Principal presented a powerpoint and spoke about a senior internship program.

Superintendent Update

Mr. Grosso thanked Bobbie Bolandi for organizing the second series of parent workshops on vaping and spoke about the “All Together” production, first superintendent series, fall sports: boys soccer won state sectional championship, girls soccer won its division, girls volleyball made state sectional finals, football team is playing in the state sectional finals and girls tennis won its division. Developing concept plans for LRP, covid testing for employees, students can attend district testing as well and spoke about a decision by an administrative law judge on a survey.

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 B5.

- B1. Motion to **approve the Public and Executive minutes** of October 26, 2021
- B2. Motion to **approve the budgetary transfers** for the months of October 2021
- B3. Motion to **approve the Treasurer’s Report** for the month of September 2021
- B4. Motion to **approve the Board Secretary Report** for the month of September 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 Mrs. Mega and seconded by Mrs. DiChiara and unanimously carried.

B6. Motion to pay the List of Bills totaling \$3,788,321.34 for the time period of October 26, 2021 – November 16, 2021

A motion was made by Mrs. DiChiara and seconded by Mr. Splendoria and unanimously carried to approve items B7 through B14.

B7. Motion to approve the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklists for the 2021/22 school year and authorize submission of the Statement of Assurance to the Essex County Superintendent of Schools.

B8. Motion to authorize the submission of the major amendment to the District Long Range Facility Plan.

B9. Motion to authorize submission of plans and required documentation for new boilers at Leonard R. Parks School including project application forms and preliminary/ schematic drawings to the New Jersey Department of Education for project application completeness review.

B10. Motion to approve the School Safety and Security Plan for the 2021/2022 school year and authorize submission of the Statement of Assurance to the Essex County Superintendent of Schools.

B11. Motion to approve the application for use of Cedar Grove Facilities with Sophisticated Productions and the Cedar Grove Board of Education for a dance competition at Cedar Grove High School on March 25-26, 2022. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

B12. Motion to approve the application for use of Cedar Grove Facilities with 3Cheers Dance & Fitness and the Cedar Grove Board of Education for a dance recital at Cedar Grove High School on June 4, 2022. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

B13. Motion to approve the application for use of Cedar Grove Facilities with CMG Dance Project and the Cedar Grove Board of Education for a dance recital at Cedar Grove High School on June 10-12, 2022. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

B14. Motion to approve the application for use of Cedar Grove Facilities with All Out Dance Competition and the Cedar Grove Board of Education for a dance recital at Cedar Grove High School on April 30, 2022 to May 1, 2022. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A motion was made by Mr. Splendoria and seconded by Mrs. Mega to approve items S1 through S13.

S1. Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation involving SID # 202407601315 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. Motion to **approve submission of the 2021-2022 School Self-Assessment HIB Grades** as per the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Law.

S3. Motion to **approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)** between Education and Law Enforcement Officials with Essex County for the 2021-2022 school year.

S4. Motion to **appoint the following staff in accordance with the State Emergent Hiring Start Date procedures:**

- **Mary Ann De Nicola**, HS Paraprofessional for 18-21 progressions program, Step 1, \$20,824 prorated, retroactively starting on November 8, 2021 through June 22, 2022
- **Anna Wrocenski**, HS Paraprofessional (for C. Varricchio maternity leave), Step 1, \$20,824 prorated retroactively starting on November 8, 2021 through June 22, 2022.
- **Steven Goodman**, HS Business Teacher (replacing B. Meisner), MA Step 1 \$56,564 prorated from start date of November 8, 2021 to June 30, 2022.
- **Amanda Weil**, SE paraprofessional (for L. Mastria's medical leave) to assist L. Okker who presently teaches the Kindergarten class, retroactively starting on November 29, 2021, through June 22, 2022, Step 1, \$20,824 prorated

S5. Motion to **rescind Motion S13 on October 26, 2021 agenda and retroactively approve Veronica Galambos as HS Yearbook Business Advisor Stipend from 11/9/2021 through the end of June 2022.** Brian's Meisner release date will be November 8, 2021 due to hiring Steven Goodman, a HS Business teacher with an 11/8/21 start date.

S6. Motion to **approve Casey Tinston, Memorial Middle School English Teacher** at MA+30, step 8, \$61,014 starting on January 3, 2022 through June 30, 2022 replacing V. Perrazone retiring on December 31, 2021.

S7. Motion to **retroactively approve the following High School STEM/STEAM Design course** to instruct an extra class from October 8, through October 29, 2021 at a stipend of \$6300 prorated: **Michael Tedesco**

S8. Motion to **approve the following as school volunteers:**
 *Ashley Genchi SE *Nicole Kelly SE *Melissa Stawinski NE

S9. Motion to **approve Kari DiTonno, as substitute teacher** at a rate of \$100/diem starting on November 24, 2021 through June 22, 2022.

S10. Motion to **authorize attendance** at the following event/s:

Program	Date	Employee(s)	Board Member(s)	Cost
Autism Conference	10/21-12/15/2021 - online program offered through 1/19/22	A.Santamaria	0	\$149.00
PECS Level I	11/8 & 9/2021	A.Castelli	0	\$399/pd by board
NJEA	12/2 & 3 / 2021	C. Cannella	0	\$0
Blue Ribbon School Ceremony	11/4-11/5/21 (retroactively)	A.Grosso T. Dyer K. Massotto	0	\$2,000 (hotel, meal, travel exp)
SEC	11/9;12/14;1/11;2/8;3/8 4/12;5/10;6/14/22 (AM)	R. Gogerty	0	\$0
NJASBO	11/16/2021	J. Bannon	0	\$150

S11. 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>
L. Mastria	Medical	SE/Gr K	n/a	9/13-12/3/21 (60)	n/a	12/6/21	RTW date
C. Cifaretto	Family	SE/ Para	n/a (1 Family Illness)	n/a	Leave w/o pay 11/16-26/21	11/29/21	New Request
I. Shutovsky	Mat'y	HS/Science	9/20-10/22/21 (25)	10/25-11/23/21 (22)	11/24-2/23/22 (60)	2/24/22	Fed Lv Ext

High School:

S12. Motion to approve the following Winter Coaches for the 2021-2022 school year:

Wrestling
 Omer Ersen Asst 4 \$6,426

S13. Motion to **approve the following Spring Coaches for the 2021-2022 school year:**

Boys' Track
 Vincent LoProto Head 1 \$ 8,223

Girls' Track

Colleen Merklinger	Head	5	\$ 9,280
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Softball

Nicole Velardi	Head	5	\$ 9,280
Eddie Capozzi	Asst	5	\$ 6,179

Baseball

Vincent Cordasco	Head	2	\$ 8,481
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Boys' Tennis

Robert Dunn	Head	5	\$ 6,038
Heather Dapuzzo	JV	5	\$ 3,782

Boys' Lacrosse

Lou Aboyoun	Head	5	\$9,280
Mike Caposella	JV	4	\$5,837

Golf

Michael Valenzano	Head	1	\$5,204
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Mr. Grosso described the blue ribbon ceremony that was held in Washington DC and he spoke about the need for additional substitute teachers.

On roll call, the following vote was taken: Mrs. DiChiara, "yes", Mrs. Mega, "yes", Mr. Splendoria, "yes", Mrs. Dye, "yes with the exception of not voting on S1".

The motions passed.

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

CONTRACTS

S15. Motion to **approve the following contracts for special education students**, as recommended by the Director of Special Services, for the 2021-2022 school year:

Pillar Care Continuum Pillar Elementary School

Student 202607602500

Tuition for the remainder of the 21-22 school year

\$ 51,935.33

PUBLIC COMMENT

Patricia Montana spoke about a decision regarding a survey.

At 8:50 pm, Mrs. DiChiara and Mr. Splendoria exited the meeting.

Mrs. Dye announced that since there was no longer a quorum, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael DeVita
Board Secretary