

CEDAR GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Cedar Grove, New Jersey
MINUTES

September 29, 2020

Cedar Grove High School Auditorium

Public Session

6:00 PM

Mrs. Dye, Board President, called the Regular Meeting of the Cedar Grove Board of Education to order at 6:00 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. 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 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 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 executive session. Due to the confidentiality of student matters, public release of this discussion will probably never occur.
- Personnel matter relative to **employment of a staff member**. Action is not expected to follow the discussion in Executive Session. Due to the confidentiality of personnel matters, public release of this discussion will probably never occur.
- Contract matter relative to the **lease of LRP School**. Action is not expected to follow the discussion in Executive Session. Public release of the discussion will occur upon completion of any contracts.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:44 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. Mega attended the CGHS APT meeting and reported back that membership is open, they are selling masks and will be making a donation to CGHS from last years funds.

Mrs. Mega attended the Black & Gold Club meeting and reported that membership is open and they are looking for volunteers for fall sports.

Mrs. Mega spoke about the breast cancer walk at Panther Park on 10/22.

Mr. Splendoria attended the North End FSA meeting and reported that they are active and a lot of people have joined this year. They gave each staff member a gift card to Cedar Beans instead of having a welcome back breakfast this year.

CGHS Student Representative, Francesca, spoke about fall sports starting today. There are soccer and football games this week. There will be a virtual pep rally, trick or trunk, and a talent under the stars next week.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES:

New Jersey regulations (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.2(f)) require districts to report graduation results annually to their district boards of education or charter school boards of trustees at a public meeting no later than September 30.

Districts are required to report:

1. The total number of students graduating in the prior school year: **120**
2. The number of graduates who met the graduation assessment requirements by:
 - a. Passing a substitute competency test: **0**
 - b. The portfolio appeals process: **0**
 - c. Meeting alternate requirements specified in their IEP: **0**
3. The number of 12th grade students who were denied graduation and how many of those students were denied solely due to failure to meet the graduation assessment requirements: **0**

Student #4586305164 was going down the road to be tested (ACU PLACER), however waived as a result of Ex. Order No. 117 for 19-20 school year.

Student #8912723496 was going down the road to be tested (ACU PLACER), however waived as a result of Ex. Order No. 117 for 19-20 school year.

Opening day for Elementary School was today, Middle School start date for hybrid is 10/5 and High School start date for hybrid is 10/12. New technology access points have been put up in each school. Text messages will go out before school starts to remind parents to do health checks before coming to school. Thanked Chris Canella and CGEA for having a united front on bringing students back.

BOARD PRESENTATION:

Michael Valenzano spoke about the Brain Injury Alliance (Legacy of Safety) and receiving some funds from the state.

Janine Barboza gave a presentation on the math/science curriculum for LGBTQ.

Donna Lafoon & Erica Slota gave a presentation on “PAW” Panther Awareness Wednesday.

The Board congratulated Giancarlo Morano for being the first place winner in the youth category for the Cedar Grove 2020 Essex County Parks Photography Contest.

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 September 15, 2020
- B2. Motion to **approve the budgetary transfers** for the months of September 2020
- B3. Motion to **approve the Treasurer’s Report** for the month of July 2020
- B4. Motion to **approve the Board Secretary Report** for the month of July 2020
- 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 following List of Bills:**
August 19, 2020 – September 29, 2020 \$2,702,443.38

A motion was made by Mrs. DiChiara and seconded by Mr. Schoner and unanimously carried to approve items B7 through B8.

- B7. Motion to **approve the following write off of unreconciled items from the HS Activities account and the Athletic account:**

HS Activities Account:

2521 \$50.00
2549 \$100.00
2731 \$10.00
3347 \$100.00
3515 \$40.00
3517 \$40.00
Fees \$132.91
Total \$472.91

Athletic Account:

5744 \$60.00
5754 \$150.00
5849 \$79.00
5918 \$58.00
6323 \$50.00
6423 \$100.00
6502 \$58.00
6697 \$60.00
6850 \$80.00
Total \$695.00

- B8. Motion to **approve the location agreement with Biscuit Filmworks**, and the Cedar Grove Board of Education for a commercial filming at Cedar Grove High School on September 30, 2020 (rain day October 1, 2020) for a fee of \$3,000. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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

- S1. Motion to **appoint the following staff in accordance with the State Emergent Hiring Start Date procedures:**
- **Dustin Bayer, High School Principal**, MA+60, Step 4, \$144,973 prorated, starting on or before November 30, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

- **Suzanne Marzouka, Middle School, Maternity Leave Replacement Math Teacher**, non tenurable, BA, Step 1, \$51,224 prorated from September 18, 2020 through last work day November 23, 2020.
- **Christine Palamara, High School Maternity Leave Replacement English Teacher**, non tenurable, MA+15, Step 1, \$56,224 prorated from September 21, 2020 through last work day April 9, 2021.
- **Dean Straut, High School short term Leave Replacement Math Teacher**, non tenurable, BA+15, Step 1, \$52,224 prorated from October 1, 2020 to last work day November 13, 2020.

Mr. Dustin Bayer introduced himself.

A motion was made by Mr. Splendoria and seconded by Mrs. Mega and unanimously carried to approve items S2 through S14.

- S2. Motion to **approve Christine Karabetos at South End staff to provide** temperature checks for staff and students starting at 8:00am on September 29, 2020 through June 30, 2021 at a rate of \$35 per hour.
- S3. Motion to **rescind Motion S4 on September 15 agenda and approve the "extra class" stipend from September 8 to September 22, 2020** at a pro-rated rate of \$6,300 for the following teachers:
S. Kay J. Oehm M. Amador
- S4. Motion to **approve the following personnel as Pathways Instructors for the 2020-2021 school year**, at the rate of \$35/hour. This program is grant-funded by the ESEA Entitlement Program; includes one hour of planning and one hour of instruction per week, subject and grade:
Katie Danieli Beth Legras George Czergovits
Alan Browne Stephanie Russo-Basso Kate Conover
- S5. Motion to **approve the following staff to provide home instruction and supplemental instruction** for the 2020-2021 school year at the rate of \$35 per hour:
Dianne Palmieri Ed Puchalski
Justin Bronner Carmela Varrichio
- S6. Motion to **rescind resolution S15 on August 18, 2020 and approve the following School Aides for the 2020-2021 school year** at an hourly rate of \$12.00 per hour:
North End School: Joanne Jandoli Maureen Hoehe Maria Adubato
Subs: Victoria Zahn Gail Stefanelli
- S7. Motion to **retroactively approve Jodi Inglis to be paid an additional 3 days (8 total)** to assist with the re-opening of the high school from August 18 – 31 2020.

- S8. Motion to **approve Tuition Reimbursement for the Summer 2019, Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 semesters** for the following employees, to be paid after the second September Board Meeting, but no later than October 15, 2020.

Alberto, Elisa	359
Arluna, Kristin	359
Bulger, Colleen	3650
Cali, Robin	718
Caravella, Lia	828
Comerford, Tracy	798
Dorflauer, Brian	4203
Hull, Kathleen	808
Karabetsos, Christine	4203
Konopka, Michael	4203
Legras, Beth	359
Luogameno, Jeremy	1410
Marriott, Joanne	359
Massotto, Kristin	2102
McElroy, Colleen	359
Moogan, Thomas 6 crs	4203
Mufferi, Vincent	828
Pace, Eric	4203
Pucilowski, Kristin	4203
Rack, Michele	359
Rubino, Alexa	2102
Schomaker, Jessica	2102
Servideo, Gayle	359
Slota, Erica	3648

- S9. Motion to **approve the following Stipend positions** for the 2020-2021 School year, based upon the 2019-20 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:

High School Co-Curricular Activities 2020-2021

Yearbook Advisor	Jenna Sweeney	4264
Yearbook Assistant	Walter Krehel	1833
Peer Leadership Advisor	Donna Lafoon	1014
Grade 12 Advisors: (2)	Charlotte Gaviria & Dave Coster	2033
Grade 11 Advisors: (2)	Robyn Cali & Mike Tedesco	1774
Grade 10 Advisors: (2)	Milissa Stanford & Tom Moogan	1527
Grade 9 Advisors: (2)	Jessica Shomaker & Sean Sweeney	1527
All School Council Advisors: (2)	Robyn Cali & Kathleen Hull	2127
National Honor Society Advisor	Mike Konopka	1562
Science National Honor Society Advisor	Vince Mufferi	835
Italian National Honor Society Advisor	Claudine Metallo	835
Spanish National Honor Society Advisor	Maria Rodriguez	835
Math National Honor Society	Joan Oehm	835

Advisor		
National Business Honor Society	Veronica Galambos	835
<u>High School Miscellaneous positions: (at curriculum rate \$35) for 2020-21 school year:</u>		
<u>Detention Monitors:</u> Jimi DeStefano, Jessica Schomaker, Alexa Rubino		
<u>Textbook Distribution:</u> Jimi DeStefano, Alexa Rubino		
<u>Home Instruction:</u> Maria Rodriquez		

Memorial Middle School Advisors for the 2020-2021 school year:

Student Council Advisor	Lia Caravella	2467
Yearbook Advisor	George. Czergovits	2467
After School Choral	Gabrielle Guridys	2252
After School Band	Cassie Imperatore-Dangler	2252
Zero Period Choral	Gabrielle Guridys	2252
Zero period MMS Orchestra Advisor	Bob Savino	2123
Zero period MMS Band Advisor	CassieImperatore-Dangler	2123
National Junior Honor Society Advisor	Joan Jarvis	1217
Peer Leadership	Erica Slota	1014

Memorial Middle School Miscellaneous positions: (at curriculum rate \$35) for 2020-21 school year:

Team Leaders:

Grade 5 - J. Seugling Grade 6 - S. Poll Grade 7 - A. Damiano Grade 8 – Travaglio

North End Elementary School Advisors for the 2020-21 school year:

Literary Publication Editors (2)	Jennie Villanueva & Kristin Massotto	\$753
Temperature Screeners:	Michael DiChiara (substitute)	at curriculum rate

South End School Advisors for the 2020-21 school year:

<u>Literary Publication Editors (2)</u>	Jennifer Coakley Kristin Arluna Mary DeNunzio	\$753 (split 3 ways)
<u>NE & SE:</u> <u>Elementary Art Specialist:</u>	C. Martin	\$2123
<u>Home Instruction:</u>	Diane Palmieri Danielle McLaughlin	\$35/hour

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

Program	Date	Employee(s)	Board Member(s)	Cost
Special Services Roundtable Mtgs	9/22; 10/20;11/24;12/15; 1/26; 2/23; 3/23; 4/27; 5/25; 6/15 (Virtual until further notice)	A. Kinney	0	\$0
STANJ	10/20/2020	J. Foose	0	\$0

S11. 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>
Benjamin Saporito	Montclair State Univ.	SE & NE Maggie Stroh/ Music	Clinical I and Clinical II 2020-2021 school year

S12. 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>Gen Leave</i>	<i>Return Date</i>	<i>Modifications / Updates</i>
Christina Allsteadt	Mat'y	SE/Gr 3	9/3-9/30/20 (18)	10/1-10/28/20 (20)	10/29-1/29/21 (60)	n/a	2/1/21	Sick days & Leave dates

S13. Motion to **approve the following tenured staff member to receive mentoring fee reimbursement** in the amount of \$500. *David Candia

S14. Motion to **approve Robert Gogerty as CGHS Interim Principal** from October 5, 2020 through November 25, 2020 at a rate of \$150/day.

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

S15. Motion to **approve the Second Reading of the following Policy:**

P1648.03 Restart and Recovery Plan Full –Time remote Instruction (M)(New)

A motion was made by Mr. Schoner and seconded by Mrs. DiChiara and unanimously carried to approve items S16 through S17.

S16. Motion to **approve the following teachers to write district curriculum** at the curriculum rate of \$35per hour, max of 20 hours:

Peer Leadership - Grade 8:	Liz Cheyne
Peer Leadership - Grade 7:	David Candia
Studio Art Honors:	Jenna Bentley
Foundations Human Behavior	Jessica Schomacker

S17. Motion to **approve the Studio Art Honors curriculum.**

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

S18. Motion to **approve the following contracts for special education students**, as recommended by the Director of Special Services, for the 2020-2021 school year:

Academy 360 Lower School

Tuition for the 2020-2021 School year
Student: 5125548538
Tuition: \$72,455.19 Personal Aide: 32,025.00
Total: 104,480.19

Academy 360 Upper School

Student: 6924662807
Tuition including ESY: \$79,728.60
Student: 8254065566
Tuition \$72,728.04 Personal Aide: \$32,725.00
Total: 185,181.64

PG Chambers School

Student # 5186174208
Tuition for the 20-21 school year
Total: \$64,749.96

Essex County Vocational School

Tuition for the 2020-2021 school year
Regular Education Student: 9299822427
\$2,955.50

Essex County Vocational School

Tuition for the 2020-2021 school year
Special Education Students: 6839973517, 6563351515, 9214922660
5172142590, 3082663562 (half time students)
Total: \$22,760.00

Banyan Upper School

Tuition for the 2020-2021 School year
Student: 2460696161
Tuition: 62,107.00

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kelly Lombardi thanked the board for getting students back to school and asked about cleaning in the middle school and high school.

Chris Canella thanked board and administration for their hard work. The union will work with administration through these hard times and he's happy to see the LGBTQ curriculum.

Announcement of future meetings:

October 13, 2020 Cedar Grove HS Auditorium, 6:30 pm Exec Session; 7:30 pm Regular Mtg

October 27, 2020 Cedar Grove HS Auditorium, 6:30 pm Exec Session; 7:30 pm Regular Mtg

Motion by Mrs. DiChiara and second by Mrs. Mega and unanimously carried to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Cedar Grove Board of Education at 9:00 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