

CEDAR GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Cedar Grove, New Jersey
MINUTES

January 18, 2022

Cedar Grove High School Auditorium

Public Session 6:30 PM

Mrs. Daura, Board President, called the Regular Meeting of the Cedar Grove Board of Education to order at 6:30 pm

Roll Call:

- ✓ Mrs. Dye
- ✓ Mr. Marzullo
- ✓ Mr. Schoner
- ✓ Mrs. Mega
- ✓ Mrs. Daura

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

The following motion was made by Mrs. Mega and seconded by Mr. Schoner 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 7:45 pm and Mrs. Daura 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, filed with the Township Clerk, and posted on the District's web site.

Roll Call:

- ✓ Mrs. Dye
- ✓ Mr. Marzullo
- ✓ Mr. Schoner
- ✓ Mrs. Mega
- ✓ Mrs. Daura

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

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

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Mrs. Mega attended the town council meeting and congratulated the new fire chief and police chief. She thanked the community for raising funds to get the crossing guards heated vests.

Mr. Marzullo attended the SELC meeting and reported that they are organizing a wellness fair and a family first night.

Mr. Marzullo attended the North End FSA meeting and reported that they are organizing a fun run.

Mrs. Daura attended the South End FSA meeting and reported that the 3rd grade teachers were in attendance and they congratulated Dayna Placenti for being the teacher of the year.

Mrs. Daura attended the Facilities Committee meeting and reported that the district is moving forward with the necessary upgrades at our schools. Some public forums will be held for the referendum.

Board Presentation:

Charlene Peterson from the New Jersey School Boards Association gave a powerpoint presentation for board members on ethics training.

Superintendent Update

Mr. Grosso reported on the following: Center for clinical services at MSU, COVID update, weekly COVID testing, at home testing, curriculum revisions, Kindness for Christopher pajama drive, next Superintendent Series will be February 17 and February 24, and discussed the after care program with Right at School.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR and BOARD SECRETARY

A motion was made by Mr. Schoner and seconded by Mrs. Mega to approve items B1 through B6.

- B1. Motion to **approve the Public and Executive minutes** of December 21, 2021.
- B2. Motion to **approve the Public and Executive minutes** of January 4, 2022.
- B3. Motion to **approve the budgetary transfers** for the months of December 2021.
- B4. Motion to **approve the Treasurer's Report** for the month of November 2021.

B5. Motion to **approve the Board Secretary Report** for the month of November 2021.

B6. 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. Dye, “yes”; Mr. Marzullo, “not voting”; Mr. Schoner, “yes”; Mrs. Mega, “yes”; Mrs. Daura, “yes with the exception of not voting on B1.”

The motions passed.

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

B7. Motion to **pay the List of Bills totaling \$3,997,875.58 for the time period of December 22, 2021 – January 18, 2022**

A motion was made by Mr. Marzullo and seconded by Mrs. Mega to approve items B8 through B13.

B8. **RESOLVED that in accordance with the CGEA Agreement, the following employees shall be paid for unused sick days:**

Employee #0114:	\$21,892.50
Employee #0497:	\$ 1,764.00
Employee #0356:	\$12,505.50
Employee #0244:	\$11,718.00
Employee #0029:	\$ 4,641.00 (2 nd Payment)
Employee #0237:	\$25,956.00

B9. Motion to **acknowledge the appointments to the following Board Committees** for the time period January 5, 2022 through the next Board Reorganization Meeting:

Standing Committees/Liaisons	Board Member	Board Member
Curriculum (2)	Lou Marzullo	Dawn Daura
Communications (2)	David Schoner	Chrissy Dye
Facilities (2)	Dawn Daura	Lou Marzullo
Finance (2)	Dawn Daura	Michele Mega
Legislation (1)	Chrissy Dye	Lou Marzullo
Personnel-CGEA Negotiations (2)	Dawn Daura	Michele Mega

Personnel-CGSAA Negotiations (2)	Lou Marzullo	Michele Mega
Personnel-Elementary Teachers (2)	Dawn Daura	Michele Mega
Personnel-Secondary Teachers (2)	Dawn Daura	Lou Marzullo
Policy (2)	David Schoner	Lou Marzullo
NJSBA Delegate (1)	David Schoner	Chrissy Dye (alt)
ECSBA Delegate (1)	Chrissy Dye	David Schoner (alt)
NE FSA Liaison (1)	David Schoner	Lou Marzullo (alt)
SE FSA Liaison (1)	Chrissy Dye	Dawn Daura (alt)
CGHS APT Liaison (1)	Michele Mega	Dawn Daura (alt)
MMS FSA Liaison (1)	Lou Marzullo	David Schoner (alt)
Town Council Liaisons (2)	Dawn Daura	Michele Mega
Music Matters (1)	David Schoner	Chrissy Dye (alt)
Special Education (2)	Dawn Daura	David Schoner
Recreation Board Liaison (1)	Lou Marzullo	Michele Mega (alt)
EDAC (2)	Dawn Daura	David Schoner
SELC (2)	Michele Mega	Lou Marzullo
Black & Gold Club Liaison (1)	Michele Mega	Lou Marzullo (alt)

B10. Motion to **approve the following resolution to commend the efforts of Board members** throughout New Jersey during School Board Recognition Month:

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2022 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, The Cedar Grove Board of Education is one of more than 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, The Cedar Grove Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Cedar Grove Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2022 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Cedar Grove Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staffs toward the advancement of our children's education.

B11. Motion to approve the Psychological & Educational Consulting services of Dr. Elizabeth Matheis, Psycho-Educational Evaluations, as per rate sheet for the 2021-2022 school year.

B12. Motion to approve the proposal from AHERA, the district's indoor air quality/asbestos consultant, to provide asbestos bulk sampling for the Leonard R. Parks School at an expense of \$18,510.

B13. Motion to approve the proposal from AHERA, the district's indoor air quality/asbestos consultant, to provide asbestos oversight for the boiler removal project at Leonard R. Parks School at an expense of \$18,280.

On roll call, the following vote was taken: Mrs. Dye, "yes with the exception of voting no on B9"; Mr. Marzullo, "yes"; Mr. Schoner, "yes with the exception of voting no on B9"; Mrs. Mega, "yes"; Mrs. Daura, "yes"

The motions passed.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A motion was made by Mr. Marzullo and seconded by Mr. Schoner and unanimously carried to approve items S1 through S28.

S1. Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation involving SID # 20260760923 for reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report

to the Board and directs the Anti-Bullying Coordinator 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 # 202807601199 for reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Anti-Bullying Coordinator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

a. Confirmed HIB

S3. Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation involving SID # 202907601167 for reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Anti-Bullying Coordinator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

a. Confirmed Non-HIB

S4. Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation involving SID # 202907601167 for reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Anti-Bullying Coordinator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

a. Confirmed Non-HIB

S5. Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation involving SID # 202507602202 for reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Anti-Bullying Coordinator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

a. Confirmed Non-HIB

S6. Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation involving SID # 20240760549 for reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Anti-Bullying Coordinator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

a. Confirmed Non-HIB

S7. Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation involving SID # 20250760691 for reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Anti-Bullying Coordinator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

a. Confirmed Non-HIB

S8. Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation involving SID # 20250760716 for reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Anti-Bullying Coordinator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

a. Confirmed Non-HIB

S9. Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation involving SID # 20250760713 for reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Anti-Bullying Coordinator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

a. Confirmed Non-HIB

S10. 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 Anti-Bullying Coordinator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

a. Confirmed Non-HIB

S11. Second Reading

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation involving SID # 20250760627 for reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Anti-Bullying Coordinator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

a. Confirmed Non-HIB

S12. Motion to **appoint the following staff in accordance with the State Emergent Hiring Start Date procedures:**

- **Daniel Valencia**, Substitute custodian, district, starting January 11, 2022 at \$14/hour, for the remainder of the school year through June 22, 2022.
- **Daniel Valencia**, Paraprofessional, North End School, starting January 11, 2022 at Step 1, \$20,824 prorated, for the remainder of the school year through June 22, 2022.

S13. Motion to **retroactively approve the following substitute teacher** at the per diem rate of \$100 from January 3, 2022 through January 18, 2022: **William Leonard**

S14. Motion to **approve William Leonard, as High School Social Studies Teacher**, at Step 1, MA+15, salary of \$57,564 prorated starting on January 19 - June 30, 2022.

S15. Motion to **rescind motion S26 on December 21, 2021 agenda and approve the following High School Social Studies Teachers** to instruct extra classes from November 29 through January 18, 2022 at a stipend of \$6300 prorated:

Jessica Schomaker Steve Gallagher
Andrew VanderHorn Michael Tedesco

S16. Motion to **approve the resignation of Deborah Carpino** for purposes of retirement, after 15 years in the district, as of April 1, 2022. (March 31, 2022 being the last day of work).

S17. Motion to **approve the resignation of Matteo Bellantoni** for purposes of retirement, after 25 years in the district, as of March 1, 2022 (February 28, 2022 being the last day of work).

S18. Motion to **approve the resignation of John D'Anna**, SE Custodian as of March 4, 2022, being the last day of work.

S19. Motion to **approve Employee ID# 1480 to receive the one time bonus of \$1,250**, as all requirements have been met as CDL driver for the Cedar Grove School District.

S20. Motion to **approve the following employees at the rate of \$35 per hour** for the 2021-2022 school year:

- **Morning & Afternoon Bus Aide**

Louann Longo

- **Morning & Afternoon Sub Bus Aide retro from 11/29/2021**

H. Donnelly & R. Badalamenti

- **Detention Monitor retro from 1/8/2022 for 2021-22 school year**

Veronica Galambos

- **COVID reporting retro from 12/31/2021 for 2021-22 school year**

School Nurses: R. Cali, D. DeTrizio, J. Lindt, R. Desrosiers

S21. Motion to **approve, on second reading, the High School Washington DC scheduled for AP US History, Economics, Government & Politics and Dual Enrollment Intro to Criminal Justice high school students.** The trip will run from May 13 -17, 2022. Chaperones will include Steve Gallagher, Nicolette McCarthy and Gretchen Bowie. All New Jersey Department of Health K-12 School COVID requirements will need to be followed at the time of the trip in conjunction with School Board Policies.

S22. Motion to **approve, on second reading, CGHS Cheerleaders 2022 National Competition.** The Orlando FL trip will run from March 17 to March 21, 2022. Chaperones will include Coaches Nicolette McCarthy and Julia Giacobbe. All New Jersey Department of Health K-12 School COVID requirements will need to be followed at the time of the trip in conjunction with School Board Policies.

S23. Motion to **approve participation in the In-Person Robotics Competition** on 1/22/2022 at Millburn High School, with the members of the Robotics team chaperoned by Mr. Dave Coster.

S24. Motion to **increase substitute custodians rate of pay** from \$14 (no Black Seal) to \$15 and \$17 (Black Seal) to \$18 per hour as of January 19, 2022.

S25. Motion to **approve Tuition Reimbursement** for employee #2177 in the amount of \$4,204.00 for course work completed in the Fall of 2021.

S26 Motion to **approve Kristen Vanderwolk for home instruction** for student # 5984901482 to begin immediately at the rate of \$35 per hour for the 2021-2022 school year.

S27. Motion to **authorize attendance** at the following event/s:

Program	Date	Employee(s)	Board Member(s)	Cost
Innovation Ed	2/15/22 (online)	M. Ricca	0	\$30
NJPSA	3/24-3/25/2022	C. Kinney	0	\$507.72
Energy Savings Improvement Plan	10/2021 (retroactively)	J. Bannon	0	\$82
Combating Mold in Buildings	2/9-2/10/22 (online)	J. Bannon		\$285
NJMEA	2/24-25/2022	G. Guridys	0	\$90

S28. 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>
Kara Conklin	Medical	Para/MMS	11/8 - 24/21 (15.5)	11/26-12/23/21 (21)	n/a	1/3/22	New Request
J. Bentley	Mat'y	Art Teacher/HS	4/25-6/22/22 (40)	n/a	9/22 (60 days) pending school calendar	TDB	New Request
C. Leva	Mat'y	SpeechTherapist SE/NE	4/25-5/6/22 (10)	5/9-6/22/22 (33)	9/6-11/28 (60 days)	11/29/22	New Request

Mrs. Mega thanked the retiring employees for their hard work and wished them well in their retirement.

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

S29. Motion to **approve the Second Reading of the following Policies:**

- P 1648.13 School Employee Vaccination Requirements (M) (New)
- P 1648.14 Safety Plan for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – COVID-19 (M) (New)
- P 2425 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program (M) (New)
- P & R 5751 Sexual Harassment of Students (M) (Revised)

Mrs. Mega asked about the COVID requirements for the trips approved in resolutions S21 and S22. Mr. Grosso responded that all New Jersey Department of Health K-12 School COVID requirements will need to be followed at the time of the trip in conjunction with School Board Policies.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jason Krasnow spoke about the special education system in Cedar Grove.

Leo Stringer spoke about courses and the curriculum.

John Martinelli spoke about cameras, courses and ethics.

Patricia Montana spoke about new electives and the hiring of new staff.

Victoria Schreiber spoke about the EDAC

Sal Minieri spoke about differences in people.

Announcement of future meetings:

February 16, 2022 CGHS Auditorium 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Mtg

March 15, 2022 CGHS Auditorium 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Mtg

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm by President Daura.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael DeVita
Board Secretary