

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

**November 7, 2022**

**South End School Media Center**

**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:

✓ Mr. Marzullo  
✓ Mr. Palek  
✓ Mr. Schoner  
✓ Mrs. Mega  
✓ Mrs. Daura

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

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

E1. Motion to **adjourn to executive session to discuss the following items:**

- 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.
- Attorney client issues. Action may follow the discussion in the Executive Session. Public release of the discussion may occur upon completion of the matter.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:34 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, TAPinto online news, filed with the Township Clerk, and posted on the District's web site.

Roll Call:

✓ Mr. Marzullo  
✓ Mr. Palek  
✓ Mr. Schoner  
✓ Mrs. Mega  
✓ Mrs. Daura

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

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. Daura attended a finance and personnel committee meetings and the items are on the agenda for approval tonight. She also attended the NJ School Boards Conference and learned a lot and found the professional development to be helpful.

Mrs. Mega attended the finance, personnel and SELC committee meetings. SELC is finding presenters and working hard. The HSAPT has a meeting scheduled for tonight. She congratulated Mr. Tower, the South End School crossing guard on his retirement.

Mr. Marzullo attended the SELC committee meeting and also the NJ School Boards Conference. There are alot of things happening and the staff is putting together a great plan.

Mr. Palek attended the North End FSA meeting and reported they spoke about the security plan, officers in the schools, referendum, the WIN program and loss of instructional time.

Student Ian Wilson, the All School Council President, updated the board on what has been happening in the high school. Homecoming dance, teacher of the month, Thanksgiving cornhole event, Deck the Halls, movie night, color run next year and the High School play, "Clue".

### **BOARD PRESENTATION**

South End Principal, Lynn DiMatteo gave a presentation on the Nicky Storms Playground

### **SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE**

Mr. Grosso gave an update on the referendum committee, a security update for armed officers and school assessments.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Marzullo and seconded by Mr. Schoner and unanimously carried to approve items B1 through B5.

- B1. Motion to **approve the Public and Executive minutes** of October 18, 2022.
- B2. Motion to **approve the budgetary transfers** for the months of October 2022.
- B3. Motion to **approve the Treasurer's Report** for the month of September 2022.
- B4. Motion to **approve the Board Secretary Report** for the month of September 2022.
- 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. Palek and seconded by Mrs. Mega and unanimously carried.

B6. Motion to **pay the List of Bills totaling \$1,621,683.57 for the time period of October 14, 2022 – November 3, 2022**

A motion was made by Mr. Marzullo and seconded by Mrs. Mega to approve items B7 through B22.

B7. Motion to **approve the following for submission of the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the 2022-23 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.

B8. Motion to **approve the proposal from The Living Literacy Network** in the amount of \$46,800 to provide literacy consulting services to address the need for accelerating students’ writing development through the implementation of an inquiry-based and process approach to the teaching of writing in grades K-5, by providing professional development training to teachers and administrators in workshop teaching. Funds for these services are provided through the American Rescue Plan act of 2021 - Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ARP-ESSER).

B9. Motion to **accept the generous donation from the South End School FSA in the amount of \$34,713.02** to be used towards the creation of a playground named in honor of Nicky Storms

B10. Motion to **approve the proposal from Ben Shaffer Recreation** in the amount of \$34,713.02 for the purchase of playground equipment including a 15 foot gaga pit, dome3 climber, plastic border, custom sign, installation and certified playground mulch. The purchase is through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Bid # ESCNJ 20/21-22; Co-op #65MCESSCCPS and funded from a donation from the South End FSA.

B11. Motion to **approve the following parent transportation contract** for the 2022-2023

school year (ESY 2022 – June 2023): ID No. 9681860694 \$25.00 per diem, 220 day maximum.

B12. Motion to **approve payment for student ID #s** to attend CG Memorial Middle School NJPAC Field Trip on December 8, 2022 at a cost of \$30.50/student  
ID# 203007601558 ID#202907601423 ID#202807601232 ID#202807601253

B13. Motion to **approve payment for student ID #s** to attend CG Memorial Middle School Liberty Science Center Field Trip on May 19, 2023 at a cost of \$20/student  
ID#202907602462 ID#202907601423 ID#202907601430  
ID#202807601253

B14. Motion to **approve payment for student ID# 20270760990** to attend CG Memorial Middle School Eagles Landing Field Trip on June 14, 2023 at a cost of \$59.00.

B15. Motion to **approve fingerprint reimbursement charges for Paul Palek**, Board Member in the amount totaling \$78.38 for state and Identogo fees.

B16. Motion to **approve the submission of the 2022-23 Statement of Assurance (SOA) to the New Jersey Department of Education** as per the NJQSAC (New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum) to include the DPR (District Performance Review).

B17. Motion to **approve William J. Guarini, Inc. payment application No. 3 in the amount of \$88,509.40** for work done at Leonard R. Parks School. This payment application has been reviewed and approved by Dan Dressel, Architect. Payment for this application will be from the Capital Reserve Fund.

B18. Motion to **approve William J. Guarini Inc.'s Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$4,167.79**. Change order no.1 includes replacing a cracked and clogged sewer line that involves saw-cutting existing interior concrete slab, removal and replacement of sewer line and repair of concrete slab. Dan Dressel, District Architect, has reviewed the change order and approves the same. Funding for this change order will be from the contract allowance.

B19. Motion to **approve William J. Guarini Inc.'s Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$6,000**. Change order no.2 includes replacing portions of existing domestic water supply piping after the existing water meter. Dan Dressel, District Architect, has reviewed the change order and approves the same. Funding for this change order will be from the contract allowance and maintenance budget.

B20. Motion to **approve the proposal from Diligent** for an annual subscription to BoardDocs LT in the amount of \$2,700.

B21. Motion to **approve the submission of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Cedar Grove School District and the local Cedar Grove Law Enforcement Officials** for the 2022-2023 school year.

B22. Motion to **approve the following parent transportation contract** for the 2022-2023 school year (September 2022 – June 2023): ID No. 5319579216 \$25.00 per diem, 180 day maximum.

Mrs. Daura and Mrs. Mega thanked everyone for their donations and the Storms family and commended everybody for their support and look forward to seeing the playground.

Mrs. Daura explained resolution B8 that it is professional development for staff.

On roll call, the following vote was taken: Mr. Marzullo, “yes”, Mr. Palek, “yes, with the exception of not voting on B15”, Mr. Schoner, “yes”, Mrs. Mega, “yes”, Mrs. Daura, “yes”.

The motions passed.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Schoner and seconded by Mr. Marzullo to approve items S1 through S18.

*All candidates listed on the agenda in anticipation of Cedar Grove Board approval for employment, will all be contingent upon the receipt of pre-employment satisfactory medical testing, and a cleared proof of criminal history.*

S1. Motion to **appoint the following staff in accordance with the State Emergent Hiring Start Date procedures:**

**Michelle Levy:**                      **High School Math Teacher**, at MA30 Step 16,  
salary of \$94,902 prorated from on or before  
January 9, 2023ttto June 30, 2023, replacing  
Michele Rack.

**Aaliyah Hawkins:**                      **District Substitute Custodian**, at a rate of \$15.50  
per hour beginning on November 8, 2022.

**Dina Fernandez:**                      **LRP Accounts Payable**, (12 months),  
Business Office Secretary on the  
Secretary / Bookkeeper Salary guide at step 1,  
\$53,178 prorated, starting on 11/21/2022  
through June 30, 2023.

S2. Motion to **accept the resignation of Kristin Mandicz, CG Athletic Trainer**, for reasons of increase in pay in another school district. Contract language requires 60 days notice, the last day of employment will be December 16, 2022, unless a suitable replacement can be hired prior to that date.

S3. Motion to **rescind S10 on September 20, 2022 agenda for Michael Caposella**, head boys varsity lacrosse coach for the purpose of resignation for personal reasons.

S4. Motion to **rescind S1. from October 18, 2022 agenda for Stephanie Bryant start date**

of **October 24, 2022** and approve a new start date of October 31, 2022 at a Step 1, salary of \$21,257 prorated.

S5. Motion to **accept the resignation of Christopher Kinney, Director of Special Services**, the effective last day of work is December 31, 2022. Mr. Kinney has accepted a promotion to Superintendent of Schools in the Garwood School District.

S6. Motion to **approve the following substitute teachers** at a rate of \$115/diem starting on November 8, 2022 - June 22, 2023: **Sharon Garry Ed Levash**

S7. Motion to **approve the following winter coaching positions** for the 2022-2023 school year:

**Boys Basketball**

Thomas Jones	Head	5	\$ 10,149
Chris Romano	Asst/JV	5	\$ 6,638
Michael Kuilan	Fresh	2	\$ 5,592

**Girls Basketball**

Alyssa Lever	Head	5	\$ 10,149
Joe Cardinale	Asst/JV	5	\$ 6,638
Andrew Vander Horn	Asst/Fresh	2	\$ 5,592

**Wrestling**

Michael Risimini	Head	2	\$ 8,816
Omer Ersen	Asst	5	\$ 6,638
Dominic Russo	Asst	3	\$ 6,237

**Winter Track**

Vincent LoProto	Head	5	\$ 5,733
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**Winter Cheerleading**

Nicolette McCarthy	Head	3	\$ 5,323
Julia Giacobbe	Asst	2	\$ 3,360

**Winter Weight-Room Stipend**

Joe Auteri	Stipend		\$ 2,647
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S8. Motion to **approve the following Spring coaching positions** for the 2022-2023 school year:

**Boys Track**

Vincent LoProto	head	2	\$ 8,481
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**Girls Track**

Colleen Bulger	head	5	\$ 9,280
Alyssa Lever	assist	2	\$ 5,158

**Softball**

Nicole Velardi	head	5	\$ 9,280
Eddie Capozzi	assist	5	\$ 6,179
Jackie Velardi	JV/ast	5	\$ 6,179
Pete Velardi	Volunteer (Returning)		

**Baseball**

Vincent Cordasco	head	3	\$ 8,740
Paul Palek	assist	5	\$ 6,179
Anthony Dalbo	JV/ast	5	\$ 6,179

**Boys Tennis**

Heather Reid	head	5	\$ 6,038
William Leonard	JV	3	\$ 3,500

**Boys Lacrosse**

Joseph Amati	Volunteer (Returning)		
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**Girls Lacrosse**

Emma Bolten	head	2	\$ 8,481
Mary Lawshe	JV/ast	3	\$ 5,497

**Spring Weight-Room Stipend**

Ryan Corbosiero	Stipend		\$ 2,647
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S9. Motion to **approve the following as school volunteers:**

Toniann Ferraiolo SE Janet Gordon NE Melanie Zapata SE  
 Kelly Straile SE

S10. Motion to **approve Mary DeNicola as a substitute bus aide** for the 2022-2023 school year at a rate of \$35 per hour.

S11. Motion to **authorize attendance** at the following event/s:

Program	Date	Employee(s)	Board Member(s)	Cost
ACE Math Competition Field Trip	11/16/2022	M. Hill	0	\$0
Eagles Landing Field Trip	6/14/2023	M. Travaglio K. Vanderwolk J. Lab J. Jarvis J. Bulmer	0	\$59/

			L. Caravella A.Mills N. DeCorte K. Asaro		
NJPAC Trip	Field	12/8/2022	B. Savino, C. Imperatore, G. Guridys N. Ichino, R. Rosa, G Czergovits, A. Potts, J. Lab, M Hill, R. Nelson, B. Dorflauer, J Jessen, K. Kelly	0	\$20/

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>General Leave</i>	<i>Return Date</i>	<i>Modifications / Updates</i>
J. Jones	Mat'y	HS Phys Ed	<b>9/6-11/1/22 (40)</b>	concurrently w/sick	11/2/22 - 1/25/23	n/a	<b>1/26/23</b>	RTW Date
K. Alves Rizzo	Mat'y	SE Gr 2	<b>9/6-10/24/22 (33)</b>	concurrently w/ sick	10/25- 1/23/23 (60)	n/a	<b>1/24/23</b>	RTW Date
S. Poll	Mat'y	MMS LA Teacher	<b>5/5 - 6/22/22 (31 days)</b>		9/6- 11/28/22 (60)	11/29- 12/23 (19)	<b>1/2/23</b>	Gen Leave RTW
K. Pucilowski	Mat'y	MMS Sp Ed	<b>9/6-10/14/22 27 days</b>	concurrently w/sick	10/17- 1/13/22(60)	n/a	<b>1/17/23</b>	Ext illness/fed RTW date

S13. Motion to **extend the employment for Brooke Reynolds, SE, maternity leave coverage teacher** for K. Alves Rizzo, from January 10, 2022 to January 23rd, 2023.

S14. Motion to **extend the employment for Graceann Butler, MMS, maternity leave coverage teacher** for K. Pucilowski, from December 12, 2022 to January 17, 2023.

S15. Motion to **extend the employment for Michael Cruz, MMS, maternity leave coverage teacher** for S. Poll , from November 29, 2022 to December 23rd, 2023.

S16. Motion to **approve the pilot request to charter a club for the 2022-2023 school year. DECA is the name of the organization** and the proposed purpose is to prepare business students as emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. The volunteer advisors will be both Steve Goodman and Gretchen Bowie.

S17. Motion to **approve the following staff members to provide supplemental instruction** on an as needed basis for the remainder of the year to student ID # 202707601047 at the curriculum rate of \$35 per hour:

- **Jennifer Bulmer**



- **Maria Travaglio**

S18. Motion to **approve the following staff members to split the \$4500 lunch duty stipend** retroactive to a start date of November 1, 2022 and prorated for the 2022-2023 school year:

- **Mena Farinhas (split)**
- **Tracy Farrell (split)**

Mrs. Daura thanked Chris Kinney for his dedication to the Cedar Grove students.

On roll call, the following vote was taken: Mr. Marzullo, “yes”, Mr. Palek, “yes, with the exception of not voting on S8”, Mr. Schoner, “yes, with the exception of not voting on S1”, Mrs. Mega, “yes”, Mrs. Daura, “yes”.

The motions passed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Palamara spoke about test scores and student performance.

Romany Bekhit spoke about a referendum and security and a sign-up sheet.

Leo Stringer spoke about security and homecoming dance.

Mrs. Daura wished all four candidates in tomorrow's school board election good luck.

### **Announcement of future meetings:**

December 13, 2022 MMS Media Center 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Mtg

January 3, 2023(reorg) CGHS Auditorium 7:30 pm Regular Mtg

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm by President Daura.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael DeVita  
Board Secretary