

CEDAR GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Cedar Grove, New Jersey
MINUTES

July 19, 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:

- ✓ Mr. Marzullo
- ✓ 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 Mrs. Mega and seconded by Mr. Marzullo 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.
- Personnel matter relative to a current employee. Action may follow the discussion in the Executive Session. Public release of the discussion will occur upon completion of any contracts.
- Personnel matter relative to discussing the evaluation for Superintendent of Schools. Action will not follow the discussion in Executive Session. Due to the confidentiality of personnel matters, public release of this discussion will probably never occur.
- 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 7:48 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
- ✓ Mrs. Mega
- ✓ Mrs. Daura

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

Mrs. Daura read a statement of what the board is working on and their goals.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayra Medina asked about resolution B10 and Mr. Edelstein responded.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Mega attended the middle school graduation, high school graduation and congratulated all graduates. She attended the town council meeting, a personnel committee meeting and encouraged people to get involved with volunteering for groups.

Mr. Marzullo attended the middle school and high school graduations and wished the graduates best of luck in their future.

Board Presentation:

Janine Barboza and Katie Danieli did a powerpoint presentation of the Lego Build Summer Program and showed videos of students working at it.

Superintendent Update:

Mr. Grosso thanked all of the teachers who worked the Lego Build Summer Program, he reported on graduation, curriculum updates, security meeting, a security survey will be sent to parents and summer hires.

Resolution From the Floor

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

WHEREAS, high school graduation marks the successful end of a student's secondary education and opens the gateway to the next phase of that student's life; and

WHEREAS, high school graduation is intended to be a celebration both for the graduate and the graduate's family members and friends; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Cedar Grove School District intends for the graduation ceremonies to mark this milestone and to serve as an honor for the graduates; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has witnessed that Board Member Dye, in attendance and on the dais at the graduation ceremony on June 21, 2022, openly and publicly, in front of the entire assembly of graduates, family members, faculty, friends, and well-wishers, refused to shake the hand of a graduate, leaving that graduate and her family embarrassed and humiliated, undermining the purpose of the celebration, and diminishing the graduate's achievements; and

WHEREAS, the motive for this inexcusable and childish act related to disputes between this Board Members and the graduate's parents, which the Board Members chose to visit on the graduate; and

WHEREAS, this unacceptable act was further accompanied by name-calling by Board Member Dye to one of this graduate's parents; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that this conduct, and especially any action which embarrasses a graduate, detracts from the spirit and purpose of the graduation ceremony;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cedar Grove Board of Education offers its sincere apology to graduate T.R. and to her entire family for the actions of the Board Member named.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR and BOARD SECRETARY

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

- B1. Motion to **approve the Public and Executive minutes** of June 15, 2022.
- B2. Motion to **approve the budgetary transfers** for the months of June 2022.
- B3. Motion to **approve the Treasurer's Report** for the month of May 2022.
- B4. Motion to **approve the Board Secretary Report** for the month of May 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 Mrs. Mega and seconded by Mr. Marzullo and unanimously carried.

- B6. Motion to pay the following List of Bills for the time periods:
- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| June 16, 2022 – June 30, 2022 | \$1,417,344.08 |
| July 1, 2022 - July 19, 2022 | \$836,667.43 |

A motion was made by Mr. Marzullo and seconded by Mrs. Mega and unanimously carried to approve items B7 through B9.

- B7. Motion to **approve William J. Guarini, Inc. payment application No. 1 in the amount of \$81,700** 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.

B8. Motion to **approve William J. Guarini, Inc. Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$4,167.79**. Change Order No. 1 includes providing material and labor to replace a portion of a cracked and obstructed drainpipe in the boiler room. Dan Dressel, District Architect, has reviewed the change order and approves the same. Funding for this change order will be from the Capital Reserve Fund.

B9. Motion to approve the 2022/2023 workers' compensation assessment in the amount of \$129,280 and the insured assessment in the amount of \$233,696 to the Pooled Insurance Program of New Jersey.

The following motion was made by Mr. Marzullo and seconded by Mrs. Daura.

B10. WHEREAS, there exists the need for special board counsel services, and

WHEREAS, the firm listed below is qualified to perform the required services; and

WHEREAS funds are or will be available for this purpose

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cedar Grove Board of Education approves the following:

1. The professional appointment of the below firm is retained through the next board of education organization meeting to represent the Respondents in the matter known as School Ethics Commission Docket No. C48-22:

Attorney: Aloia Law Firm, LLC
2 Broad St #407
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

\$160 per hour for attorneys

\$75 per hour for paralegal

This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" in accordance with the Public Schools Contract Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18(A)(a)(1) because it is for services performed by persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession.

A copy of this Resolution, as well as any engagement letter or contracts shall be placed on file with the Secretary to the Board.

On roll call, the following vote was taken: Mr. Marzullo, "yes", Mrs. Mega, "present not voting", Mrs. Daura, "present not voting".

The motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Marzullo and seconded by Mrs. Mega and unanimously carried to approve items B11 through B13.

B11. Motion to approve the location agreement with Pink Opaque, LLC and the Cedar Grove Board of Education, if satisfactory to the Board Attorney, for a feature film about a student growing up in the 1990's that is fascinated with television at Cedar Grove High School on July 20, 2022 and July 21, 2022 at a cost of \$5,000, plus custodial fees if necessary. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

B12. Motion to approve the location agreement with Pink Opaque, LLC and the Cedar Grove Board of Education, if satisfactory to the Board Attorney, for a holding/catering area at Leonard R. Parks School on July 26, 2022, August 10, 2022, August 11, 2022 and August 12, 2022 at a cost of \$2,500, plus custodial fees if necessary. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

B13. Motion to approve the location agreement with Missing Pieces and the Cedar Grove Board of Education, if satisfactory to the Board Attorney, for a commercial about NFL youth football at Cedar Grove High School on July 25, 2022 at a cost of \$5,000, plus custodial fees if necessary. The agreement is on file in the Board office.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A motion was made by Mr. Marzullo and seconded by Mrs. Mega and unanimously carried to approve items S1 through S20.

Mrs. Mega thanked Colleen McElroy for her years of service.

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

- **Kevin Ivory, District Bus Driver** at \$25 per hour, at a guarantee of 25 hours per week, per time sheet, beginning as substitute July 18, 2022 and full time Bus driver September 6, 2022 through June 30, 2023.
- **Daniel Torres, Middle School night Custodian**, at step 5, \$45,380 prorated, starting on July 20, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

S2. Motion to **approve Rachel Root, SE Special Education Teacher, MA, Step 2** at \$57,684 from September 6, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

S3. Motion to **re-employ Dineen White, High School Biology teacher**, at BA Step 10, \$64,634, for the 2022-23 school year. This is the teacher that replaced I. Shutovsky, in the beginning of June 2022.

S4. Motion to **approve School Nurse Christina Merritt, NE, MA, Step 10** at \$68,634 from September 6, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

- S5. Motion to **rescind the paraprofessional employment approval on the May 24th agenda and approve John Alscher, Social Studies Teacher at MMS**, at BA, Step 1 at \$53,184 from September 6, 2022 to June 30, 2023.
- S6. Motion to **approve Daniel Cirasa, District Residency Officer**, as of September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, at a rate of \$25/hour.
- S7. Motion to **accept the resignation of Colleen McElroy, High School Math Teacher**, for purposes of becoming a school principal effective last day June 30, 2022.
- S8. Motion to **approve Blerime (Blair) Limani, Memorial Middle School Math Teacher** at BA, Step 1, \$53,184 from September 6, 2022 to June 30, 2023, replacing vacancy left by S. King who moved out of New Jersey.
- S9. Motion to **accept the resignation of Lori Robinson, High School Science Teacher** for personal reasons, effective last day June 30, 2022.
- S10 Motion to **approve Paul Szamosszegi, Girls Varsity Soccer Coach, with a start date of August 17, 2022 at a coaching stipend of step 1, \$8,223 for the 2022-2023 school year.**
- S11. Motion to **approve the termination of employee #2646 as of June 22, 2022** for reasons of failure to meet the conditions for continued employment. The last day of work was June 21, 2022.
- S12. Motion to **approve the payment of \$1,141.72 to employee # 2447 for unused vacation days.**
- S13. Motion to **rescind S29. from the June 15, 2022 agenda and approve the salary for Michele Spilewski** at base \$88,014, longevity \$1515 for a total salary of \$89,529.
- S14. Motion to **rescind May 24, 2022 motion for Colleen McElroy, ESY Program and retroactively approve Ed Puchalski** as of June 27 as the replacement for 100 hours at the rate of \$35 per hour.
- S15. Motion to **rescind S28 on May 24, 2022 agenda and motion to approve the following school nurses for the LEGO Summer Build:** Carol Storms from June 27 -July 1 and Tiffany Willis from July 11 - July 15 at MMS, at the curriculum rate of \$35/hr for a maximum of 25 hrs per week.
- S16. Motion to **approve MaryAnn DeNicola as the bus aide for the ESY Cedar Grove Bus** at \$35.00 an hour 2 days, June 27th and June 28th AM and PM bus route.
- S17. Motion to rescind and approve the guidance counselor stipends for the following employees for the 2022-23 school year:

- **Alexa Rubino:** base salary \$63,034 plus Guidance Stipend \$1,870
- **Meridith Denman:** base salary \$89,750 plus Longevity \$2,080 plus Guidance Stipend \$1,870

S18. Motion to **approve the following students for Classroom Observation:**

Student	College/Univ. Student Attends	School Observing in Grade/Subject	Date(s)/Hours of Observation
Richard Kucera	Montclair State University	HS Guidance Counselor Gina Testa	September 2022-December 2023

S19. 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>
J. Lasky	Maty	Physical Ed Teacher/HS	9/6 -10/19/22 (30)	9/6-10/19/22 consecutively with sick days	10/20-1/18/2023 (60)	1/19/23	New Request

S20. Motion to **approve a stipend to Melissa Hill in the amount of \$1,500** for stage crew in the Middle School Musical to be paid with student activity funds.

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

S21. Motion to **approve the First Reading of the following Policies:**

(Alert 226)

P 2415.05 Student Surveys, Analysis, Evaluations, Examinations, Testing, or Treatment (M) (Revised)

P & R 2431.4 Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries (M) (Revised)

R 2460.30 Additional/Compensatory Special Education and Related Services (M) (New)

P 2622 Student Assessment (M) (Revised)

R 2622 Student Assessment (M) (New)

P 3233 Political Activities (Revised)

P 5460 High School Graduation (M) (Revised)

P 5541 Anti-Hazing (M) (New)

P 7540 Joint Use of Facilities (Revised)

P & R 8465 Bias Crimes and Bias-Related Acts (M) (Revised)

P 9560 Administration of School Surveys (M) (Revised)

(Alert 227)

P 1648.14 Safety Plan for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – COVID-19 (M) (Abolished)

P 1648.15 Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings –

- COVID-19 (M) (New)
- P 2415.04** Title I – District – Wide Parent and Family Engagement (M) (Revised)
- P 2416.01** Postnatal Accommodations for Students (New)
- P 2417** Student Intervention and Referral Services (M) (Revised)
- P 3161** Examination for Cause (Revised)
- P 4161** Examination for Cause (Revised)
- P 5512** Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (M) (Revised)
- P 7410** Maintenance and Repair (M) (Revised)
- R 7410.01** Facilities Maintenance, Repair Scheduling, and Accounting (M) (Revised)
- P 8420** Emergency and Crisis Situations (M) (Revised)
- P & R 9320** Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies (M) (Revised)
- P 2461** Special Education/Receiving Schools (M) (Revised)
- R 2461.06** Special Education/Receiving Schools – Appropriately Certified and Licensed Staff (M) (Revised)
- R 2461.09** Special Education/Receiving Schools – Statewide and District-Wide Assessment Programs (M) (Revised)
- R 2461.10** Special Education/Receiving Schools – Full Educational Opportunity (M) (Revised)
- R 2461.12** Special Education/Receiving Schools – Length of School Day and Academic Year (M) (Revised)

- R 2461.14** Special Education/Receiving Schools – Amending Policies, Procedures, the Services Provided, or the Location of Facilities (M) (Revised)
- R 2461.15** Special Education/Receiving Schools – Operation of an Extended Academic Year Program (M) (Revised)
- R 2461.19** Special Education/Receiving Schools – Behavior Modification Program (M) (Revised)

A motion was made by Mrs. Mega and seconded by Mr. Marzullo and unanimously carried to approve items S22 through S23.

S22. Motion to **approve the following contracts for special education students**, as recommended by the Director of Special Services, for the 2022-2023 school year:

ABA Group Practice Plus

Therapy for the 22-23 school year

ABA therapy at a rate of \$100 per hour

BCBA therapy at a rate of \$150 per hour

D.C. Fagan Psychological Services

Psychological services for the 22-23 school year as per the rate sheet

Brain Health Neuropsychology

Christine Ghilain, PhD

Neuropsychological Evaluations at a rate of \$4,500

Passaic Valley High School

Student: 9871658775

Tuition for ESY through December 31st

Total: \$42,812.70

Mori Evaluation Services LLC Erin Mori

Psychological Evaluations for the 2022-2023 school year at a rate of \$300 per evaluation.

Windsor High School

Tuition 2022-2023 school year including

Student: 5296256697

\$76,788.00

Chapel Hill Academy

Student: 5828447823

Tuition for the 22-23 school year including ESY \$80,640.00

Personal Aide: \$42,0000

Total: \$122,640.00

Chapel Hill Academy

Tuition for the 2022-2023 School year including ESY

Student 2277413357: \$80,640.00

Academy 360 Lower School

Tuition for the 2022-2023 School year including ESY

Student: 6497843121 \$87,125.00

Student: 5125548538

Tuition: \$87,125.00 Personal Aide: \$36,900.00

Student: 1218810223

Tuition: \$87,125.00 Personal Aide: \$36,900.00

Total: \$335,175.00

Academy 360 Upper School

Student: 6924662807

Tuition including ESY: \$86,715.00

Student: 8254065566

Tuition \$86,715.00 Personal Aide: \$32,940.00

Total: \$ 206,370.00

Para Plus Translation Services

Testing translation services for the 22-23 school year as per the rate sheet.

S23. Motion to approve the agreement with the Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health at Montclair State University to provide psychotherapeutic services to students and their families for up to 30 hours per week for up to 33 weeks per academic year.

Nobody from the public wished to be heard

Announcement of future meetings:

August 23, 2022 CGHS Auditorium 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Mtg

September 20, 2022 CGHS Auditorium 6:30 pm Executive Session; 7:30 pm Regular Mtg

Motion by Mr. Marzullo and seconded by Mrs. Mega and unanimously carried by a voice vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Cedar Grove Board of Education at 8:50 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael DeVita
Board Secretary