

**NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SESSION
GRANDVIEW SCHOOL CAFETERIA
VIA ZOOM MEETING**

<https://ncboe.zoom.us/j/96740004757?pwd=LzQzblhhN3B4WGpGUjBRd1RUUV29jQT09>

February 15, 2022

7:30 P.M.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting has been properly advertised in the designated newspaper and the agenda has been posted at the appropriate locations.

4. ROLL CALL

5. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

• **Covid Committee Report**

7. PUBLIC RECOGNITION

8. PUBLIC HEARING ON SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 18A:11-11.

The board will now open the floor to members of the public to comment on the proposed Contract of Employment which received the prior approval of the Essex County Superintendent on January 5, 2022. As with all public comment portions, this is an opportunity for public comment, this is not a Q & A. While members of the public may ask questions, the Board is not required to respond to same.

9. ACTION ITEMS

• **General Resolutions**

G1. Approve 2022-2023 SEMI Waiver

G2. Approve listed Policy and Regulations at first reading

G3. Approve pediatric assessment for listed student

G4. Approve the facilities use application for NCPE Gould School Play

G5. Approve the facilities use application for Recreation Baseball 2022

G6. Approve Technology Assistant job description

• **Business Resolutions**

B1. Approve Meeting Minutes of January 18th, 2022

B2. Approve listed payroll(s)

B3. Approve Hand Check Registers

B4. Approve Bills and Claims

B5. Approve Title I Tutoring

- B6. Approve Aide in Lieu Payments for Private Schools**
- B7. Approve American Rescue Plan Act-Homeless Children and Youth Decision**

- **Personnel Resolutions**

- P1. Rescind employment contract for Superintendent**
 - P2. Approve employment contract for Superintendent**
 - P3. Approve 2021-2022 school nurse stipend**
 - P4. Approve Summer 2021 Tuition Reimbursement**
 - P5. Approve Fall 2021 Tuition Reimbursement**
 - P6. Approve lunch aide**
 - P7. Approve substitute teacher**
 - P8. Approve staff resignation**
 - P9. Approve Workshops/Professional Development for listed staff**
 - P10. Approve staff resignation**
- 10. OLD BUSINESS**
 - 11. NEW BUSINESS**
 - 12. ADJOURN TO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION (if necessary)**

The next scheduled public meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

Posting: Board Members, Principals, NCPE Co-Presidents, NCEA Co-Presidents, Caldwell Progress Press Member, Board Office, Schools, and Town Hall.

The Board of Education of the Borough of North Caldwell in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in executive session on February 15, 2022 in person at the Grandview School Cafeteria as well as via an online Zoom Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Michael Halik, Business Administrator, indicated that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting had been properly advertised and the agenda had been posted at the appropriate locations.

Roll call by the Business Administrator:

Present: Mr. Robert Projansky, President
Mrs. Mindy Opper, Vice President
Mrs. Jordan Shumofsky
Mrs. Sapna Malige
Mrs. Johanna Stroever

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Linda Freda, Superintendent
Mr. Michael Halik, Business Administrator / Board Secretary
Mr. Michael Stefanelli, Principal - Grandview School
Mr. Ian Adlon, Computer Technician

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Projansky reported that 201 people were attending the meeting via zoom.

Mr. Projansky stated that the COVID Committee will be giving an update tonight relating to Governor Murphy's new mask update before the public recognition portion, so that the board can hear all relevant comments. He also stated that there will be a separate public hearing for the Superintendent's contract after the public recognition segment.

He thanked The COVID Committee and The Administration for their hard work this year and is looking forward to preparing for the next steps.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Freda thanked The COVID Committee for their detailed report and informed the public that the COVID Committee's Report can be accessed on the home page of the District's website.

She also wished everyone a happy and healthy February break.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION-

Brian Donnelly, 3 Highland Drive- Mr. Donnelly asked which stake holders are being involved in the decisions?

Mrs. Opper responded that we based our decisions on the teachers and staff along with general conversations in town that have provided feedback. She also recognized that the Board did not do a survey as the metrics have changed and it was not needed at this time.

Latha Jadhav, 75 Evergreen- Mrs. Jadhav thanked the COVID Committee for their presentation stating that she felt it was well thought out. She asked if The Board knows what percentage of the student population has had COVID.

Jacek Trzepla, 15 Robin Hill Road- Mr. Trzepla asked how quarantining will work if a child is ill in class. The Board responded that any student who is ill is immediately sent home and if indicated tested for Covid-19. We are waiting for information from New Jersey Department of Health regarding procedures for contact tracing once masks are optional.

Jennifer Giunta, 26 Sunset- Mrs. Giunta thanked The Board for keeping the students safely in school. She expressed her concern that her children will have to wear masks and she wants to be certain that they are not treated differently or bullied for doing so. She also inquired about COVID testing in school.

Jessica Fenster, 23 Hilltop- Mrs. Fenster thanked The Board for keeping the students in school. She asked what the school was doing to address the Social and Emotional Learning needs of the students as a result of the restrictions put into place during COVID. Dr. Freda responded that she will be making a presentation at the next board meeting on Second Step, the program that the District is using to address Social and Emotional Learning.

Grace Cordovano, 28 Cambridge- Mrs. Cordovano thanked The COVID Committee for their presentation. She asked if the vaccination rates and recent COVID infections were being tracked.

Mrs. Opper responded that the information is only as good as what is submitted by parents. Mrs. Cordovano also inquired about ventilation and if more fresh air would be in classrooms as weather improved.

Dr. Freda responded that the schools are continuing the following procedures for ventilation in the classrooms:

- At least two windows open at all times
- Air purifiers in classrooms and cafeteria
- Mer-13 filters in uninvents
- Bi-Polar ionization units in uninvents
- UV lights in HVAC units
- Periodic CO2 Monitoring

Alison DeFazio, 1255 Stephanie Drive- Mrs. DeFazio asked if social distancing will still be happening in schools. She expressed her concern that other viruses are being spread and that information is not being communicated to parents.

Aimee Leurs- Franco, 3 Timber Drive- Mrs. Leurs Franco asked for further information about the statistics of vaccinated and unvaccinated as well as recent infections so that she can make an informed decision on if her child should wear a mask.

Mrs. Opper responded that The Board will have more information to relay to community in early March.

Michelle Grippaldi, 1148 Stephanie Drive- Mrs. Grippaldi discussed anti-body testing to determine immunity and contract tracing & Quarantine procedures.

George Chen, 2 Maple Drive- Mr. Chen asked aside from the discussion regarding COVID which is 99% of the conversation, what else is going on with our children's education? Dr. Freda stated that at the last meeting, the result of Start Strong was shared with the community. Additionally, the programs currently being implemented to ensure that all students are mastering grade level standards. She talked about the student's return to more normal activities like The Choir, The Play, and other activities. Mr. Chen then asked about what the status is of The Green Brook Country Club expansion.

Anthony Rainone, 15 Aspen Drive- Mr. Rainone stated that bullying should not be tolerated, whether students are wearing a mask or not, if they are vaccinated or unvaccinated as parents ultimately have the right to choose. He thanked The Board for the decision to make masks optional as of March 7, 2022.

Lauren Chen, 2 Maple Drive- Mrs. Chen thanked the Board for all their work they have done to keep students in school. She asked about the Test to Stay Program and if parents are required to give consent. Mrs. Opper responded that testing would not be conducted at school. Parents would be responsible for taking their child to a lab setting for a rapid antigen test.

Grace Cordovano, 28 Cambridge Drive- Mrs. Cordovano asked if field trips and school activities have returned to the schedule as we had prior to COVID.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 18A:11-11.

No Comments

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

G1. WHEREAS, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special

G3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve payment to the **Child Developmental Center** for a developmental pediatric assessment in the amount of \$675.00 for **Student #8005742**.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Opper

Yes: 5 No: 0

G4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the facilities use application submitted for the NCPE Gould School Play.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Opper

Yes: 4 No: 0

Abstain: Mrs. Stroever

G5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the facilities use application submitted for the North Caldwell Recreation Baseball/Softball.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Opper

Yes: 5 No: 0

G6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the **Technology Assistant** job description.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Opper

Yes: 5 No: 0

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

B1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the **Public Minutes of January 18, 2022**.

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

B2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following Payroll(s):

January 31, 2022 \$362,262.65

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky
Yes: 5 No: 0

B3. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following **Hand Check Register(s)**:

January 27th, 2022 \$53,437.84

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky
Yes: 5 No: 0

B4. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following **Bills and Claims**:

February 8th, 2022 \$221,113.60

February 15th, 2022 \$338,857.30

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky
Yes: 5 No: 0

B5. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following **Title I Tutoring**:

January 2022 \$10,875.00

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky
Yes: 5 No: 0

B6. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following **Aide in Lieu** Payments for transportation in the amount of \$1,000 per student for the 2021-2022 school year for students attending the following private schools:

- Al-Hikman Elementary School
- Aquinas Academy
- Golda Och Academy
- Kent Place School
- Montclair Cooperative School
- Montclair Kimberly Academy
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- Our Lady of the Lake School

The Peck School
St. Benedict's Preparatory School

Total Expected Payment \$20,500.00

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

B7. WHEREAS, the North Caldwell Board of Education has been allocated funds through The American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) II Program, and

WHERAS, North Caldwell was allocated \$1,397.00, and

WHERAS, in order to comply with the Requirements of ARP-HCY if the district's allocation is less than \$5,000.00, the Board of Education must select one of the following:

- o join a regional consortium to utilize the funding
- o choose to decline the funding

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Caldwell Board of Education will decline the American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) II Program funding allocation in the amount of \$1,397.00 and authorizes the District's School Business Administrator and Superintendent to complete the process required on the district's behalf.

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS

P1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education rescinds the Contract of employment between the Board and Dr. Linda Freda for the positions of Superintendent of Schools and Director of Special Services for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024 effective midnight June 30, 2022.

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky
 Yes: 5 No: 0

P2. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the Contract of Employment Between the Board and Dr. Linda Freda for the positions of Superintendent of Schools and Director of Special Services for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2027. The Contract of Employment received the prior approval of the Executive County Superintendent on January 5, 2022.

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky
 Yes: 5 No: 0

P3. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve a school nurse stipend of \$5,000.00 for the 2021-2022 school year for:

**Danielle Rooney
 Patricia Keenan**

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky
 Yes: 5 No: 0

P4. WHEREAS, the below listed staff members have applied for tuition reimbursement in accordance with Article 6, Section C of the negotiated agreement, and have completed requirements in accordance with the same.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, That the Board approve the reimbursement of tuition in the amounts listed for the courses attended during the **Summer of 2021**:

| Name | Course | Grade | School | # of Credits | Reimbursement |
|----------------|--|-------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Smith, C. | Best Practices in Literacy | A | NJCU | 3 | \$900.00 |
| Egan, E. | Leadership & the Learning Organization | A | MSU | 3 | \$900.00 |
| Egan, E. | Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment | A | MSU | 3 | \$900.00 |
| Schlachter, M. | ADD/ADHD Strategies & | A | Univ of LaVerne | 3 | \$375.00 |

| | Interventions | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|---|----------|
| Schlachter, M. | ABC's of Effective Mainstreaming | A | Univ of LaVerne | 3 | \$375.00 |

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

P5. WHEREAS, the below listed staff members have applied for tuition reimbursement in accordance with Article 6, Section C of the negotiated agreement, and have completed requirements in accordance with the same.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, That the Board approve the reimbursement of tuition in the amounts listed for the courses attended during the **Fall of 2021:**

| Name | Course | Grade | School | # of Credits | Reimbursement |
|------------------|--|-------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Christiano, C. | Reading & The Social Curriculum | A | NJCU | 3 | \$900.00 |
| Clutterbuck, S. | Bridging the Gap | A | USCD | 3 | \$271.00 |
| Clutterbuck, S. | Comprehension | A- | USCD | 3 | \$290.70 |
| DellaValle, G. | Inservice Supervised Graduate Student Teaching | A | MSU | 6 | \$1,800.00 |
| Egan, E. | Education Law | A | MSU | 3 | \$900.00 |
| Egan, E. | Leading Curriculum Change | A | MSU | 3 | \$900.00 |
| Sponzilli, C. | Instructional Strategies for Art Teachers | A | The Art of Education Univ. | 3 | \$900.00 |
| Wanklin-Frey, M. | Learning & Development in Children w/wo Disabilities | A- | MSU | 3 | \$900.00 |

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

P6. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve **Michael La Torraca** as a lunch aide effective February 1, 2022.

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

P7. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve **Katelyn Barth** as a substitute teacher for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

P8. RESOLVED that the Board of Education regretfully accept the resignation of **Karin Cirillo, classroom aide**, effective March 7, 2022.

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

P9. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the Professional Development Workshops/Conferences costs for the following staff member:

| Name | Date | Workshop | Cost | Travel |
|--------------|---------|---|----------|--------|
| Grimaldi, L. | Virtual | The Perfect Storm/Imperfect Solutions | \$60.00 | |
| Silva, T. | 3/14 | Are "Squeaky Wheel" Children a Self-Fulfilling Prophecy | \$100.00 | |

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

P10. RESOLVED that the Board of Education regretfully accept the resignation of **Gale Messier** effective January 31, 2022.

| | | | |
|--------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| Moved: | Mrs. Malige | Seconded: | Mrs. Shumofsky |
| Yes: | 5 | No: | 0 |

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Halik provided an update on the status of Subscription Busing for the 2022-2023 School Year. More details will be discussed in the coming months.

NEW BUSINESS

None

The following resolution was called at approximately 8:35 pm.

RESOLVED that in accordance with section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, the Board has the authority to adjourn to closed session to discuss matters pertaining to: Personnel/Legal. Said matters will be made public upon their disposition.

| | | | |
|--------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Moved: | Mrs. Malige | Seconded: | Mrs. Opper |
| Yes: | 5 | No: | 0 |

As there was no further business to discuss, the Board adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael Halik
Business Administrator / Board Secretary