

The Board of Education of the Borough of North Caldwell in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in executive session on April 27, 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: Mrs. Mindy Opper, 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
Dr. Michael Stefanelli, Principal – Grandview School (Zoom)
Mr. Chris Checchetto, Principal- Gould School (Zoom)
Mr. Ian Adlon, Computer Technician

DISCUSSION

Board seat vacated by Robert Projansky term ending December 2022.

Mrs. Opper noted that people may remember or have subsequently heard, Robert Projansky stepped down from the BOE at our last meeting on Tuesday, March 15th after 12 years of dedicated service. The open seat was advertised in the Herald News on Sunday, March 20th, the Progress on Thursday, March 24th, and on the district website until the deadline of March 31st at 4PM. With this, only one application was received by the deadline. The Board then held interviews on Tuesday, April 5th. Unfortunately, we received one inquiry on April 8th, after the deadline and after the interviews were completed. With that being said, I would like to call the following resolution.

01. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Eric Finkelstein as a new Board member to fill the seat vacated by the resignation of Robert Projansky for the term expiring December 2022.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 4 No: 0

The Board Secretary swore in Mr. Finkelstein and he recited The Oath of Office.

Mr. Halik then called for Nominations for President.

O2. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the nomination of Mindy Opper to be approved as President.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Stroever

Yes: 5 No: 0

Once approved, Mrs. Opper, as president, assumed the position of chairperson calling for nominations for Vice-President.

O3. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the nomination of Jordan Shumofsky to be approved as Vice President.

Moved: Mrs. Stroever Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mrs. Opper reported that fifty-five (55) people were attending the meeting via zoom.

Mrs. Opper then congratulated and noted she is looking forward to working with Mrs. Shumofsky in her new position as Vice President and Mr. Finkelstein as the newly sworn in Board member.

She then wished Mrs. Cosentino the best in the future and that she understood her decision to resign to take care of her daughter. She then congratulated Mrs. Nikow on her retirement after 36 years of teaching math. She is grateful that many Gould students were able to benefit from both teachers’ expertise and they will both be missed by students, families, and staff.

Mrs. Opper explained that she was going to change the order of the agenda for tonight as there are numerous reports and wanted to allow for public comment after the Curriculum Report due to the Sensitivity of the topic. Therefore, the order will now be:

- Curriculum Committee Report
- Then public comment on Curriculum topic only
- Budget report
- Transportation Committee report
- Then our normal general public comment

Mrs. Opper made the following brief statement regarding Physical and Mental Health Standards: Most of our board has read the entire document and we believe the community will be reassured. There has been so much in the news and on Facebook about this document and the parts being pulled should not be taken out of context. As a reminder, we are a K-6 district and are not subject to the 8th and 12th grade standards. It is completely appropriate to address those concerns with West Essex during their board meeting on May 2nd at 7:30 pm. You may attend in person or submit your question before 3:00 pm if you choose to participate remotely. Please know that what happened in another district, Westfield, is not representative of how our district handles these changes nor is reflective of the decisions our district will make. The curriculum they selected was not mandated by the state. There are some of you who find this guidance inappropriate and scary. There are those of you who feel protected and heard. Most of you are in the middle and probably feel confused or unsure. When making your comment publicly, please remember that there are many with varying opinions in the community so let's be respectful of that.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr Freda congratulated Mrs. Opper and Mrs. Shumofsky on their new board positions and Mr. Finkelstein on becoming part of the Board and stated that she is looking forward to working with him. Dr Freda also congratulated Mrs. Nikow on her retirement and wished Mrs. Cosentino well in her future endeavors and to remember there will always be a place in the District for her in the future. She stated that they are both master teachers that always give 100% effort and will be missed by the students and staff.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Stroever reported that the New Jersey Department of Education sent out directives on health and physical education standards. These standards are posted on the website at www.ncboe.org and explained that families should read them for specific and up to date information as compared to newspaper articles circulating in the community. She explained that these standards do not reflect specific lesson plans or textbooks and that the overwhelming majority of the sexual education standards are unchanged. Any changes that will be made will go into effect next year. Mrs. Stroever stated that the standards were adopted to highlight dignity and respect for all students and people and that aligns with our core goals to be sensitive to all cultures, children, and their families. While the state provides very broadly worded standards, the curriculum is developed locally by each district which is appropriate because the district is best suited to determine what is age and culturally appropriate. She stated that the curriculum committee understands that people have feelings about these standards, and there is an opt out provision available which has always been there for parents to take advantage of. The curriculum committee will highlight any changes of the curriculum. All changes will be discussed and voted on at a board meeting.

Dr. Freda informed the public that the curriculum committee will be updating approximately six curriculums this year so that they are aligned with the revised State

Standards and will be shared with the public before being voted on by the board. She urged the public to review the comprehensive physical and health education curriculums currently posted on the website. Dr Freda reiterated that parents would continue to be notified by the building principal before those portions of the health curriculum are taught so parents can review the material and/or opt out if they wish. She also encouraged parents to read the curriculum, be aware that information in parentheses are examples and not a requirement. She stated that the focus of the curricular changes are to instill in children a respect for diversity and inclusiveness, where everybody can feel that they are welcome and safe in their environment, which is also the focus of the district. Nothing will be included that is controversial and the district is committed to ensuring that all the curriculums are age appropriate and culturally appropriate to align with the communities' values.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION ON CURRICULUM REPORT-

NONE

BUDGET REPORT-

Mr. Halik presented the 2022-2023 School Budget and after the presentation noted that the presentation can be found on our district website after tonight.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT-

Mrs. Shumofsky reported that the Transportation Committee sent out a subscription busing survey to all families and reported on the survey questions and their results. In total there were 145 responses in which Eight of the responses would not agree to any of the terms on the survey. There were 137 families interested in subscribing for busing and their responses were as follows:

53.3% of responses were from Grandview and 46.7% from Gould School.

Option 1

At the cost of \$500 a seat round trip I will utilize subscription busing knowing this will be:

- Substantially subsidized by the district's educational budget.
- Would result in a lottery system to fill only the empty seats on the existing bus routes and no additional buses will be added.
- Only current bus routes will continue, and this will result in areas of town that will not be able to subscribe.

73 - Yes 64 - No

Option 2

At the cost of \$750 a seat round trip I would subscribe to subscription busing knowing this will be:

- Partially subsidized by the district's educational budget.
- Would result in most subscription applications being accepted.
- Bus route zones would be expanded so most students could get bused; however, if demand is very high there may still be some areas of town that may not be able to subscribe at this price point.

88 - Yes 49 - No

Option 3

At the cost of \$1,000 a seat round trip I would subscribe to subscription busing knowing this will be:

- Minimally subsidized by the district's educational budget
- Would result in 100% of applications being accepted
- Bus route zones would be expanded so all families would be able to subscribe.
- Additional buses could be added to fulfill all subscription requests.

60 - Yes 77 - No

Mrs. Shumofsky reported that in conclusion, based on the results of the survey and the Board's priority to maintain their focus on education, the transportation committee determined that the cost should be \$750.00 a seat round trip per student. This aligns with the Board's priority to continue educational programs without taking funds for non-mandated transportation. She explained that the Board will still face challenges with subscription busing. There is a serious shortage of bus drivers, gas prices are very high, and there are logistical issues as well that need to be worked out. Mrs. Shumofsky stated that there are many factors in subscription busing and it is imperative that families subscribe as early as possible and within the deadline.

Mr. Halik restated that with the current bus driver shortage and the need to secure enough buses, the process to enroll in subscription busing must be started soon. The portal will be opening early May for parents to begin subscribing and that the policy regarding a required signup date will be strictly enforced to ensure enough seats are available.

Mrs. Opper then reminded parents that they will not be able to choose their drop off and pick up time on the route and that routes should be completed by 4:15 pm. If you need specific timing this is not the service for you. Most pickup and drop off points are community stops and that factor must be taken into consideration when subscribing for this optional busing service. She urged the public to reach out with any questions and they will happily explain in further detail.

Mr. Halik explained that the district engaged Schwanewede/Hals engineering firm to provide the proper qualification of all residences in town. This ensures the district knows which residences are entitled to free state mandated busing. He stated that this list will be posted on the www.ncboe.org website so that each family can look up their address and see if they qualify. Letters have been sent to all families that qualify for free busing and

they will automatically be enrolled without having to subscribe on the portal. He also stated that some families that may have qualified in the past may not next year based on this study they were sent letters as well.

Mr. Halik then stated that although the price has to unfortunately increase this year, other comparable districts are charging \$1,000.00 or more per student, our costs are lower and the Board will have to reevaluate the program cost each year based on the current market and other factors.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION-

NONE

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

G1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve tuition contract with ECLC of New Jersey effective for the 2021-2022 school year to commence on July 1, 2021, for the following student:

Student #8005373	
Tuition:	\$ 56,773.80
Extended School year:	\$ 6,308.20
Aide	\$ 47,000.00
Total Contract:	\$110,082.00

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Stroevert

Yes: 5 No: 0

G2. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the facilities use application submitted by James Whitney for Soccer Training.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Stroevert

Yes: 5 No: 0

G3. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the facilities use application submitted for NCPE for outdoor movie night.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Stroevert

Yes: 4 No: 0

Abstain: Mrs. Stroevert

G4. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the facilities use application submitted by North Caldwell Recreation Department for After School Basketball.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Stroever

Yes: 5 No: 0

G5. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve payment to **Dr. Farrell** in the amount of \$695.00 for a developmental pediatric assessment for **student #8006054**.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Stroever

Yes: 5 No: 0

G6. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve payment to **Dr. Dorsky** in the amount of \$2000.00 for a psychiatric assessment for **student #8005272**.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Stroever

Yes: 5 No: 0

G7. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the Resolution for Participation in Joint Transportation Services for the 2022-2023 school year with **Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative** for coordination of transportation of special education.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Stroever

Yes: 5 No: 0

G8. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the Resolution for Participation in Joint Transportation Services for the 202-2023 school year with **Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative** for coordination of transportation of regular education.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Stroever

Yes: 5 No: 0

G9. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the revision to the 2021-2022 school calendar to reflect return of unused snow days.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Stroever

Yes: 5 No: 0

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

B1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the **Public & Confidential Minutes of March 15, 2022.**

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 4 No: 0

Abstain: Mr. Finkelstein

B2. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the **Confidential Minutes of April 5, 2022.**

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 4 No: 0

Abstain: Mr. Finkelstein

B3. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following **Payroll(s):**

March 31st, 2022 \$358,830.50
April 14th, 2022 \$393,807.72

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

B4. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following **Hand Check Register(s):**

March 21st, 2022 \$ 54,349.94
March 30th, 2022 \$ 53,544.75

March 30th, 2022		\$205,850.00	
March 30th, 2022		\$ 86.78	
Moved:	Mrs. Shumofsky	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

B5. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following **Bills and Claims:**

April 7th, 2022		\$275,875.45	
April 27th, 2022		\$495,875.11	
Moved:	Mrs. Shumofsky	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

B6. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following **Title I Tutoring:**

March 2022		\$11,562.50	
Moved:	Mrs. Shumofsky	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

B7. WHEREAS pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Board Secretary does certify that as of **February 2022**, no budgetary line-item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8.1; therefore be it

RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c) 4, the Board of Education does certify that as of **February 2022**, the Board Secretary Monthly Financial Report, did not reflect an over expenditure in any Major Account or Fund, and based on the Appropriation Balances reflected on this report and on the advice of District Officials, that sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

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

B8. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the attached Board Secretary’s and Treasurer’s **Monthly Financial Reports** for **February 2022**.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

B9. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the digital submission of application for the 2021 Safety Grant Program to repair security cameras through the New Jersey Insurance Group (NJSIG) in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

B10. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the submission of application for the 2022 State of New Jersey Schools Development Authority Grant Program to provide funding for repair of outdoor steps at Gould School in the amount of \$14,346.00

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

B11. RESOLVED that the North Caldwell Board of Education approve the 2022-2023 School Budget as follows:

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>LOCAL TAX LEVY</u>
General Fund	\$ 15,781,340	\$ 13,950,000
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 860,761	
Debt Service Fund	\$ 535,600	\$ 535,600
Total Budget	\$ 17,177,701	\$ 14,485,600

The school district has proposed programs and services in excess of the Adequacy Budget adopted by the State Board of Education. Information on this budget and the programs and services it provides is available from the district’s Board Office.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

B12. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve canceling stale dated budget checks for 2020-2021 school year as listed below:

<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
36854	\$13,500.00
36991	\$ 675.00
37038	\$ 92.98
37372	\$ 60.00
37477	\$ 222.71

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS

P1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education regrettfully accept the resignation of **Amanda Cosentino** effective July 1, 2022.

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mrs. Stroever

Yes: 5 No: 0

P2. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve **Leigh Gallo** to return from Child Rearing Leave May 1, 2022.

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mrs. Stroever

Yes: 5 No: 0

P3. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve **Robert J. Brenneck** as a Technology Assistant at a prorated salary of \$67,000.00 (\$5,584.00) effective June 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022.

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mrs. Stroever

Yes: 5 No: 0

P4. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve Robert J. Brenneck as a Technology Assistant at a salary of \$67,000.00 effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mrs. Stroever

Yes: 5 No: 0

P5. RESOLVED that the Board of Education regrettfully accept the notice of retirement of Linda Nikow effective July 1, 2022.

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mrs. Stroever

Yes: 5 No: 0

P6. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the Professional Development Workshops/Conferences costs for the following teachers:

Name	Date	Workshop	Cost	Travel
Halik, Michael	5/4	IPD-Green Procurement	\$50.00	
Halik, Michael	6/7-6/10	NJASBO Conference	\$275.00	\$621.00
MacDonald, L.	4/29	Neurodiversity & Regulation	\$0	

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mrs. Stroever

Yes: 5 No: 0

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

The following resolution was called at approximately 8:19 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/Student Matters. Said matters will be made public upon their disposition.

Moved: Mrs. Stroever Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

As there was no further business to discuss, the Board adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Halik

Michael Halik
Business Administrator / Board Secretary