

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
UPPER SADDLE RIVER, NEW JERSEY  
SPECIAL MEETING – BOARD RETREAT  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2021  
8:00 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

This Special Meeting - Board Retreat of the Upper Saddle River Board of Education was held at the Cavallini Media Center, 392 West Saddle River Road, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458 beginning at 8:00 a.m. Mrs. Johnston opened the meeting and stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with PL 1975, Chapter 232 and appropriate notice had been provided to the designated newspapers, the Borough Clerk and all interested parties requesting such notification.

Members present: Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Gandara, Mrs. Ginsberg, Mr. Quagliani, Dr. Verducci, Mrs. Wenberg

Members absent: None

Also present: Dr. Siegel, Mrs. Imbasciani, Dr. Osborne (arrived at 10:10 a.m.)

Mrs. Gandara made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Quagliani to begin the meeting at 8:00 a.m.

**OPENING STATEMENT**

**Mrs. Johnston**

Mrs. Johnston welcomed the Board to the meeting.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. *The Road Forward*

**Dr. Siegel**

- The Board discussed the requirements established in the newly revised *The Road Forward* document that was recently distributed by the NJDOE and Department of Health.
- The new Pre-Entry to School Health Screener was distributed and reviewed.
- Dr. Siegel reviewed the summary from the August 30<sup>th</sup> Parent Forums.
- The Board reviewed and discussed the School Employee Vaccination Requirements Policy.
- Dr. Siegel explained the role and reasoning behind the newly created District Stakeholder Health Committee.

2. Educational Updates

- Dr. Siegel and the Board reviewed the 2021/22 District Goals and Action Plans.
- The Be Kind 21 Initiative was discussed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: None**

**ADMINISTRATION:**

**Dr. Siegel**

**A motion was made by Dr. Verducci and seconded by Mrs. Gandara to approve Administration Consent Agenda Item A and was approved by all in attendance.**

A. Approve the District Goals for the 2021/22 school year:

1. Comprehensively assess student's academic and social-emotional progress using state level and district evaluations to determine potential learning gaps and needs for growth following prolonged health-related disruptions during the previous two school years.

2. Building on existing partnerships and progress in student wellness, provide appropriate and timely parent education on focused wellness topics and enhance classroom and social services that are differentiated to meet individuals' diverse social-emotional needs.
3. Expand curricula, staff development, and classroom settings to cultivate constructive student dialogue and civil discourse related to issues with diverse points of view.
4. Evaluate K – 8 enrichment educational opportunities for all students and students who are identified for enrichment, and establish a plan to reform our current approaches, programs and practices based on this needs assessment.

#### **CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

Mrs. Gandara made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wenberg to convene into Executive Session at 9:38 a.m. Mrs. Johnston then read the following statement:

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Upper Saddle River Board of Education deem necessary to discuss personnel and legal matters, and

**WHEREAS**, the topics to be discussed are within the exemptions which are permitted to be discussed and acted upon in confidential session pursuant to PL 1975, Chapter 231,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting will be made public when the need for privacy no longer exists. Action may be taken.

Mrs. Gandara made a motion, seconded by Dr. Verducci to adjourn Executive Session at 10:07 a.m.

Mrs. Gandara made a motion, seconded by Dr. Verducci to return to Special Meeting – Board Retreat at 10:07 a.m.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

##### 1. Policy and Governance Training

**Dr. Osborne**

- Dr. Osborne, Executive Coach, provided training to the Board members on Policy Governance and Educational Leadership with a focus on a strong-strong partnership between the elected officials and the appointed superintendent.
- Discussed challenges facing public leaders today. Highlights included:
  - Deliberating in many voices, acting in one voice: the use of board time and the role of policy
  - Discerning board issues from management issues
  - Board investment in itself – continuing improvement in the core work of providing excellence in the governance to the community.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Verducci and seconded by Mrs. Gandara at 1:35 p.m.

Sincerely,

Dana Imbasciani  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary