

**Board of Education  
Upper Saddle River, New Jersey  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, January 11, 2021, 8:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

This Regular Session of the Upper Saddle River Board of Education convened at 8:00 p.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, Mrs. Gray, Mr. Quagliani, Dr. Verducci, Mrs. Wenberg

Members absent: None

Also present: Dr. Siegel, Mrs. Imbasciani

Mr. Quagliani made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gandara to convene into Regular Session at 8:00 p.m.

**OPENING STATEMENT:**

**Mrs. Johnston**

Mrs. Johnston welcomed the public.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

**Dr. Siegel**

Highlights of Dr. Siegel's report are as follows:

- **Access 2.0**  
The district administered Access 2.0 to our English Language Learners during the 2019/20 school year despite the disruption of school closures. Twenty students completed the assessment and the average score (4/5) is based on a six-point scale with a range from emerging to proficient.
- **Parent-School Wellness Partnership**  
The committee met on Monday, January 11, where Mrs. Baker provided an update on our implementation of the Panorama program for evaluating social-emotional learning competencies. In addition, Mrs. D'Ambola and Mrs. Zeccardi modeled lessons from our newly adopted Community Circles program. The 4<sup>th</sup> installment of the Parent Wellness Academy will take place on Wednesday, January 13 (7:00 p.m. via Zoom) on the topic of: Building Social Relationships – Resilience in our New Normal.
- The deadline for families to change the learning platform is tomorrow – January 12. Phase 4 starts on January 19, 2021 and runs through February 26, 2021.
- More people have asked to switch back to hybrid than to go out to virtual.

**BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

**Mrs. Imbasciani**

Mrs. Imbasciani reported that the audit has been delayed and will be presented and approved at the February board meeting.

**BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None**

**Mrs. Johnston**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Policy Committee****Mrs. Gandara**

- The Policy Committee is currently reviewing three (3) policies:
  - School Clearances
  - Eligibility of Resident and Non-resident Students
  - Code of Conduct

**Finance Committee****Mr. Quagliani**

- The Finance Committee has begun working on the 2021/22 budget. The preliminary budget Will be discussed at the March meeting and the Public Hearing on the Budget will be April 26, 2021.

**Technology Committee****Dr. Verducci**

- The Technology Committee met on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Personnel Committee****Dr. Verducci**

- The Personnel Committee discussed staffing for the 2021/22 school year.

**Wellness Committee****Dr. Siegel**

- The Wellness Committee provided updates on the following:
  - Mental Health – Ms. Baker, Social Worker, shared data gathered from Panorama regarding social and emotional learning competencies. She discussed how data is collected and being used to guide services and interventions.
  - Mrs. D’Ambola and Mrs. Zeccardi gave an update on Community Circles and led participants through two lessons to help the Committee understand what is going on in the classroom.
  - January 13<sup>th</sup> - Guest Speaker – Parent/Leader panel on social relationships

**COMMENT:**

- Mrs. Gandara acknowledged the tremendous amount of work and data collected in such a short amount of time. She said this is impressive and appreciated.

**PTO REPORT: None****Mrs. Apostolou/Mrs. Degenars****USREF Report:****Mrs. Mueller**

- Mrs. Imbasciani read the following statement on behalf of USREF President, Karen Mueller:

The USREF would like to congratulate Jennifer, Erin and Joy on their re-election and election to the USR BOE. We appreciate your contributions to our school district and look forward to continuing our partnership with the USR BOE on future projects and our grant program.

We are currently accepting nominations for the 2021 Award for Excellence. This year, we are seeking nominations for **USR COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS**. More details and a link to the nomination application can be found on our website, [www.usref.org](http://www.usref.org). The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2021.

Thank you and happy new year wishes to all!

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**ADMINISTRATION:**

**Dr. Siegel**

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

A. First reading of the following Policies and Regulations:

Policy 1620	Administrative Employment Contracts (revised)
Policy 2431	Athletic Competition (revised)
Policy 5330.05	Seizure Action Plan (new)
Policy 6440	Cooperative Purchasing (revised)
Policy 6470.01	Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification (new)
Policy 7440	School District Security (revised)
Policy 7450	Property Inventory (revised)
Policy 7510	Use of School Facilities (revised)
Policy 8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations (revised)
Regulation 2431.1	Emergency Procedures for Sports and Other Athletic Activity (revised)
Regulation 5330.05	Seizure Action Plan (new)
Regulation 6470.01	Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification (new)

B. Approve the revised 2021/22 School Calendar, as per attached.

**PERSONNEL:**

**Dr. Siegel**

**A motion was made by Mr. Quagliani and seconded by Dr. Verducci to approve Personnel Consent Agenda Items A through G and was approved by all in attendance.**

A. Create/Abolish

1. Abolish one 1.0 FTE ABA K-2 Paraprofessional position.
2. Create one 1.0 FTE ABA Preschool Paraprofessional position.

B. Resignations

1. Accept the resignation of Nan Kurz, .50 FTE BSI/1st Grade remote teacher, effective February 1, 2021.
2. Accept the resignation of Elizabeth Waldt, PE/Health Teacher at Bogert School, effective February 15, 2021.

C. Leaves

1. Approve an unpaid leave of absence for Employee ID # 1032, under Section E.3.b of Article 25 of the Contract between the USREA and the USRBOE, effective January 4, 2021 through approximately June 23, 2021.
2. Approve a paid medical leave for Employee ID # 1450, effective January 8, 2021 through approximately February 1, 2021.
3. Revise the unpaid leave of absence for Employee ID # 1936, effective December 16, 2020 through January 31, 2021.

D. Lateral Guide Moves

1. Approve a lateral guide move for Erik Schlemm, PE/Health Teacher, from BA, Step 3 to MA, Step 3, effective February 1, 2021.

E. Appointments

1. Appoint Peter Scheffler to the position of long-term, per diem Paraprofessional leave replacement at Cavallini Middle School, effective January 12, 2021 through March 12, 2021, subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law. \$110.00 (per diem)
2. Extend the appointment date of Kayla Schneider as the long-term, per diem leave replacement Kindergarten Teacher through February 28, 2021.

Appointments – Staff for After Care Experience

1. Appoint Ann McGovern to the position of substitute team member in the After Care Experience program for the 2020/21 school year. \$27.50/hour
2. Appoint Linda Miller to the position of team member in the After Care Experience program for the 2020/21 school year. \$27.50/hour

F. Change in Assignment

1. Approve the transfer of Cayla Casey from 1.0 FTE 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Classroom Teacher to .30 FTE Special Education Teacher and .70 FTE 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Classroom Teacher, effective January 4, 2021.
2. Approve the transfer of Kristin Foelsch from .65 FTE Paraprofessional at Reynolds School to 1.0 FTE ABA Preschool Paraprofessional at Reynolds School, effective January 12, 2021. \$16,846.00 (prorated)  
\$3,000.00 (stipend)  
(prorated)

G. Substitutes/Consultants/Volunteers

1. Approve Jason Alba as a substitute custodian for the 2020/21 school year.
2. Approve James D'Alessio as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2020/21 school year (NJ Substitute Teacher's Certificate).
3. Approve Noelle Ghioris as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2020/21 school year (NJ Substitute Teacher's Certificate).
4. Approve Katherine Grochan as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2020/21 school year (NJ Substitute Teacher's Certificate).
5. Approve Rachel Nagy as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2020/21 school year (NJ Substitute Teacher's Certificate).
6. Approve Northern Highlands student, Thomas Nemec, as a volunteer tutor for several Bogert students, for a total of 16 hours, as part of his National Honor Society requirements.
7. Approve Victoria Newcombe as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2020/21 school year (NJ Substitute Teacher's Certificate).
8. Approve Alyssa Tunick as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2020/21 school year (NJ Substitute Teacher's Certificate).
9. Approve Victoria Newcombe as a student teacher at Reynolds School, February 2021 through May 2021.

**FINANCE :****Mrs. Imbasciani**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Gandara and seconded by Dr. Verducci approve Finance Consent Agenda Items A through K and was approved by all in attendance.**

- A. Approve the Minutes of Board Meeting:

December 7, 2020

- B. Approve the Bills List for December 2020 as follows:

10	General Current Expense	\$71,212.24
11	General Current Expense	\$2,092,667.52
20	Special Revenue Funds	\$28,298.12
40	Debt Service Funds	\$48,873.11
60	Enterprise Fund	\$7,345.61
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,248,396.60</b>

- C. Approve the Transfers for December 2020.
- D. Approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Reports dated December 2020 and to certify that after review of these reports and upon consultation with appropriate district officials, as to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23-2.11 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation for the remainder of the year.
- E. Accept three tuition students, whose names are on file in the Board Office, for the 2020/21 school year, effective February 1, 2021.
- F. Accept an out-of-district tuition student, whose name is on file in the Board Office, to attend the LLD Class in Bogert School for the 2020/21 school year, effective January 12, 2021.
- G. Accept an out-of-district tuition student, whose name is on file in the Board Office, to attend the Pre-K Archways to Learning Program in Reynolds School, effective January 12, 2021.
- H. Approve an additional AVT (Audio Verbal Therapy) session for a Reynolds student, whose name is on file in the Board Office, increasing sessions from one time per week to two times per week.
- I. Approve Consultant Marilyn Zecher to provide *Multisensory Math and More*, a K-5 workshop for Elementary Special Education Teachers, at a cost of \$1,750.00.
- J. Approve the following Travel Expenses:

Program Name	Date	Employee	Registration Fee	Travel Cost
Continuing Education for BCBA Certification (Online)	January -- June 2021 (Various Dates)	Gianna Apicella	\$199.00	\$0.00
Handle With Care Crisis Prevention River Edge, NJ Verbal De-Escalation Training (Online)	January 12, 2021 & January 20, 2021	Katherine Baker Laura Pinto	\$470.00 \$470.00	\$8.75 \$8.75
Restorative Practices in the Classroom (Online)	February 2, 2021	Parveen Sangha	\$279.00	\$0.00
Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (Online)	April 22 - 23, 2021	Suzanne Cook	\$280.00	\$0.00

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Gandara and seconded by Mrs. Gray at 8:20 p.m.

Sincerely,

Dana Imbasciani, Board Secretary