

**Board of Education
Upper Saddle River, New Jersey
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 8, 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 (until 9:00pm),
Mr. Quagliani (until 9:00pm), Dr. Verducci, Mrs. Wenberg

Members absent: None

Also present: Dr. Siegel, Mrs. Imbasciani

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Mrs. Gandara made a motion, seconded by Dr. Verducci to convene into Executive Session at 7:25 p.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.

Mr. Quagliani made a motion, seconded by Dr. Verducci to adjourn Executive Session at 7:56 p.m.

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:

- **Family Fun Night**
Thursday, February 11 at 6 pm. Signups are online. More information is on the district website.
- **Virtual Day on February 9**
Due to the inclement weather forecast for tomorrow, February 9 will be a virtual day for all Upper Saddle River schools.

There will be a meeting to review the challenges due to protocols and to discuss how the district is managing instruction on February 22.

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT:**Mrs. Imbasciani**

Mrs. Imbasciani reported the following:

- **Summary of Highlights of the June 30, 2020 audit to the Board:**
 - The District continues to be in “very good” financial position.
 - The Allowable Fund Balance at June 30, 2020 was \$465,837. This amount can be spent at the Board’s discretion.
 - \$1,284,149 has been set aside to offset current school year (2020/21 Fund balance).
 - A minimum of \$1,857,263 has been set aside to offset taxes in the next school year (2021/22 Budgeted Fund Balance).
 - There were no audit recommendations this year.
 - There were no repeat audit findings.
- **Update on Reynolds Window Replacement Project**
- **Security Training Reminder to All Board Members**

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT: None**Mrs. Johnston****COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Policy Committee****Mrs. Gandara**

- The Policy Committee met to review changes to current policies.

Finance Committee**Mr. Quagliani**

- The Finance Committee met to review the 2021/22 budget which is still a work in progress.

Personnel Committee**Dr. Verducci**

- On March 4 the Personnel Committee will meet to discuss staffing for the 2021/22 school year.

Curriculum Committee**Mrs. Johnston**

- The Curriculum Committee reviewed:
 - New Community Circle Initiative
 - 8th grade elective rollout
 - Family Game Night
 - Academic Support re-branding
 - Met with Mr. Krapel for an update from the Quad Curriculum office.

PTO REPORT:**Mrs. Apostolou/Mrs. Degenaaars**

- Mrs. Imbasciani reported the following on behalf of the USRPTO co-presidents:
 - Meet and Greet Fundraiser on February 20 from 12 – 4 pm. For more information visit usrpto.com
 - Cavallini Picture Day is February 19

USREF Report:**Mrs. Mueller**

- Mrs. Imbasciani reported the following on behalf of USREF President, Karen Mueller:
 - The USREF received a record number of nominations for this year’s Award of Excellence. They’d like to thank everyone who spent the time submitting the nominations and expect to announce the 2021 Community Champion Honorees in mid-March.
 - This spring, instead of the Annual Town Night Out Gala, the USREF will hold a live-streamed virtual silent auction as well as their ultimate 50/50 raffle. These will be the primary fund raisers for this school year.
 - Family Fun Drive-In at Demarest Farms will be Friday, June 11.
 - More details for all of these events will be posted on the USREF website and Facebook page in the coming months.

PRESENTATIONS:**Esports Exhibition****Mr. Padilla**

Mr. Padilla shared information on the upcoming Esports Exhibition set to take place this spring. Cavallini students will be signing up to compete in Rocket League and Minecraft tournaments.

COMMENTS:

Mrs. Gandara asked if access to the games would be limited to the students that sign up for the Esports Club.

Bogert Library Update**Mr. Padilla**

Mr. Padilla presented information on the Bogert Media Center renovation. The team is reviewing vendors and will look forward to move forward this summer.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Mr. Wlosek, Mr. Azzariti and Mr. Schwartz expressed their concern over students already spending too much time in front of screens.
- Mr. Wlosek asked why private schools are in session full time and we still are not. He said transmission rates in schools are low – Our children deserve better.
- Mrs. Hazzah asked why we consult with the Bergen County Health Department and not our own school doctor for health information about CoVid.
- Mr. Ford thanked the Board for their hard work and dedication to Upper Saddle River and their excellent communication with the community. He questioned why the schools are closed when there are one or two positive cases, rather than a significant community outbreak. Considering the regional risk level is orange, he asked if there is flexibility under the DOE Restart and Recovery Plan, DOH Recommendations for Local Health Departments, and USR School Re-Entry Policy to keep schools open when there are only one or two CoVid cases.
- Mrs. Johnston stated that the district is following the direction of the Bergen County Department of Health.
- Mr. Pjeternikaj asked if teachers are still on contract.

ADMINISTRATION:**Dr. Siegel**

A motion was made by Dr. Verducci and seconded by Mrs. Gandara 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 2468	Independent Educational Evaluations (revised)
Policy 5111	Eligibility of Resident/NonResident Students (revised)
Policy 8420.30	School Clearance Following Crisis Situation (revised)

B. Second 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)

PERSONNEL:

Dr. Siegel

A motion was made by Mrs. Gandara and seconded by Mrs. Wenberg to approve Personnel Consent Agenda Items A through and was approved by all in attendance.

A. Create/Abolish (Not Applicable)

B. Resignations (Not Applicable)

C. Leaves

1. Approve paid medical leave and unpaid FMLA/NJFLA leave for Employee ID #1511, effective on or about June 1, 2021 through approximately November 26, 2021.
2. Revise the leave of Employee ID #1542, paid medical and unpaid FMLA/NJFLA, effective on or about November 4, 2020 through April 20, 2021.
3. Approve a paid medical leave for Employee ID #0077, effective January 19, 2021 through approximately March 5, 2021.
4. Revise the leave of Employee ID #1220, paid medical leave and unpaid FMLA/FLA, effective December 21, 2020 through May 7, 2021.

D. Lateral Guide Moves (Not Applicable)

E. Appointments

1. Appoint Amanda LaSpina to the position of .50 FTE 3rd grade teacher, BA, Step 1, effective February 9, 2021.
2. Appoint Dr. Sara Lupu as the school doctor for the 2021 calendar year.
3. Appoint Rachel Squiccimarrri to the position of .50 FTE basic skills instructor at Reynolds, BA, Step 1, effective February 9, 2021 and .50 FTE long term, per diem basic skills instructor leave replacement (pro-rated) at Reynolds School, BA, Step 1, effective February 9, 2021 through approximately June 23, 2021.

F. Change in Assignment (Not Applicable)

G. Substitutes/Consultants/Volunteers

1. Approve Robbie Amodeo as a substitute teacher and paraprofessional for the 2020/2021 school year subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law. Mr. Amodeo's substitute teacher's certificate is pending.

H. The following staff members are recommended for the positions listed below for the 2020/21 school year:

ATHLETICS		
Position	Personnel	Amount
Boys Basketball	Jason Dates	\$3,000.00
Girls Basketball	Noelle Vosseler	\$3,000.00
Club Advisors (Level-A)		
Position	Personnel	Amount
Entrepreneurial Club (School Store/TREP\$)	Lauren Foca	\$1,650.00
Esports	Allison Au	\$1,650.00
Esports	Desiree Lascarro	\$1,650.00
Art Club	Stephanie Wassmer	\$1,650.00
Gaming Review	James Dunn	\$1,650.00
Podcasting	Bruce Reicher	\$1,650.00
Battle of the Books SPLIT	Elizabeth Ullrich	\$1,100.00
Battle of the Books SPLIT	Stephanie Chamberlin	\$ 550.00
Club Advisors (Level-B)		
Position	Personnel	Amount
Entrepreneurial Club (TREP\$) Co-Advisor	Christie Cipollini	\$ 930.00
Creative Poetry Club	Brigette Uzar	\$ 930.00
Harry Potter Club	Elizabeth Ullrich	\$ 930.00
Healthy Bites	Jennifer Kruter	\$ 930.00
Inspire Calm/Meaningful Mindfulness	Margaret Donnelly	\$ 930.00
Leo Club (Funded by USREF) SPLIT	Christine Cipollini	\$ 465.00
Leo Club (Funded by USREF) SPLIT	Emily Viola	\$ 465.00

Musical Directors

Position	Personnel	Amount
Musical Director	Meaghan Henry	\$3,000.00
Assistant Musical Director	Megan Conners	\$1,500.00

FINANCE :**Mrs. Imbasciani**

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

- A. Approve the Minutes of Board Meeting:

January 4 (Reorg), January 11 and January 15 (Retreat), 2021

- B. Approve the Bills List for January 2021 as follows:

10	General Current Expense	\$78,358.81
11	General Current Expense	\$2,045,686.77
20	Special Revenue Funds	\$26,263.52
40	Debt Service Funds	\$7,050.00
60	Enterprise Fund	\$8,301.92
	Total	\$2,165,661.02

- C. Approve the Transfers for January 2021.

- D. Approve the 2019/20 Audit.

- E. Approve RJB Environmental, Inc. to provide professional asbestos abatement services for the final phase of Reynolds School Partial Window Replacement Project, at an estimated cost of \$13,720.00

- F. Approve submission of the SEMI Waiver for the 2021/22 school year to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools.

- G. Approve the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Upper Saddle River Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"), that the terms, stipulations and conditions as established in the Settlement Agreement (20/21-1) and Release between the Board and the Parents of a student whose name is on file in the Superintendent's Office, which is annexed to this Resolution, are hereby adopted and approved by the Board. The Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Settlement Agreement and Release, and any other documents necessary to effectuate the settlement.

- H. Approve the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Upper Saddle River Board of Education does hereby approve an agreement with the Region 1/Mahwah Board of Education, a Coordinated Transportation Services Agency, for the purpose of transporting students in accordance with Chapter 53, P.L. 1997 for the 2021/2022 school year. The services to be provided include, but are not limited to, the coordinated transportation of public, nonpublic and special education students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Upper Saddle River Board of Education agrees to abide by the Transportation Services Agreement as published by the Region 1/Mahwah Board of Education and attached to this Resolution.

- I. Reaffirm the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE MEMBERSHIP IN THE NORTHEAST BERGEN
COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INSURANCE GROUP**

WHEREAS, a number of Boards of Education in Bergen County have joined together to form a Joint Insurance Group as permitted by N.J. Title 18A: 18B; and

WHEREAS, said Group was approved effective July 1, 1985 by the New Jersey Commissioner of Insurance and has been in operation since that date; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws and regulations governing the creation and operation of this Insurance Group contain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a Group; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Upper Saddle River has determined that membership in the Northeast Bergen County School Board Insurance Group is in the best interest of the District;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Education of Upper Saddle River does hereby agree to renew membership in the Northeast Bergen County School Board and hereby accept the Bylaws as approved and adopted. The renewal term is from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized to execute the application for membership and the accompanying certification on behalf of the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the Group as are required by the Group's Bylaws and to deliver the same to the Executive Director.

- J. Reaffirm the following Resolution:

**NORTHEAST BERGEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INSURANCE GROUP
FUND MEMBERSHIP, INDEMNITY AND TRUST AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT made this first day of July 2019 in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, By and Between Northeast Bergen County School Board Insurance Group (hereinafter referred to as "Group") and the Board of Education of Upper Saddle River, a duly constituted unit of government (hereinafter referred to as "the Board");

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, several local school districts have collectively formed or are in the process of forming a School Board Group as such an entity is authorized and described in NJSA 18A: 18B and the administrative regulations promulgated pursuant thereto; and

WHEREAS, the Board has agreed to renew membership in the Group and to share in the

obligations and benefits flowing from such membership with other members of the Group in accordance with and to the extent provided for in the Bylaws of the Group and in consideration of such obligations and benefits to be shared by the membership of the Group.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed as follows:

1. The Board accepts the Group's Bylaws as approved and adopted and agrees to be bound by and to comply with each and every provision of the said Bylaws and the pertinent Statutes and Administrative Regulations pertaining to the same.
2. The Board agrees to participate in the Group with respect to the types of insurance offered by the Group: Self-Insured Workers' Compensation, Property, Liability, Auto, Crime, Excess Liability, Environmental, School Board Legal and any other insurance offered by the Group, allowed by law.
3. The Board agrees to renew membership in the Group for the period of **three (3) years, the commencement of which shall be July 1, 2019.**
4. The Board certifies that it has never defaulted any claims if self-insured and has not been canceled for non-payment of insurance premiums for a period of at least two years prior to the date hereof.
5. In consideration of membership in the Group, the Board agrees that it shall jointly and severally assume and discharge the liability of each and every member of the Group, all of whom as a condition of membership in the Group shall execute a verbatim counter-part of this Agreement and by execution hereof the full faith and credit of the Board is pledged to the punctual payment of any sums which shall become due to the Group in accordance with the Bylaws thereof, this Agreement or any applicable Statute.
6. If the Group in the enforcement of any part of this Agreement shall incur necessary expense or become obligated to pay an attorney's fees and/or Court costs the Board agrees to reimburse the Group for all such reasonable expenses, fees, and costs on demand.
7. The Board and the Group agree that the Group shall hold all monies paid by the Board to the Group as fiduciaries for the benefit of Group claimants all in accordance with NJSA 18A: 18B.
8. The Group shall establish separate Trust Accounts for each of the following categories of risk and liability:
 - a. Claims or Loss Retention Fund
 - b. Administrative
 - c. Workers' Compensation Premium

The Group shall maintain Trust Accounts aforementioned in accordance with NJSA 18: 18B, the Group's Bylaws and such other Statutes as may be applicable. Specifically, the "Claims or Loss Retention Fund" Trust Account shall be utilized solely for the payment of claims, allocated claim expense and excess insurance or re-insurance premiums for each such risk or liability or as "surplus,"

9. Each Board who shall become a member of the Group shall be obligated to execute this Agreement.

- K. Approve the out-of-district placement of a child whose name is on file in the Board Office at Godwin Elementary School, effective February 8, 2021.
- L. Approve Mountain Lakes School District to conduct a specialized educational evaluation for a hearing \$800.00 impaired student whose name is on file in the Board Office.
- M. Approve the following Travel Expenses:

Program Name	Date	Employee	Registration Fee	Travel Cost
NJMEA Virtual State Conference (Online)	February 18-20, 2021	Susan Jarvis	\$100.00	\$0.00
School Crisis Response Team: PREPARE (Online)	March 5, 2021 March 12, 2021	Katherine Baker	\$50.00	\$0.00
Differentiation for Linguistically Diverse Students (Online)	March 10, 2021	Jessica Molinaro	\$100.00	\$0.00

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Mr. Schwartz asked if the 6 foot rule is mandated. He then asked if there is any plan by the Board to join forces with other districts to pressure these entities to loosen restrictions.
- Mr. Ford asked why other local districts have been able to offer in-person learning at full capacity.
- Mr. Schwartz said that the CDC has stated schools should open and NJ has stated that CoVid transmission rate is now the lowest in 6 months – This all speaks to reopening.
- Mrs. Gandara stated that we want to open the schools to full capacity. But we are restricted by the guidelines.
- Dr. Siegel stated that as soon as we are allowed to increase contact time we will.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Wenberg and seconded by Mrs. Gandara at 9:09 p.m.

Sincerely,

Dana Imbasciani, Board Secretary