

**Board of Education
Upper Saddle River, New Jersey
Regular Meeting
Monday, December 13, 2021, 5:00 p.m.**

Minutes

This Regular Session of the Upper Saddle River Board of Education was held in the Cavallini School Auditorium of the Upper Saddle River Schools beginning at 5:00 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, Mrs. Wenberg

Members absent: Dr. Verducci

Also present: Dr. Siegel, Mrs. Imbasciani

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Mrs. Gandara made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Ginsberg to convene into Executive Session at 5:00 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.

Mrs. Gandara made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gray to adjourn Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.

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

OPENING STATEMENT:

Mrs. Johnston

Mrs. Johnston welcomed the public.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Siegel

Dr. Siegel thanked everyone who is here to honor Mr. James G. Meisterich, former Principal of Cavallini Middle School.

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mrs. Imbasciani

Mrs. Imbasciani reported on the following:

- Status of the 2020/21 Audit
- Status of the Traffic Study

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None

Mrs. Johnston

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Technology Committee**Mrs. Wenberg**

The following was discussed at the December 9, 2021 Technology Committee meeting:

- Professional Development
- Budgeting for Technology in 2022/23
- Upper Saddle River School App

Negotiations Committee**Mrs. Johnston**

- Mrs. Johnston announced that the Board is kicking off negotiations in December 2021.

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

Mrs. Mueller reported on the following:

- Fall Grants are being announced this evening.
- The Town Night Out Gala will be held on March 11, 2022 at the Edgewood Country Club in River Vale. Tickets will go on sale in January.
- Visit USREF.org to sign up for the mailing list and stay informed.

PRESENTATIONS:**A. *Courageous Changemakers* – Honoring Mr. James G. Meisterich****Mr. McCusker**

Current Principal, Jim McCusker, and former Principal, Dr. Gene Solomon, led a ceremony dedicating a section of the Library to Mr. James G. Meisterich who was the first Principal of Cavallini Middle School (1969 – 1996). The section is titled “Courageous Changemakers” and contains selections that highlight people who embody integrity, commitment and self-sacrifice and who demonstrate the power of the individual.

COMMENTS:

- Dr. Siegel thanked Dr. Solomon for her contributions to the Library.

B. 2021/22 USREF Fall Grants**Mrs. Carrion/Grant Committee**

Mrs. Carrion and the USREF Grant Committee provided an overview of the Fall Grants. Highlights of the presentation included:

- **Grant Process**
- **Grant Objectives:**
To promote innovation, creativity and excellence in the Upper Saddle River Schools by supporting and enhancing the curriculum of Pre-K through 8th grades while benefitting the broadest number of children.
- **Grant Committee:**
USREF Trustees Traci Altman, Joan Carrion, Barbara Logo, Marc Lo Schiavo, Diana Missaghieh, Karen Mueller and Ellen Ginsberg Simon. Dr. David Verducci serves as an advisor and non-voting member of the committee.

- **Eleven Fall Grants** (\$15,811.61) were awarded:

Reynolds School:

- Artist Visit with Michael Albert (recurring grant) (S. Cook) – Kdg. - \$900
- Playground Activities (S. Slacin) – K-2 - \$590
- TeachTown Program (recurring grant) (J. Menendez) – K-2 - \$1,195
- Phonics Fun for All (M. Bunting, M. Lavelle, L. Welch) – K-2 - \$1,216.61

Bogert School:

- Media Center Mural (D. Kaplan) – Gr. 3-5 - \$3,200
- Interactive Theater Assembly – Women’s Rights (J. Drucker) – Gr. 4 - \$850
- Flamenco Assembly (recurring grant) (E. Capollari) – Gr. 3 - \$800

Cavallini Middle School:

- Leo Club (recurring grant) J. McCusker – Gr. 6 – 8 - \$1,600
- Marc Aronson – Author in Residence (recurring grant) C. Teehan – Gr. 8 - \$2,000
- Engineers Teaching Algebra (recurring grant) – D. Dorn – Gr. 8 - \$1,200
- Shakespeare Live! Assembly (recurring grant) (T. Goodman, J. Kruter) – Gr. 7 - \$2,260

Mrs. Carrion announced that the USREF will be awarding a second round of grants in the spring of the 2021/22 school year.

COMMENT:

- Mrs. Johnston thanked the Upper Saddle River Educational Foundation on behalf of the entire Board of Education. She then said that these are the things that make Upper Saddle River so special.

C. Social-Emotional Development Through Physical Education

Mr. Petrow/Ms. Blumenfeld

Bogert PE/Health Teachers, Ms. Blumenfeld and Mr. Petrow, presented on the Bogert outdoor team-building course. After an overview of the goals and mission, they shared how the various stations meet Health/PE and SEL standards. They also showed a video of students using the course and presented feedback from the students about what they enjoy about the course and how it helps them reach goals.

D. 2020/21 Schools Self-Assessment for Determining Grades and 2020/21 Incidents, Trainings, Programs for Report Period 2

Mr. DeSocio

Mr. DeSocio presented the Annual Schools Self-Assessment for Determining Grades for the 2020/21 school year and the Incidents, Trainings, Programs for Report Period 2 for the 2020/21 school year. Highlights of his presentation included:

School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Out of a possible 78 points, Reynolds scored 74 points, Bogert scored 74 points and Cavallini scored 73 points. The District Grade was 74.

Student Safety Data System Report, Period 2: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Reynolds – 0 Violence, 0 Vandalism, 0 Substance Abuse, 0 Weapons, 0 HIB Alleged, 0 HIB Confirmed, 0 Other Incidents Leading to Removal

Bogert – 0 Violence, 0 Vandalism, 0 Substance Abuse, 0 Weapons, 0 HIB Alleged, 0 HIB Confirmed, 0 Other Incidents Leading to Removal

Cavallini – 0 Violence, 0 Vandalism, 0 Substance Abuse, 0 Weapons, 0 HIB Alleged, 0 HIB Confirmed,

4 Other Incidents Leading to Removal
 Reynolds – 1 Training, 0 Programs
 Bogert – 0 Trainings, 4 Programs
 Cavallini – 0 Trainings, 3 Programs
 District – 0 Trainings, 0 Programs

This public presentation is required by the NJ Department of Education in accordance with the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. Siegel

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

- A. Approve the Emergency Response Plan for the 2021/22 school year.
- B. Approve the submission of the NJ Department of Education School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades Under the Anti-Bullying Act (ABR) for the 2020/21 school year.
- C. Approve the submission of the revised LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001 (i) for the 2021/22 school year.
- D. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board affirms the Superintendent's decision that investigation#***10182100 is an incident as defined under HIB Policy #5512. The Superintendent shall notify the parents and/or guardians of the Board's decision in writing in accordance with Board Policy and N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(e).
- E. First reading of the following Policies and Regulation:
 - Policy 5751 Sexual Harassment of Students (M) (revised)
 - Policy 9700 Special Interest Groups (revised)
 - Regulation 5751 Sexual Harassment of Students (M) (revised)

PERSONNEL:

Dr. Siegel

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

- A. Job Description (not applicable)
- B. Create/Abolish (not applicable)
- C. Resignations
 - 1. Accept the resignation of Colleen Monahan, Preschool ABA Paraprofessional, effective December 31, 2021.
 - 2. Accept the resignation of Celine Sayanlar, Paraprofessional, effective January 24, 2022.
- D. Leaves
 - 1. Approve a paid medical leave for Employee #0151, effective November 15, 2021 through December 3, 2021.

2. Approve a paid medical leave for Employee #0349, effective November 17, 2021 through December 3, 2021.
3. Approve a paid medical leave and unpaid FMLA/NJFLA for Employee #1329, effective on or about March 21, 2022 through approximately October 1, 2022.
4. Revise the return date from an unpaid FMLA/FLA leave for Employee #1422 to December 13, 2021.

E. Appointments

1. Appoint Michael DeSocio as the Title IX Coordinator for the 2021/22 school year.
2. Appoint Lisa Gannon to the position of Lunch Aide at Reynolds School, effective on or about December 14, 2021, subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law.
3. Extend the appointment of Amanda LaSpina to the position of long-term 5th Grade Leave Replacement Classroom Teacher, BA, Step 1, from January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.
4. Appoint Deborah A. Rodas to the position of ABA Preschool Paraprofessional, Step 8, plus ABA stipend, effective on or about January 3, 2022, subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law.
5. Appoint Adam Swart to the position of long-term per diem Art Teacher at Bogert School, MA, Step 4, effective on January 24, 2022 through approximately June 1, 2022, subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law.
6. Appoint Kristen Targrove to the position of long-term per diem 4th Grade Leave Replacement Classroom Teacher, BA, Step 1, effective on or about December 8, 2021 through approximately April 21, 2022, subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law and receipt of NJ Teaching Certificate.
7. Appoint Michelle Weinberg as a Home Instructor for up to 10 hours per week for an out-of-district student whose name is on file in the Board Office beginning on or about January 7, 2022. \$35/hour
8. Rescind the appointment of Alexis Yotka as Attendance Officer for the 2021/22 school year, effective December 14, 2021.
9. Appoint Katherine Baker as Attendance Officer for the 2021/22 school year, effective December 14, 2021.

F. Termination (not applicable)

G. Substitutes/Consultants/Volunteers/Interns

1. Approve Jennifer Amoroso as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2021/22 school year. Ms. Amoroso holds a NJ substitute teacher's certificate.
2. Approve Rachel Nagy as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2021/22 school year. Ms. Nagy holds a NJ substitute teacher's certificate.
3. Approve Tyler Simpson as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2021/22 school year, subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law. Mr. Simpson holds a NJ substitute teacher's certificate.

4. Approve Adam Swart as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2021/22 school year. Mr. Swart holds an NJDOE Teaching Certification in Art.
5. Approve Kristen Targrove as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2021/22 school year. Ms. Targrove holds a NJ substitute teacher's certificate.
6. Approve Fairleigh Dickinson University graduate students to complete student psychological evaluations under the supervision of the Child Study Team for the 2021/22 school year, subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law.

FINANCE :**Mrs. Imbasciani**

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

- A. Approve the Minutes of Board Meeting:

November 1 and November 15, 2021

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

10	General Current Expense	\$75,120.51
11	General Current Expense	\$2,200,354.52
12	Capital Outlay	\$13,543.69
20	Special Revenue Funds	\$33,871.87
50	Milk	\$317.04
60	Enterprise Fund	\$19,891.61
	Total	\$2,343,099.24

- C. Approve the Transfers for November 2021.

- D. Approve the FY American Rescue Plan (ARP) – ESSER Grant as follows:

ESSER III	\$546,830
Accelerated Learning Coaching and Educator Support	\$87,220
Evidence-Based Summer Learning and Enrichment Activities	\$40,000
Evidence-Based Comprehensive Beyond the School Day Activities	\$40,000
NJTSS Mental Health Support Staffing	\$45,000

- E. Approve the purchase of 175 Chromebooks and respective warranties from CDW-G at a total cost of \$102,718.00. (Pricing as per ESCNJ 18/19-03 Technology Supplies and Services)
- F. Approve the Phase 2 Partial Window Replacement Project at Reynolds School Change Order #ARA-GC-02 for Panoramic Window & Door Systems, Inc. to install glazing to replace the top panels in classrooms 113 and 114 at a total cost of \$2,200.00. This money will be deducted from the current project allowance and will not increase the project cost. The remaining allowance for this project is \$13,625.00.
- G. Approve Panoramic Window & Door Systems, Inc. to supply and install 10 (10) 4000i double hung windows to match the newly installed windows at Reynolds School for a total cost of \$39,800.00.
- H. Approve the purchase and installation of one (1) replacement 15 Ton Packaged Gas/Electric Rooftop Unit (RTU-1), one (1) replacement 10 Ton Unitary Gas/Electric Rooftop Unit (RTU-3), one (1) replacement 30 Ton Packaged Rooftop Cooling/Heating Unit (RTU-6) and one (1) replacement 20 Ton Packaged Gas/Electric Rooftop Unit (RTU-7) for Reynolds/Bogert Schools from Trane at a cost of \$187,000.00. (Pricing as per Co-Op Contract Number: USC 15-JLP-023)

- I. Approve an evaluation on March 1, 2022, for a student whose name is on file in the Board Office, by Dr. P. Eicher, St. Joseph's Healthcare, in the amount of \$550.35.
- J. Approve St. Joseph's Hospital Medical Center to provide OT, in the amount of \$559.00, PT, in the amount of \$389.00, and Speech Therapy, in the amount of \$859.00, for a child whose name is on file in the Board Office, as part of an evaluation being conducted on March 1, 2022.
- K. Approve Learning Tree Multilingual Evaluation & Consulting to conduct a BDI-3 and speech evaluation in Mandarin for a student, whose name is on file in the Board Office, at a rate of \$800.00 for the BDI-3 and \$800.00 for the Speech Evaluation.
- L. Accept the donation of four (4) grants (two (2) new and two (2) recurring) for Reynolds School from the Upper Saddle River Educational Foundation (USREF) in the amount of \$3,901.61.
- M. Accept the donation of three (3) grants (two (2) new and one (1) recurring) for Bogert School from the Upper Saddle River Educational Foundation (USREF) in the amount of \$4,850.00.
- N. Accept the donation of four (4) recurring grants for Cavallini Middle School from the Upper Saddle River Educational Foundation (USREF) in the amount of \$7,060.00.
- O. Approve Sabrina Coppola, LCSW, Director of Social Butterfly Counseling, to present to the Upper Saddle River Wellness Academy on November 18, November 19 and December 2, 2021 at a cost of \$1,000.00.
- P. Approve the following Travel Expenses:

Program Name	Date	Employee	Registration Fee	Travel Cost
Heart Centered Behavior Management (Online)	N/A	Andrea Golden	\$157.00	\$0.00
Psychopharmacology with Adolescents and Children (Online)	December 16, 2021	Katherine Baker	\$60.00	\$0.00
Anxiety & Depression: Understanding the Emotional Needs of Students as a Result of COVID-19 (Online)	January 4, 2022	Katherine Baker	\$25.00	\$0.00
Attachment Theory: A Helpful Framework for Understanding & Intervening with At-Risk Children & Families (Online)	January 7, 2022	Katherine Baker	\$60.00	\$0.00
Conquer Mathematics Pompton Plains, NJ	January 11, 2022	Jessica Pike	\$160.00	\$0.00
Understanding Child Development Through a Cultural Lens (Online)	January 12, 2022	Katherine Baker	\$60.00	\$0.00
Improving the Well Being of Students to Reduce Challenging Behaviors & Increase Learning West Orange, NJ	January 14, 2022	Peggy Dobrinski	\$279.00	\$24.04

Legal & Ethical Issues in Child Adolescent Mental Health	January 19-20, 2022	Katherine Baker	\$120.00	\$0.00
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(Online)				
Help Students Develop Better Social Behavior for increased School Success (Pre-K - Kindergarten) West Orange, NJ	January 21, 2022	Karen Biglin	\$279.00	\$15.26
NJASA Techspo 2022 Atlantic City, NJ	January 26-28, 2022	Daniel Cazes	\$490.00	\$486.50
Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages New York, NY	February 11, 2022	Suzanne Cook	\$180.00	\$0.00
Strengthen Students' Mindfulness: Increase Your Students' Self-Control While Reducing Anxiety and Challenging Behaviors West Orange, NJ	February 17, 2022	Stacy Schiff	\$279.00	\$0.00
NJPSA/FEA/NJASCD Conference Atlantic City, NJ	March 24-25, 2022	Devin Severs	\$320.00	\$209.60

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Johnston

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Gandara and seconded by Mrs. Wenberg at 8:52 p.m.

Sincerely,

Dana Imbasciani, Board Secretary