

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**

**January 17, 2018**

The Meeting was called to order by Mr. Rotundo at 7:00 p.m.

Location: 270 First Street, Palisades Park, N.J.

Flag Salute by all in attendance

**Roll Call:** Anthony Rotundo, Paul Kim, Ken Bruno, Connie Hwang, Stephanie Jang, Jason Kim, John Mattessich, Barnabas Woo, Jeffrey Woo  
Dr. Cirillo, Paul Stabile, Richard Brovarone

**Statement of Presiding Officer:**

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 213, P.L. 1975), I hereby state that adequate notice of this Regular Meeting has been provided to the public by written notice dated January 12, 2018. The Meeting has been:

1. Posted on bulletin boards located inside each school building
2. Communicated with at least one of the Board's designated newspapers
3. Filed with the Borough Clerk of Palisades Park

**Report of the Board President:** Mr. Rotundo announced his Committee appointments:

- Finance – J. Mattessich, Stephanie Jang, Paul Kim
- Building/Grounds – Jason Kim, Jeffrey Woo
- Personnel – Paul Kim, Ken Bruno, Connie Hwang
- Curriculum – Jeffrey Woo, Jason Kim
- Negotiations – Stephanie Jang, Barnabas Woo
- Policy – Connie Hwang, Paul Kim
- PTA/PTSA Liaison – Connie Hwang, Jason Kim
- Student Activities – Connie Hwang, Jason Kim
- Calendar/Food Service – Barnabas Woo, Connie Hwang
- NJSBA – Ken Bruno, John Mattessich

**Report of the Superintendent:** Dr. Cirillo has been contacted by a former student requesting permission to do a research project examining parent's views/beliefs about the current bullying epidemic affecting school districts. Project research would be conducted at Lindbergh School only and supervised by primary researcher, Dr. Mendez-Baldwin, Manhattan College.

The month of January has been designated as "Board of Education Month" for members. Thank you to all members for volunteering their time.

**Report of the Board Attorney:** The MOA with Supervisors (2016 – 2019) to be finalized tonight. Reference made to certain special education "cases" that Mr. Brovarone is currently involved in.

**Report of the Committees:**

**Committee Reports are attached.**

**PALISADES PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS  
2017 - 2018**

<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>CHAIRPERSON</u></b>	<b><u>Co-Chairperson(s)</u></b>
<i>FINANCE</i>	<i>John Mattessich</i>	<i>Stephanie Jang Paul Kim</i>
<i>BUILDINGS &amp; GROUNDS</i>	<i>Jason Kim</i>	<i>Jeffrey Woo</i>
<i>PERSONNEL</i>	<i>Paul Kim</i>	<i>Kenny Bruno Connie Hwang</i>
<i>CURRICULUM</i>	<i>Jeffrey Woo</i>	<i>Jason Kim</i>
<i>NEGOTIATIONS</i>	<i>Stephanie Jang</i>	<i>Barnabas Woo</i>
<i>POLICY</i>	<i>Connie Hwang</i>	<i>Paul Kim</i>
<i>PTA/PTSA Liaison</i>	<i>Connie Hwang</i>	<i>Jason Kim</i>
<i>Student Activities/ Field Trips</i>	<i>Connie Hwang</i>	<i>Jason Kim</i>
<i>Calendar/Food Service</i>	<i>Barnabas Woo</i>	<i>Connie Hwang</i>
<i>NJ School Boards Liaison/ Alternate</i>	<i>Ken Bruno</i>	<i>John Mattessich</i>

**Palisades Park Board of Education**

January 17, 2018

**Report of the Finance Committee – John Mattessich**

1.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves tuition reimbursement for:

Maria Fierro, Pre-K Teacher  
"Case Studies of Reading Difficulties"  
Montclair University  
3 credits @ \$657.38 per credit  
To be reimbursed at the end of 17/18 school year

2.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following staff member workshops:

<u>Staff Member(s)</u>	<u>Location/Description</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Rosemarie Carbone	Villano School, Emerson NJ "K-5 Elementary Teacher's Conference on Assessment"	02/26/18	\$ 25.00 each teacher
Caitlin O'Malley	Same as above		
Nicole Ostuni	Same as above		

3.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a salary increase for Jose Chicas, district custodian, from \$10.50/hour to \$12.50/hour. Mr. Chicas recently received his Black Seal license.

4.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following **January 2018 Food Service vouchers in the amount of \$2,487.41.**

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description of work/location</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Decker Equipment	2 Laminated Cafeteria Tables/High School	\$ 509.86
Jay-Hill Repairs	Repaired Wells steam table/High School	\$ 559.00
Bug-Tech Inc	Pest Control Services – L.S./H.S. Cafeterias	\$ 104.00
Nitti's Hood Cleaning	Cleaned hoods, ducts, fans & filters @ ECC, L.S., H.S. cafeterias	\$1,200.00
A&M Alarm Systems	Repaired Alarm on H.S. Freezer	\$ 65.00
Verizon	Telephone Service @ H.S. Café	<u>\$ 49.55</u>

5.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the financial reports of the Business Administrator and Treasurer of School Moneys for the months ending 7/31/17, 8/31/17, 9/30/17, 11/30/17, 12/31/17 and furthermore certifies that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:20-2A (10e) that no major account or fund in the school budget has been over-expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. (Full reports are on file in the Board Office for review)

6.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the financial reports of the Student Activities accounts for the Jr/Sr High School and Lindbergh Elementary School, month ending 12/31/17. (attached)

7.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the (attached) budget transfers in accordance with Title 18A:22-8.1.

8.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the **January 2018 bill list in the amount of \$747,645.72.**

Fund 10 (General Current Expenses)	\$529,131.70
Fund 20 (Special Revenue Fund)	\$111,232.58
Fund 40 (Debt Service Fund)	\$107,071.98
Fund 96 (After School Programs)	<u>\$ 209.46</u>
	\$747,645.72

Introduced By: J. Mattessich, Second By: P. Kim

All ayes on roll call: Rotundo, P. Kim, Bruno, Hwang, Jang, J. Kim, Mattessich, B. Woo, J. Woo

Palisades Park Board of Education

January 17, 2018

**Report of the Personnel Committee – Paul Kim**

1.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following appointment:

Alexa Lewris  
Palisades Park, NJ  
Middle School Science Teacher  
MA – Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Effective: 01/29/18  
Salary: TBD

2.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the appointment of the following teacher aides at the Early Childhood Center:

Sonia Perez  
Bogota, NJ

Zoila Lopez  
Palisades Park, NJ

Annual Salary: \$14,000. (pro-rated)  
Start Date: Pending fingerprint approval

3.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the appointment of the following Substitute teacher for the remainder of the 2017/18 school year:

Shannon Kearns  
River Vale, NJ  
BS – Elementary Education  
BS – Special Education  
Towson University, Maryland

4.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accepts the resignation of Sara Kim, special needs aide at the ECC, effective January 10, 2018.

5.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves Maria Karsos, Lindbergh School teacher, to work in the "After 3" Program at L.S.

Introduced By: P. Kim, Seconded By: S. Jang

All eyes on roll call: Rotundo, P. Kim, Bruno, Hwang, Jang, J. Kim, Mattessich, B. Woo, J. Woo

**Palisades Park Board of Education**

January 17, 2018

**Report of the Negotiations Committee – Stephanie Jang**

1.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Negotiations Committee (P. Kim, C. Hwang, J. Woo) approves the Memorandum of Agreement for the district's Supervisors for the years 2016 – 2019.

Introduced By: S. Jang, Seconded By: J. Mattessich

All eyes on roll call: Rotundo, P. Kim, Bruno, Hwang, Jang, J. Kim, Mattessich, B. Woo, J. Woo

Palisades Park Board of Education

January 17, 2018

**Report of the Policy Committee – Connie Hwang**

**Second Reading:**

1.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following Policy revisions:

- 1250 – **“Visitors”** - New requirements indicating that “propping” open doors is **strictly prohibited**, and that **students/staff shall not open a door for anyone**.
- 2130 – **“Principal Evaluation”** - Legal references were revised with changes to be more consistent with the current code.
- 6114 – **“Emergency & Disaster Preparedness”** - All full-time employees must receive training on school security drills.
- 6145.1/6145.2 – **“Interscholastic & Intramural Competition”** - This update is required for Grades 9 – 12 only. A section was added on Charter School Students participation in their school of residence upon the agreement of both school principals.

Introduced By: Ms. Hwang, Seconded By: Mr. Bruno

All eyes on roll call: Rotundo, P. Kim, Bruno, Hwang, Jang, J. Kim, Mattessich, B. Woo, J. Woo

**Palisades Park Board of Education**

January 17, 2018

**Report of Student Activities/Field Trips – Connie Hwang**

1.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a Field Trip request for Spanish I, II & III students to “Repertorio Espanol”, NYC to view a theatrical performance. Date: April 13, 2018 Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Cost per student: \$55.00

2.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a “student exchange program” on Thursday, January 25, 2018. The exchange will involve Palisades Park Boys’ Varsity Basketball players and Cresskill High School players. This program will take place during the course of a regular school day.

Introduced By: C. Hwang, Seconded By: J. Mattessich

All eyes on roll call: Rotundo, P. Kim, Bruno, Hwang, Jang, J. Kim, Mattessich, B. Woo, J. Woo



Paul Kim, Personnel Chairman, questioned the resignation of Sara Kim, an aide at the Early Childhood Center. Dr. Cirillo stated that Ms. Kim, a certified Social Worker, has been offered an opportunity to work closer to her home and in her specialized field.

**Old Business:** None to report

**New Business:** Paul Kim questioned who should be appointed as "Sergeant at Arms" at future Board of Education meetings in order to maintain order.

Mr. Brovarone said that the position is usually handled by the Business Administrator. Paul Stabile is not comfortable with taking on this responsibility, if it involves the "removal" of members or public participants. Mr. Brovarone said it would not. If a situation became hostile, local law enforcement could be called in. Mr. Stabile will take on this responsibility at the behest of the Board.

A motion made by Jeffrey Woo, seconded by Paul Kim to convene in closed session. All eyes on roll call.

**Closed Session:**

- Redacted

**Open Session:**

Mr. Rotundo - The Board of Education has made a decision to appoint Mr. Louis M. Flora as the Board Attorney for the remainder of this school year.

Motion by: Ken Bruno, Seconded by Paul Kim

Roll Call: A. Rotundo – abstain, P. Kim – yes, K. Bruno – yes, C. Hwang – yes, S. Jang – yes, J. Kim – no,  
J. Mattessich – yes, B. Woo – no, J. Woo - no.

Mr. Jeffrey Woo said he is voting no because he was not given ample time to review the RFP's received for the position of Board Attorney.

Motion carries – 5 – Yes, 3 – No, 1 – Abstention

Mr. Rotundo – The Board of Education has agreed to retain Mr. Brovarone, Esq. for one month, 10 hours as a transitional period. That time period will be revisited if additional time is needed to complete pending litigation.

Motion by: Ken Bruno, seconded by Paul Kim to retain the services of Mr. Brovarone, Esq. for the aforementioned time period.

Roll Call: A. Rotundo – abstain, P. Kim – yes, K. Bruno – yes, C. Hwang – yes, S. Jang – yes,  
J. Kim – abstain, J. Mattessich – yes, B. Woo – yes, J. Woo – yes

Motion carries – 7 – yes, 2 – Abstentions

The Board will delay the appointment of the Board Architect until Mr. Rotundo can meet with Mr. Stabile, Dr. Cirillo and the Buildings & Grounds Committee members in order to assess the district's building needs. Appointment is tabled until next month.

Motion to appoint "Ferraioli, Wielkotz, Cerullo & Cuva, P.A. Pompton Lakes, NJ as the Board of Education Auditors for the remainder of this school year.

Motion by: J. Mattessich, Second by: P. Kim, All ayes on roll call.

Motion carries – 9 – 0

**Audience Participation:**

Motion by: J. Woo, Seconded by: K. Bruno, All ayes on roll call to open the meeting to audience participation.

Jane Martin, resident and former teacher, asked the Board what the existing plans are or anticipated plans are for adding much needed classrooms to our existing school buildings. The student population continues to increase and the Board has not moved forward with any definitive plans for expansion.

**Audience Participation:**

Cathy Doheny, Lindbergh School teacher, said the teachers are willing to volunteer and form a committee to address the needs of the district concerning problems related to overcrowding in the schools.

Joseph Sperlazzo, resident and employee, commented on the building needs confronting the district, i.e., window leaks and roof leaks, heating/boiler problems and other repairs that are desperately needed.

Dr. Cirillo said he is aware and these conditions are not being ignored. Funding these major projects is the issue.

Motion by: Ken Bruno, seconded by Paul Kim to close audience participation.

Richard Brovarone, Esq. thanked Board members, staff members and audience members for a supportive work environment over the past 25 years.

Motion to Adjourn By: J. Mattessich, Seconded by: K. Bruno. All ayes on roll call to adjourn the meeting.