

## **Regular Meeting**

**October 21, 2021**

The Board met in a Regular meeting on Thursday, October 21, 2021 commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Early Childhood Center, 270 First Street, Palisades Park, NJ.

In attendance: Board Members – J. Kim, J. Mattessich, A. Garcia, S. Jang, R. Lee, K. Lim, T. Matarazzo, E. Min, T. Yang. Dr. Cirillo, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Choi, Esq.

The Assemblage saluted the Flag.

### **Statement of Presiding Officer:**

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, I hereby state that adequate notice of this Regular meeting has been provided to the public by a written notice dated February 9, 2021:

The meeting has been:

- Emailed to all staff members
- Communicated to at least 1 of the Board's designated newspapers
- Filed with the Borough Clerk of Palisades Park

### **Report of the Superintendent:**

Dr. Cirillo gave a report on the results of the district's test scores. Palisades Park presented well, and averaged scores equal to or above State test score results. An analysis of all district test scores is available in the Board office.

Sojung Kim, a Junior at the Palisades Park Jr/Sr High School, competed in the NJ State Band/Orchestra competition and the National Band competition. Sojung was named the best flute player in the State competition and placed in the top 5 in the National competition. She will represent Palisades Park at the All-National Band concert in the New Year. Mr. Mark Arrabito, the high school band director, is extremely proud of her dedication and accomplishments.

The Board will be entering into a Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Palisades Park for the placement of SLEO III Officers in the school district. Resolution under New Business.

### **Report of the Board Attorney:**

Under Old Business a Resolution approving and ratifying the 2019 – 2022 PPEA Agreement. Under New Business a Resolution approving the MOA between the Board and the Superintendent of Schools for 2021 – 2026 school years.

### **Minute Approval:**

08/26/21 Special Meeting minutes – T. Matarazzo, Second by J. Mattessich, All ayes on roll call. 9 - 0

09/16/21 Regular Meeting minutes – J. Mattessich, Second by S. Jang, All ayes on roll call. 9 – 0

**Committee Reports:**

**Report of the Finance Committee – Mr. John Mattessich, Chairman**

1. BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the financial reports of the Business Administrator/Treasurer of School Monies for the month ending August 31, 2021.

FURTHERMORE, the Board certifies that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:20-2A that no major account or fund in the 2021-2022 budget has been over-expended and sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves transfers for the month ending August 31, 2021 in accordance with Title 18A:22-8.1 and designates the Interim Business Administrator make budget transfers between line items as necessary between monthly meetings of the Board.
3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves July 2021 budget transfers in accordance with Title 18A:22-8.1. Furthermore, the Board authorizes the Interim Business Administrator to process additional transfers, if necessary, to be presented at the next Regular Board meeting.
4. BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent approves a 3% salary increase for Amani Dyer, District Technology Coordinator, effective October 1, 2021.
5. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves an out-of-district placement in a special education program at HIP, Midland Park NJ, effective October 1, 2021. Annual tuition: \$64,980.00 (180 days)
6. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following requests for tuition reimbursement:

Jenna Mancini  
Montclair University  
"Enzyme Kinetics" (3 credits)  
"Experimental Cell Culture" (3 credits)

Lisa Panchi  
American College of Education  
"Developing Student Self-Management Skills"  
(3 credits)

7.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the Food Service vouchers in the amount of \$2,747.54:

• Moore’s Hardware	\$ 52.97
• General Plumbing Supplies	\$ 281.49
• JFM Electric	\$ 565.50
• Jay-Hill Repairs	<u>\$1,847.58</u>
	<u>\$2,747.54</u>

8.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the voucher list for the period of 09/17/21 to 09/27/21 in the amount of \$85,713.86 as follows:

• Fund 10 – General/ Current	\$30,066.62
• Fund 20 – Special Revenue	<u>\$55,647.24</u>

9.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a “virtual conference” for Vera Csizmadia (Preschool teacher), on 11/6, 11/7, 11/8, 11/9. Cost: \$435.00.

10.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the July and August 2021 budget transfer reports (attached.)

11.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accepts the financial reports of the HS and the Lindbergh School student activities accounts, month ending 09/30/21. (Attached)

12.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attached Comprehensive Maintenance and Form M-1: Actual FY20-21, Current FY21-22 and Planned FY22-23.

13.) BE IT RESOLVED that as a result of Tropical Storm Ida, two (2) rooms at the Lindbergh School needed to be remediated;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that restoration companies were limited due to the extent of schools, businesses and residences requiring such services as a result of said storm;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in consultation with the field property adjuster, from Taylor Darin Claim Service, LLC, a remediation company was obtained to perform the required remediation;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, to approve Insurance Restoration Specialists, Inc. (IRS) (aka All Risk, Inc.), Monroe, NJ, ESCNJ Co-op #65-MCESCCPS, RFP #ESCNJ 17/18-34, contract dates 11/16/17 through 11/15/22, in the amount of \$39,994.38, to be reimbursed by the district’s insurance carrier as per consultation with the above insurance adjuster.

14.) BE IT RESOLVED that two (2) quotes were received for restoration services for the two (2) rooms affected at the Lindbergh School by Tropical Storm IDA;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the first quote from Insurance Restoration Specialists, Inc. (IRS) (aka All Risk, Inc.), was received in the amount of \$59,039.65, through ESCNJ Bid Contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a second quote was received by Black Tip Builders, in the amount of \$31,971.02

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, to approve Black Tip Builders, Saddle Brook, NJ to perform required restoration services for the two (2) rooms at the Lindbergh School, in the amount of \$31,971.02, with said work to begin on October 25, 2021;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amount of \$31,971.02, will be reimbursed by the district's insurance carrier, Taylor Darin Claim Service, LLC.

15.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the district's payroll as follows:

- August 30, 2021            \$125,681.94
- September 15, 2021       \$775,296.65
- September 30, 2021       \$788,629.97
- October 15, 2021           \$782,365.72

16.) BE IT RESOLVED that on October 14, 2021 sealed bids for a project known as "Security Vestibules at the Early Childhood Center, Lindbergh ES, and the Palisades Park Jr/Sr High School" were received at 11:00 a.m. at the Board Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following six (6) bids were received and opened in public by the Superintendent and a representative from Parette Somjen Architects:

- Northeastern Interior Services LLC       \$269,000.00
- CV Electrical Contractors Inc.            \$219,000.00
- B. Puntasecca Contractors Inc.           \$317,200.00
- Arista Builders & Designers Inc.         \$239,000.00
- A Plus Glass & Metal                        \$231,000.00
- Premier Group Inc.                         \$299,000.00
- ZN Construction LLC                        \$328,000.00

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved by the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that CV Electrical Contractors Inc. Linden NJ, the low bidder, be awarded a contract for the installation of interior storefront systems to create vestibules at the main entrance of each school building in the amount of \$219,000.00.

17.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent amends Finance Resolution #3 approved at the September 16, 2021. Check #3612 - Food Service Account, in the amount of \$130.00 was processed on 03/20/21.

18.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the October bill list in the amount of \$1,239,369.99 as follows:

• Fund 10 (General Current Expenses)	\$1,126,737.94
• Fund 20 (Special Revenue)	<u>\$ 112,632.05</u>
	\$1,239,369.99

#### **Report of the Buildings & Grounds Committee – Mrs. Stephanie Jang**

1.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the use of the High School on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup> by the Palisades Park Police Department. Borough police officers will be participating in a mandated active shooter training program.

The Bergen County SWAT team and officers from neighboring agencies may participate as well.

2.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a request from the Palisades Park/Fort Lee Elks Lodge to host a “Hoop Shoot Contest” at the High School gymnasium on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.

The Contest is open to all children ages 8 to 13.

A Certificate of Liability Insurance has been forwarded to the Board Office.

**Reminder: Halloween Costume Parade – Lindbergh School track – Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>.**

- PreK – K: 10:30 a.m.
- 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: 11:00 a.m.
- 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade: 11:30 a.m.

“Trunk-or-Treat” will take place at 11:00 a.m. at the front of Lindbergh School

**Report of the Personnel Committee – Dr. Matarazzo, Chairman**

- 1.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following “permanent” Substitute Teacher appointments @ \$150.00 per diem:

Lianne Warnock  
Effective: 10/06/21

Amparo Melendez  
Effective: 09/23/21

Nicola Giannantonio  
Effective: 01/03/22

- 2.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following appointments at the Early Childhood Center:

Shinae Chung  
BA – Montclair U.  
Early Childhood Education  
Step 6/7 BA+15 - \$58,040.  
Effective: 10/15/21

Lindsey Leahy  
East Stroudsburg U.  
Early Childhood Education  
Special Education (PreK – 3)  
Step 2 BA - \$54,031.  
Effective: TBD

- 3.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accepts the resignation of Kristy Agresta, HS Nurse, effective November 29, 2021.
- 4.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a medical leave of absence for Barbara Paiotti, Lindbergh School teacher, effective October 15, 2021.

- 5.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accepts the following staff member retirements:

Diane Cundari  
Lindbergh School (32 years)  
Reading Specialist/Literacy Coach  
Effective: December 1, 2021

Giustina Giannantoino  
HS Principal's Secretary (38 years)  
Effective: January 1, 2022

Nancy Anderegg  
ECC/HS Secretary (22 years)  
Effective: January 1, 2022

- 6.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accepts the following coaching resignations, effective immediately:

Chris Messina  
Head Baseball Coach

Zach Shaw  
Head Softball Coach

Jared Zuckerman  
Asst. Wrestling Coach

- 7.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the "Breakfast Club" personnel:

Rosemarie Carbone – ECC  
Cheryl Menzella – ECC

Michele Martini – LS  
Chris Messina – LS

\$35.00 per hour/2 hours per day

8.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following I&RS (Intervention & Referral Services) coordinators:

Vera Csizmadia  
PreK – Grade 1

Christina Montemurro  
Grades 2 – 6

\$30.00 per hour

9.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following SIA/Option II instructors for the 2021/22 school year:

- |                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Jaclyn Dellosa   | Algebra I and Algebra II            |
| • Monica Rosado    | Geometry                            |
| • Korinne Sterni   | Visual Performing Arts              |
| • Lee Musler       | 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Technology |
| • Nicole Turro     | World History                       |
| • James Mascolo    | US History I & Economics            |
| • Thomas Pecorelli | US History II                       |
| • Elsa Wajda       | ESL                                 |
| • Michelle Rengifo | ESL                                 |
| • Frank Gaudio     | PE/Health                           |
| • Andrew Garcia    | Title I SIA Lead Teacher            |
| • Joanne Retkwa    | Counselor                           |

\$36.00 per hour/Not to exceed 10 hours per month

10.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following “translators” for the SIA Option II programs:

- Elsa Wajda
- Michelle Rengifo
- Rosanna Farnese
- Monica Rosado
- Grace Ko
- Paula Gonzalez

\$36.00 per hour – To be paid out of Title III funding



Personnel Committee

- 11.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the placement of the following student teacher at the ECC to observe, work with students, and teach several lessons for a total of 175 hours:

Lauren Apkarian  
09/13/21 – 12/17/21

- 12.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following teacher aide appointments:

Viclissa Trinidad  
1.1 Aide @ Lindbergh  
Effective: 11/01/21

Ana Maria Loh  
Aide @ the ECC  
Effective: 10/25/21

- 13.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following part-time custodial appointment:

Edgar Simon  
Palisades Park, NJ  
ECC – 4:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
(Pending fingerprint approval)

- 14.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the appointment of Vera Csizmadia as “Master Teacher” for the Preschool Program.

**Note:** The responsibilities of the master teacher include coaching & providing support to preschool teachers, staff development, and parent involvement programs.

- 15.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the appointment of Rwan Elmohdli, HS Teacher of English, as the “Dramatic Arts Advisor” for the 2021/22 school year. Stipend: \$4,697.00

- 16.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the appointment of Nael Llaverias, School Psychologist, as the Assistant Girls Basketball Coach for the 2021/21.1 school year. Stipend: \$4,858.00

- 17.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the appointment of a Volunteer Girls/Boys Tennis Coach: Taesoo Kim (pending fingerprint approval).

## Report of the Policy Committee – Mr. Timothy Yang

- 1.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the addition of a clause to the existing “Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying” Policy No. 5131.1 as follows:

**However, prior to initiating the investigation the school Principal, in combination with the Anti-Bullying Specialist, may make a preliminary determination as to whether the reported incident or complaint (assuming all the facts are correct) is a report within the scope of the definition of harassment, intimidation, and bullying under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14. The Superintendent may sign-off on the preliminary determination.**

**The Principal, upon making a preliminary determination that the incident or complaint is not within the scope of the definition of harassment, intimidation, and bullying, shall inform the parents of the parties involved, who may appeal the preliminary determination to the Board of Education and thereafter to the Commissioner of Education in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:3.**

### **Old Business: Resolution Approving/Ratifying the PPEA Agreement**

**WHEREAS**, the 2016 – 2019 Agreement between the Palisades Park Board of Education (PPBOE) and the Palisades Park Education Association (PPEA) expired in or about June 2019.

**WHEREAS**, the PPBOE and the PPEA negotiated terms memorialized in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) dated April 13, 2021 that was approved and ratified by the PPBOE by Resolution on April 15, 2021,

**WHEREAS**, the MOA required certain proposed contractual language to be reviewed by the NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits and the same language was deemed acceptable,

**Now Be It Resolved**, that the PPBOE hereby approves and ratifies the attached Agreement between the Palisades Park Education Association and the Palisades Park Board of Education affecting years 2019 to 2022, and

**Further Be It Resolved**, that the Superintendent and Administration is authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the terms of the Agreement between the Parties.

- Introduced by: Stephanie Jang
  - Second by: Anieska Garcia
  - Roll Call: Ayes – J. Kim, J. Mattessich, A. Garcia, S. Jang, R. Lee, K. Lim
  - Abstentions: T. Matarazzo, E. Min, T. Yang
- Adopted: 6 - 0

**New Business: Resolution Approving MOU between the BOE and the Superintendent**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board approves the Memorandum of Understanding between the Palisades Park Board of Education and Dr. Joseph Cirillo, Superintendent of Schools.

Term and Contract Duration: The term of the proposed employment contract will begin retroactive to July 1, 2021 and remain in effect until June 30, 2026.

Salary percentages as follows:

- 2021-2022 no change
- 2022-2023 2.0%
- 2023-2024 2.0%
- 2024-2025 2.0%
- 2025-2026 2.0%

Introduced by: Stephanie Jang

Second by: John Mattessich

Roll Call: Ayes – J. Kim, J. Mattessich, A. Garcia, S. Jang, R. Lee, K. Lim, E. Min, T. Yang

Recuse: T. Matarazzo

**Resolution Approving and Ratifying a Shared Service Agreement between the Borough of Palisades Park and the Board of Education:**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Palisades Park and the Palisades Park Board of Education wish to enter into a Shared Services Agreement for the placement of SLEO III Officers at PPBOE Facilities to insure the health, safety and welfare of the children in the Community; and

**WHEREAS**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent such Shared Services Agreement is presented for approval by the PPBOE and is subject to the Borough’s resolution authorizing the same;

**Now Be It Resolved**, that the PPBOE hereby approves and ratifies the Shared Services Agreement affecting the term of November 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022;

**Further, Be It Resolved**, that the Superintendent and Administration is authorized to take all actions necessary and work with the Borough and the Palisades Park Police Department to effectuate the terms of the Agreement between the Parties.

Introduced by: Thomas Matarazzo

Second by: John Mattessich

Roll Call: Ayes – Kim, Mattessich, Garcia, Jang, Lee, Lim, Matarazzo, Min, Yang

Mr. Kevin Lim recommended that the Board advertise for RFP's next month for the positions of School Board Auditor, Legal Services/Board Attorney, and Architect of Record. The positions will be appointed at the Reorganization Meeting in January.

**Audience Participation:**

Motion by T. Matarazzo, Second by R. Lee, all ayes on roll call to open the meeting to the Public.

J. Rotundo – “Why did 3 board members abstain from voting on the PPEA Agreement”?  
(Conflict – they are members of a teachers’ association)

M. Koumis – Commented on CRT Curriculum  
(CRT is not part of any learning standard in New Jersey school districts)

Paul Lee – Questioned Stephanie Jang regarding the position of “Educational Director”.  
(Mrs. Jang is not employed by the Palisades Park School District)

D. Lorenzo – Why didn’t the Board advertise for RFP’s for professional services last year?  
(RFP’s are not mandated for professional services – N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2)

Neris Paporters – Commented on the large number of people in the audience who usually do not attend board meetings. Is it because a local election is coming up? Mrs. Paporters is happy to see local government officials supporting our school district.

J. Hali – Thanked the Board for their ongoing support for the “Bounce Out Stigma” Program

Sylvia Jang – “Why is the district adding SLEO III Officers at the school buildings”?  
(The Class III officers that the Borough is providing to our schools will support the health & safety of our school population)

Motion by T. Matarazzo, Second by R. Lee, all ayes to close audience participation.

**Closed Session:**

The Board convened a closed meeting to review & discuss 5 HIB investigations.

Motion to close the executive session by J. Mattessich, Second by E. Min, all ayes on roll call.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by T. Mattessich, Second by E. Min, all ayes on roll call.

*please on tenured*