

Special Meeting

February 24, 2022

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

In Attendance: Board members – Dr. Matarazzo, Eun Min, Anieska Garcia, Soo Chung, Kevin Lim, Peter Longo, John Mattessich, Charlie Shin

Dr. Joseph Cirillo, Sarah Kim, Esq.

Absent: Jason Kim

Dr. Matarazzo called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The assemblage saluted the Flag.

Statement of Presiding Officer:

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act notice I hereby state that adequate notice of this Special meeting has been provided to the public by a written notice dated February 8, 2022.

The meeting notice has been:

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

Report of the Board President:

Dr. Matarazzo and Mrs. Min visited the 3 schools last week. They were very impressed with the staff and the students. The school buildings are in good order.

Report of the Superintendent:

The high school dance team was present at the meeting. The Team placed 5th in the "National Dance Team Event" in Orlando, Florida the weekend of February 19 – 20.

The New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA) will be given to students in Grade 11 during the week of March 14 – 18. Students are required to demonstrate proficiency by achieving a passing score in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Each year the district is required to submit to the State DOE a self-assessment of their HIB programs, reporting procedures, investigative procedures, HIB training, and HIB personnel. This self-grading system is conducive to the guidelines set forth in the "Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act".

Dr. Cirillo introduced Mr. Steven Wielkotz, school board auditor.

Mr. Wielkotz presented the annual audit findings. The district presents a “clean” audit with only 6 administrative findings for the year ending 06/30/2021. None of the 6 findings in the “Auditors Management Report on Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance” were relevant to finance. The findings only pertained to compliance matters only. All the financials were in order with state mandates. A Corrective Action Plan will be formulated and presented at the next board meeting. The Audit and the Administrative Findings are available for public review at the Board of Education office during regular business hours.

Report of the Board Attorney:

PPAA (Palisades Park Administrators’ Association) negotiations have concluded. Negotiations will be discussed in closed session, as well as pending litigation regarding an “unfair practice charge”, and potential litigation involving an out-of-district placement recommendation.

The contract with E-Rate Consulting, Inc. has been reviewed. The board will address this item under New Business.

Minute Approval:

Reorganization Meeting – January 6, 2022 – Motion to accept J. Mattessich, seconded by E. Min, all ayes on roll call. 7 – 0. Mr. Longo abstained. (Not a member at that time)

Regular Meeting – January 20, 2022 – Motion to accept by E. Min, seconded by P. Longo, all ayes on roll call. 8 – 0

Finance Committee – Mr. Kevin Lim, Chairman

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

Chanmi Lee
Montclair University
"Contemporary Teaching of Mathematics" — 3 credits
"Math Materials for Teachers of Mathematics" — 3 credits

Leslie Rodas
Rutgers University
"Language in Society" — 3 credits

Note: Tuition reimbursement is calculated at the end of the school year.

- 2.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following request for a salary adjustment (move across the guide):

Alexa Lewris (PPHS)
Present Step: 4-5 MA+15 salary: ~~59,631~~
Adjustment: 6-year level — \$62,081.00

- 3.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the renewal of a transportation services agreement with South Bergen Jointure Commission (SBJC) for the 2022-2023 school year, SBJC transports the school district's special needs students attending out-of-district educational placements.

The cost of each route will be divided by the number of students on each route. Each district will be charged the per pupil cost for each resident student X the number of school days that transportation is provided,

- 4.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a transportation services agreement with Northern Region Educational Services Commission for the transportation of a special needs student for the period of 1/18/22 — 1/28/22 (9 days). Route cost: \$2,970.

- 5.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accepts the financial reports for the Lindbergh School and the Jr/Sr High School student activities accounts, month ending 01/31/22.

- 6.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following out-of-district special education placements, effective 02/07/2022:

Venture Program
Paramus, NJ
Tuition: \$89,460.00 (pro-rated)

Bergen Blvd. School Ridgefield, NJ
Tuition: \$27,172.00

- 7.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following Food Service vouchers in the amount of \$3,524.00:

Sentinel Fire Safety Corp Service &
Tag Fire Extinguishers @ 3 school
cafeterias - \$670.00

JFM Electric LLC
Furnish & install electrical equipment at HS
Cafeteria; Misc. wiring/conduit
\$2,318.00

Jay-Hill Repairs
Service & materials for HS Convection Oven
\$432.00

Bug Tech, Inc.
Integrated Pest Management Services @
the LS & HS Cafeterias
\$104.00

8.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following Pomptonian Food Service invoices:

01/07/22 - Invoice #010722 \$13,959.88
01/14/22 - Invoice #011422 \$26,391.05
01/21/22 - Invoice #012122 \$11,172.11
01/28/22 - Invoice #012888 \$10,285.73

9.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following payrolls:

01/30/22 \$964,068.78
02/15/22 \$789,517.68

10.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the February 2022 bill list in the amount of \$603,769.56:

- Fund 10 — General/Current Expenses \$531,042.27
 - Fund 20— Special Revenue Fund \$ 72,727.29
- \$603,769.27

11.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accepts the financial reports of the Business Administrator/Treasurer of School Moneys for the month ending 01/31/22.

Furthermore, the Board certifies that in accordance with NJAC 6:20-2A no major account or fund in the 2021/22 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 report on file in the Business Office)

12.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the monthly transfer report (attached) in accordance with Title 18A:22-8.1, and furthermore designates the Business Administrator to make budget transfers between line items as necessary between monthly meetings of the Board.

Finance resolutions introduced by Kevin Lim, seconded by Anieska Garcia, all ayes to approve resolutions #1- #12.

Exception: #10 – Bill List – Table all payments due to the E-Rate Consultant in the amount of \$29,754.90 for further review/discussion.

Buildings & Grounds Committee: Mr. Charlie Shin, Chairman

1.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a request from the New Mercy Church to schedule an “Easter Egg Hunt” on Saturday, April 16th at the High School field – 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (If the weather is bad, they will relocate to the HS gym & cafeteria).

2.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a request from the Presbyterian Church of NJ to rent the High School for their “ASK” Summer School Programs.

- Dates: July 11th – August 19th Monday through Friday
- Time: 7:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Areas: Gym, Auditorium, Cafeteria, Field, Restrooms, * 11 Classrooms (subject to change), Parking Lot, Courtyard
- Rental Fee: * TBD based on the number of classrooms requested

For Discussion/Approval:

A request from TEAM PaIPK to use the High School auditorium either March 24th or 29th from 8:00 – 9:30 p.m. for a “networking” event. (Non-political)

Request also includes use of microphones, speakers, and a projector

Estimated attendees: 50 – 100 people expected

Introduced by Charlie Shin, seconded by Kevin Lim, all ayes on roll call.

Personnel Committee: Mrs. Eun Min, Chairperson

1.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following Pre-K 3 teacher appointment:

Lauren Calamita
Ramapo College of NJ
Teacher of Students with Disabilities
Step 1 BA - \$53,581.00
Effective: 03/01/2022

2.) BE IT RESOVLED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a transfer for Seon Lee (ECC Inclusion) to the BSI department at Lindbergh School, effective 02/01/2022.

3.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the appointment of the following staff members for the After School Programs at Lindbergh School, effective 02/14/2022:

- Janelle Gratale – ESL Program
- Seon Lee – Homework Help Program
- Matthew O’Toole – Homework Help Program
- Jen Velardo – Band/Music Program

Substitute Teachers: Olga Tatta, Rose Espino, Teresa Scarpati

Note: The programs are scheduled on Monday, Tuesday & Thursday – 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

4.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the appointment of the following staff members for the After School Programs at the High School, effective 02/14/2022:

- Monica Rosado – Math
- Sierra Rosa – ELA
- James Mascolo – Lead Teacher

5.) BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following Assistant Track Coaches:

Anthony Almeida
Hussein Elmeshed
Stipend: \$4,858.00

6.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a medical leave of absence for Joseph Sperlazzo. Mr. Sperlazzo is expected to return to his position on May 23, 2022.

7.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following teacher aide appointment:

Judith Palmitessa
Teacher Aide @ Lindbergh School
Effective: 02/23/2022

8.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a contract extension for Victoria Walkie, Lindbergh School replacement teacher, through the end of the 2021/22 school year.

9.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following Permanent Substitute teacher (LS/HS):

Johan Tellez
Rutgers University
AS – Occupational Therapy
Effective: 03/04/2022

Introduced by Eun Min, seconded by Anieska Garcia, all ayes on roll call except for Dr. Matarazzo on Resolution #4.

Curriculum Committee: Mr. Peter Longo, Chairman

Mr. Longo met with the Curriculum Director, Jennifer Tennant. Governor Murphy recently signed legislation that will make it **mandatory** for K-12 schools to include Asian American and Pacific Islander history in their curriculums starting in the 2022-2023 school year.

Negotiations Committee: Ms. Anieska Garcia, Mr. John Mattessich, Co-Chairpersons

The PPAA (Palisades Park Administrators Association) negotiations have concluded. The MOA will be discussed during Closed Session. The Board will vote on the agreement under New Business.

Policy Committee: Ms. Anieska Garcia, Chairperson

1.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent adopt Policy No. 5141.10 **Face Coverings**. This is a new mandated policy. The policy is posted on the district's website under "Board of Education – Policies".

Introduced by: Anieska Garcia, seconded by Eun Min, all ayes on roll call.

Student Activities/Field Trips: Mrs. Eun Min, Chairperson

1.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a field trip request from the "Junior State America Club":

- Destination – JSA Conference, Newark NJ Marriott
- Day/Time – February 26th from 8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Cost per student: \$95.00

2.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a field trip request for the "Model UN Club":

- Destination – St. Peter’s University, Jersey City NJ
- Day/Time – March 7th & 8th from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Cost per student: TBA

3.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a request from the Class of 2023 to schedule a Junior Class car wash on Saturday, May 14th at the back of Lindbergh School (Roff Avenue) from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Rain date: June

4.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following field trip request:

- Destination – AMC Theatres – Ridgefield Park NJ
- Event: Batman movie premier
- Day/Time: March 10th @ 3:30 p.m.
- 7th & 8th grade students
- Cost per student: \$20.00

Introduced by: Eun Min, seconded by Anieska Garcia, all ayes on roll call.

Old Business:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the consulting agreement between the Palisades Park Board of Education and "E-Rate Consulting, Inc." (ERC), a New Jersey Corporation doing business at 130 Valley Road, Montclair, NJ.

ERC will provide comprehensive compliance expertise on E-Rate Program rules and eligible equipment and services for the 2022 funding application cycle.

Introduced by: Anieska Garcia, seconded by Eun Min, all ayes on roll call.

New Business:

1.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the submission of the Annual HIB Self-Assessment report.

Introduced by: John Mattessich, seconded by Peter Longo, all ayes on roll call.

2.) BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a “delayed opening” for all students, excepting those 11th graders who are participating in the NJ Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA), the week of March 14th. All other students will enter at 3rd period (10:00 a.m.).

Introduced by: John Mattessich, seconded by Anieska Garcia, all ayes on roll call.

Audience Participation:

Stephanie Jang, Councilwoman, congratulated the BOE on its meeting procedures and transparency. Also, asked if the school SRO and the Class III officer are doing their jobs satisfactorily.

Christine Yoon, resident, asked if the HIB Self-Assessment ratings are posted on the district website?

Mrs. Rivera, parent, there was a 14-day quarantine advisory when returning from traveling. Now it has been lowered to 10 days. Will that mandate change again? Maybe – as per State and CDC determinations.

Neris Paproters, parent, asked about the PTA organization and if anyone is interested in participating? Also, why is the Board renting out the HS during the summer months?

Charlie Shin, board member, asked about registration requirements for new students.

Parent whose child was involved in the 11/09/21 school incident: Requesting a written apology from those employee(s) who were present during the incident. Also, have new protocols been implemented?

Dr. Cirillo stated that he worked with school administrators in upgrading existing protocols. The new protocols were shared with parents as of 2/10/22 and distributed in 3 languages.

Soo Chung, board member, requested a copy of the final 11/09/21 incident report issued by the former board attorney. She also inquired whether the Board could reopen the case? The case can only be revisited if a seated board member makes a motion to do so, seconded by another member, and a majority vote of the board.

Anieska Garcia, board member, responded that there was no negligence found as reported in the board attorney’s final report. That conclusion was determined by conducting interviews, watching security footage, and a police investigation.

A motion was made by John Mattessich, seconded by Eun Min, all ayes on roll call to enter an executive session.

Closed Session: REDACTED

Open Session:

I. Motion by Anieska Garcia, seconded by John Mattessich to approve the MOA between the Board of Education and the Palisades Park Administrators Association.

On roll call: Ayes – Chung, Garcia, Lim, Longo, Mattessich, Shin

Dr. Matarazzo and Eun Min – recused due to a conflict of interest.

Motion passes 6 – 0

II. Motion by Anieska Garcia, seconded by Eun Min, all ayes on roll call to “affirm” the findings of the January 20, 2022 HIB Investigation Report as inconclusive.

Motion by John Mattessich, seconded by Anieska Garcia to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Diane Montemurro