# CLIFFSIDE PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

The Work Session Meeting of the Cliffside Park Board of Education with the Board Members in attendance was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Caucus Room followed by the Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with the Board Secretary presiding.

The assemblage saluted the flag

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Abreu, Mr. Capano, Mrs. Frato,

Mr. Ndreu, Dr. Pantoliano, Mr. Tarabokija,

Mr. Yannuzzi

Absent: Mr. Garciga, Mr. Raincourt, Mr. Russo

Dr. Mark Hayes, Interim Superintendent of Schools, was in attendance.

Board Secretary read the following statement:

"The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the rights of the public to have advanced notice of and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provision of this act the Cliffside Park Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the offices of the Borough Clerk, the Borough Library, the Borough Recreation Department, the office of the Board of Education, and the offices of Schools Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, and the High School on January 10, 2024 and notices were forwarded to reporters of The Record on January 10, 2024. This is an official meeting."

#### **INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Dr. Hayes reviewed the Personnel Agenda with the Board.
- Dr. Hayes informed the Board of five bullying incidents and confirmed the outcome of each one.
- Dr. Pantoliano acknowledged both the Girls' and Boys' Basketball Teams as well as the Wrestling and Track Athletes and congratulated all of the Cliffside Park teams who participated in the Winter Athletics.
- Denise Garcia, the student representative from the High School spoke about upcoming events which included a Blood Drive, Talent Show, and an Easter Egg Hunt.
- Mr. Alfano gave an overview of the Finance Agenda which included scheduling a
  meeting to approve the 2024-2025 Budget and upcoming District Projects scheduled
  during Spring Recess.

On the motion of Mr. Tarabokija, seconded by Mr. Capano, all ayes by roll call vote, the following was approved:

#### **PERSONNEL**

1) Resolution, recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the following staff professional development and reimbursement, through voucher for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:

NAME	DESCRIPTION	DATE	Estimated \$AMOUNT	
Jacqueline Ahrens	Phonological Awareness Course	On Demand	\$400.00	
		Training		
Katherine Burns	Bureau of Education & Research-Dyslexia	4/17/24 &	\$545.00	
	Conference - Virtual	4/18/24		
Carly Cerone	Bureau of Education & Research-Dyslexia	4/17/24 &	\$545.00	
	Conference – Virtual	4/18/24		
Grace Cho	Conquer Mathematics	2/08/24	\$20.68	
Jenny Chung	Supporting Multilingual Educators &	3/26/24	\$14.10	
	Students			
Andaleeb Hamad	Conquer Mathematics	2/08/24	\$22.56	

Kelly Hassler	New Jersey Speech & Hearing Association	5/09/24 &	\$255.00	
	Convention	5/10/24		
Allison Maretic	Conquer Mathematics	2/08/24	\$24.44	
	2024 Educational Enterprises Conference	3/22/24	\$7.99	
Brianne Murray	Conquer Mathematics	2/07/24	\$26.13	
Craig Nichols	Conquer Mathematics - Interdisciplinary	1/22/24	\$44.02	
	Lesson Day 2			
Michael Ryan	Foundation of Computer Science for	January 2024	\$600.00	
	Teachers: Praxis Prep – Virtual			
Kathryn Thoma	Enhance Your Reading Instruction:	3/18/24	\$279.00	
	Practical Applications of the Science of			
	Reading – PD			
Carli Wiley	New Jersey Speech & Hearing Association	5/09/24 &	\$355.00	
	Convention	5/10/24		

2) Resolution, recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to revise the following staff professional development and reimbursement, through voucher for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:

NAME	DESCRIPTION	DATE	Revised \$AMOUNT
Stephanie Merino	ESEA Conference for Distinguished Schools	2/06/24 – 2/09/24	\$1,786.21

- 3) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to transfer Sunny Son, from Part-Time Title I Teacher at School #4 to Full-Time Grade Five Teacher at School #4 at ED/PHD Step-2 \$66,500 effective January 29, 2024 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. (Account#-11-120-100-101-04-00-0000-060)
- 4) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to transfer Keyla Ramirez, from Teacher Aide, Bilingual/Resource Room-School #3 to LLD Shared Teacher Aide at School #6 effective January 26, 2024 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. (Account#-11-204-100-106-06-00-0000-080)
- Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to transfer Amal El Hindi, from Part-Time Title I Math Teacher at School #6 to Full-Time Title I Math Teacher & Gifted and Talented Teacher at School #6 effective February 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024 at MA Step-8 \$65,100. (Account#-20-231-100-101-06-09-0000-080)

- Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to transfer Maria Moran, from Bus Aide to Teacher Aide/Lunch Aide (25 hours per week) at an hourly rate of \$17.51 assigned to School #3 effective February 12, 2024 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. (Account#-11-190-100-106-03-00-0000-050)
- 7) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to transfer Perla Vasquez, from Teacher Aide at School #6 to Permanent Substitute Teacher (leave replacement) in PreK ABA classroom at School #5 effective March 18, 2024 at a per diem rate of \$150.00 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. (Account#-11-216-100-101-05-00-0000-070)
- 8) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Anka Fioravanti, as Part-Time Title I Teacher assigned to School #4 at BA Step-9 \$60,891 (77%) = \$46,886 total salary effective February 5, 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year. (Account#-20-231-100-101-04-09-0000-060)
- 9) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Jacqueline Galicia, as a permanent substitute art teacher (leave replacement) at the High School effective January 30, 2024 through May 7, 2024 at a per diem rate of \$150.00. (Account#-11-140-100-101-02-09-0000-030)
- 10) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Belkys Andujar, as a Teacher Aide assigned to the Shared Aide position at School #5 in the Kindergarten Resource classroom effective February 12, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$17.50 pending background check for the 2023-2024 school year. (Account#11-213-100-106-05-00-0000-070)
- 11) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to appoint the following Substitute Teachers (as needed) for the 2023-2024 school year:

Nicole Arango	Yasemin Boncukcu

12) Resolution, recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint the following staff members as Spring 2024 Volunteer Coaches:

<u>Name</u>	Spring 2024-Sport
Misurela Llukovi	Softball
Cynthia Moreno	Softball
Charles Diaz	MS Softball

- 13) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to approve an unpaid leave of absence for Maria Barakaris, Teacher Aide-School #6 from February 5, 2024 through February 16, 2024 with a return back to work date of February 21, 2024.
- 14) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to approve an extended leave of absence request for Jaclyn Montecallo, Teacher-School #3 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year with an anticipated return back to work date of September 3, 2024.
- 15) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to approve a medical leave of absence for Megan-Rose Smith, Teacher-School #3 utilizing twenty (20) sick days beginning September 3, 2024 through September 30, 2024. Unpaid NJ Family Leave to begin on October 1, 2024 with an anticipated return back to work date of January 2, 2025.
- Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to approve a medical leave of absence for Ruth Castillo, Secretary-School #3 utilizing twenty (20) sick days before due date beginning April 15, 2024 through May 10, 2024 and twenty (20) sick days after beginning May 13, 2024 through June 11, 2024; granted permission and approval to utilize fifteen (15) vacation days beginning June 12, 2024 through July 2, 2024. Unpaid NJ family leave to begin on July 3, 2024 with an anticipated return back to work date of October 1, 2024.

# Work Session/Regular Meeting, February 21, 2024 (continued)

- 17) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to approve an unpaid medical leave of absence for Ersilia Sagri, Teacher-School #4 effective February 29, 2024 through the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
- 18) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to approve an unpaid medical leave of absence for Ioanna Dritsas, Teacher-School #5 beginning April 8, 2024 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. Unpaid NJ Family Leave to commence on or about May 6, 2024 with an anticipated return date of September 3, 2024.
- 19) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to accept the resignation of Jany Hernandez, School Psychologist-CST effective March 15, 2024.
- 20) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to accept the resignation of James Kurtz, Teacher Aide-MS effective February 9, 2024.
- 21) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to accept the resignation of Gabrielle Mendoza, PreK-Teacher, School #5 effective April 16, 2024.
- Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to accept the retirement of Carol Brooks, Industrial Arts Teacher-High School effective June 30, 2024.

# PERSONNEL, (Continued)

23) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to adjust the following staff stipend as follows for teaching an additional class as per contract for the 2023-2024 school year:

Name High School	Sixth Class Stipend	New Annual Salary		
Scott Bovino	\$2,881 (MP3 & MP4) Effective 1/29/2024	\$121,976		

24) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to adjust salary to include longevity as per contract for the following teacher aide for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:

NAME	BASE	LONGEVITY	TOTAL
	RATE		SALARY
Giuseppa Cundari	\$20.78	\$700.00 (effective 2/1/24)	\$21.45/per
			hour

#### **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

- 25) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to accept the Nurses' report and Fire Drill reports for all schools, for the month of January 2024.
- 26) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to confirm the outcome of the bullying incident and investigation. (Number 258740)
- 27) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to confirm the outcome of the bullying incident and investigation. (Number 258391)
- 28) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to confirm the outcome of the bullying incident and investigation. (Number 258739)
- 29) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to confirm the outcome of the bullying incident and investigation. (Number 259356)
- 30) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to confirm the outcome of the bullying incident and investigation. (Number 259724)
- 31) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to approve the following minutes:

January 24, 2024 – Work Session/Regular Meeting Agenda

# **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

Resolution, recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to permit the use of the following facilities for the 2023-2024 school year:

SCHOOL	FACILITY	DATES REQUESTED	TIME	PURPOSE	REQUESTED BY
School #3	Gymnasium	02/12/2024- 02/13/2024	During school hours	Organize candy grams	PTO/Mike Ryan
School #3	Gymnasium	02/23/2024	3:00p.m 5:00p.m.	PTO movie	PTO/Mike Ryan
High School	Cafeteria	02/07/2024	5:00p.m 8:00p.m.	Senior Night-Track	Gabriela De Pena
School #3	Art Room	02/08/2024	5:30p.m 6:30p.m.	SEPAG/MLPAG meeting	Special Ed. Dept. Nicole Rowe
High School	Auditorium	02/09/2024	6:00p.m 9:00p.m.	Movie night	Therese Rembecky
High School	Cafeteria	02/16/2024	3:30p.m 6:00p.m.	Valentine karaoke	Therese Rembecky
High School	Cafeteria	03/01/2024	3:00p.m 3:30p.m.	Fundraiser	Andrea Romano
High School	Auditorium	03/15/2024	6:00p.m 9:00p.m.	Movie night	Therese Rembecky
High School	Auditorium	03/21/2024	3:00p.m 10:00p.m.	Battle of the bands	Derek Nelson
High School	Auditorium	03/22/2024	6:00p.m 10:00p.m.	Drama club parent night	Therese Rembecky
High School	Auditorium	04/20/2024 04/27/2024	8:00a.m 3:00p.m.	Tech rehearsal	Therese Rembecky
High School	Cafeteria	05/02/2024	3:30 p.m 6:00p.m.	Rehearsal	Therese Rembecky
High School	Auditorium	05/02/2024	6:00p.m 9:30p.m.	Drama club show	Therese Rembecky
High School	Cafeteria	05/03/2024	3:30p.m 6:00p.m.	Rehearsal	Therese Rembecky

High School	Auditorium	05/03/2024	6:00p.m 9:30p.m.	Drama club show	Therese Rembecky
High School	Auditorium	05/04/2024	5:00p.m 9:30p.m.	Drama club show	Therese Rembecky

## **FINANCE**

- 33) Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve Tuition Contract between the Cliffside Park Board of Education (sending district) and the Bergen Center for Child Development an approved private school) for **one** attending student commencing on November 2, 2023 at a per diem rate of \$339.79 for a total of 139 days for a total tentative tuition charge of \$47,230.81plus a tentative tuition charge for extraordinary services at a per diem rate of \$240.00 at an estimated cost of \$33,360.00 for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 34) Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve the Contracted Services provided by the South Bergen Jointure Commission to the Cliffside Park School District for the Summer 2024 as per attached with rates pending.
- Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve the Contracted Services provided by the South Bergen Jointure Commission to the Cliffside Park School District for the 2024-2025 school year as per attached with rates pending.
- 36) Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve Tuition Contract between the Cliffside Park Board of Education (sending district) and North Hudson Academy (an approved private school) for **one** attending student at a cost of \$63,027.57 for the 2023-2024 school year commencing on February 1, 2024, therefore the total number of billable days will be 85 for a total tentative tuition charge of \$26,653.45.
- 37) Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve January 12, 2024 payroll in the amount of \$2,021,335.49 which includes the After School/Enrichment Program and the Cafeteria Payroll.
- Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve the transfer of monies from the Payroll Agency Account to the General Account, in the amount of \$88,882.01 to cover Health Benefits Contributions from Employees to Reimburse Employer for the covered period of January 1, 2024 through January 15, 2024.

#### **FINANCE**

- 39) Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve January 30, 2024 payroll in the amount of \$1,781,580.40 which includes the After School/Enrichment Program and the Cafeteria Payroll.
- 40) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve the transfer of monies from the Payroll Agency Account to the General Account, in the amount of \$88,321.56 to cover Health Benefits Contributions from Employees to Reimburse Employer for the covered period of January 16, 2024 through January 31, 2024.
- 41) Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve NJ State Educators Health Benefits Program for the covered period of January 1, 2024 through January 31, 2024 in the amount of \$708,262.53.
- Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve February 15, 2024 payroll in the amount of \$2,002,717.68 which includes the After School/Enrichment Program and the Cafeteria Payroll.
- 43) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve the transfer of monies from the Payroll Agency Account to the General Account, in the amount of \$88,321.56 to cover Health Benefits Contributions from Employees to Reimburse Employer for the covered period of February 1, 2024 through February 15, 2024.
- Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve NJ State Educators Health Benefits Program for the covered period of February 1, 2024 through February 29, 2024 in the amount of \$700,641.81.
- 45) Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve the bill list for February 2024 in the amount of \$2,141,822.03 as follows:
- 46) Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve transferring \$1,000 from the High School Fundraiser Account to the Class of 2026 Account per the request of the Principal of the High School, Mr. Pinto.

# **RESOLUTION**

47) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve the attached Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Action Plan - FY25.

# **ROLL CALL VOTE:**

AYES: 7

NAYS: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

# **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the within Resolution was adopted by the Cliffside Park Board of Education by a majority vote at its duly authorized meeting on <u>February 21, 2024.</u>

**LOUIS ALFANO** 

**Board Secretary/Business Administrator** 

Dated: February 22, 2024

## RESOLUTION

48) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve Application #2 by the Cliffside Park Board of Education to Central Pack Engineering Corp. for RTU Replacement at School #6 in the amount of \$569,928.80 as recommended by the school district architects, LAN Associates.

# **ROLL CALL VOTE:**

AYES: 7

NAYS: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

# **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the within Resolution was adopted by the Cliffside Park Board of Education by a majority vote at its meeting on <u>February 21, 2024</u>.

**LOUIS ALFANO** 

Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Dated: February 22, 2024

# **RESOLUTION**

49) Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve Authorizing the use of the capital reserve funds for the unit ventilator upgrade project at school 6. Part of the project will be funded by a ROD Grant.

## **ROLL CALL VOTE:**

AYES: 7

NAYS: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

## **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the within Resolution was adopted by the Cliffside Park Board of Education by a majority vote at its duly authorized meeting on <u>February 21, 2024.</u>

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**LOUIS ALFANO** 

Board Secretary/Business Administrator

Dated: February 22, 2024

Work Session/Regular Meeting, 1	February 21, 2024 (	(continued)
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The I	Board	unanimo	ously ap	proved	by v	voice	vote t	0 8	adjourn	the	Regular	Meetin	ig at
7:30	p.m.												

Louis Alfano, Business Administration/Board Secretary

# February 21, 2024 - Work Session - Discussion Topics NOTES:

# 2024-2025 Budget: Tax Levy Diagnostic; Capital Reserve Projects-SEE ATTACHED Key Dates:

February 27<sup>th</sup>-10:30: meet with Borough-Caucus Room
March 5<sup>th</sup> or March 6<sup>th</sup>: Special Zoom Meeting-RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET
TO BE REVIEWED BY THE COUNTY/STATE
March 7<sup>th</sup>: Deliver/submit budget to the County/State

## **UNPAID MEAL BALANES UPDATE:**

One page overview was discussed-authored by principals Approx. 150 students-\$25K in UNPAID balances, submitted free-reduced applications in the 2022-23 school year

# GYM LOBBY OPEN BID: March 13-Council Chambers-time TBD

# MENTORSHIP GRANT OPPORTUNITY (LETIZIA):

\$1M PILOT; 10 Districts

## **THERAPY DOG POLICY:**

Confirm with Maria @ Bello Insurance and NJSIG regarding coverage

## **HS ANNEX/REC CENTER:**

Long Range Facilities Plan APPROVED