CLIFFSIDE PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025

The Work Session Meeting of the Cliffside Park Board of Education with the Board Members in attendance was held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 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. Garciga, Mr. Ndreu, Dr. Pantoliano, Mr. Russo
	Absent:	Mr. Raincourt, Mr. Tarabokija, Mr. Yannuzzi

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 February 19, 2025 and notices were forwarded to reporters of The Record on February 19, 2025. This is an official meeting."

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Interim Superintendent, Dr. Hayes reviewed the Personnel Agenda with a special mention of the upcoming retirement of Elementary School Guidance Counselor, Kathleen Matulewicz and High School Physical Ed Teacher, Janet Kotowski.
- Dr. Hayes confirmed the outcome of 3 Policies and Procedures incidents and investigations.
- There was a review of Committee Reports including Athletics byBoard Member, Dr. Pantoliano.
- Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. Alfano highlighted the Finance Agenda including the 2025-2026 School Year Budget.
- Mr. Capano, Board President discussed the upcoming Spring and Summer Buildings & Grounds projects.
- High School Science Teacher and STEM Academy Advisor, Mr. Helm spoke about the seven members of the Cliffside Park STEM Academy who have been invited to Washington D.C. to compete in an international engineering challenge.

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

PERSONNEL

1. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to approve the following staff professional development and reimbursement, through voucher for the 2024-2025 school year as follows:

NAME	DESCRIPTION	DATE	Estimated \$AMOUNT
Daniel Helm	DECA Convention	3/04/25,	\$90.00
		3/05/25 &	
		3/06/25	
Michelle Kolic	Differentiated Instruction Across All	3/26/25	\$295.00
	Content Areas in the Secondary		
	Classroom – Bureau of Education &		
	Research – Online		
Patricia Petermann	Using AI Tools to Improve Special Ed	3/28/25	\$295.00
	Learning & Increase Teacher Productivity		
Barbara Vitale	BCAT'S PD Day	3/03/25	\$19.74

2. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to revise the amount for the following staff professional development and reimbursement, through voucher for the 2024-2025 school year as follows:

NAME	DESCRIPTION	DATE	Revised \$AMOUNT
Lucy Kounakis	National Association of School	2/18/25 -	From \$319.00 to
	Psychologists Annual Convention	2/21/25	New amount
			\$269.00

- 3. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to accept the retirement of Kathleen Matulewicz, School Counselor effective June 30, 2025.
- 4. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to accept the resignation of Kasey Caggiano, District Physical Therapist effective March 28, 2025.
- Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to accept the resignation of Carmen Colon, Teacher Aide-Middle School effective January 29, 2025.

PERSONNEL, (Continued)

- 6. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to accept the resignation of Delma DeJesus, Bus Aide effective February 12, 2025.
- 7. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to revise the retirement date for Dr. Edward Meier, School Counselor-High School effective May 1, 2025.
- 8. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to accept the retirement of Janet Kotowski, High School Physical Education Teacher effective May 1, 2025.
- 9. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to revise medical leave of absence dates for Marissa Cemelli, Middle School English Teacher as follows; utilizing one (1) sick day on February 19, 2025 and four (4) personal days from February 20, 2025 through February 25, 2025. Unpaid NJFML to begin on February 26, 2025 with an anticipated return to work date of January 2, 2026.
- 10. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to approve an unpaid medical leave of absence for Anna Marciano, Cafeteria Worker-High School beginning January 30, 2025 through April 25, 2025 with an anticipated return to work date of April 28, 2025.
- Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to approve a medical leave of absence for Leidy Ordonez, Teacher Aide-School #5 utilizing eleven (11) sick days and one (1) personal day beginning February 24, 2025 through March 10, 2025. Unpaid NJFML to begin on March11, 2025 through June 3, 2025, with an anticipated return to work date of June 4, 2025.
- 12. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to approve a medical leave of absence for Michelle Maldonado, Teacher-School #5 utilizing eighteen (18) sick days beginning May 27, 2025 through June 19, 2025. Unpaid NJFML to begin September 2, 2025 with an anticipated return back to work date of December 1, 2025.

PERSONNEL, (Continued)

- 13. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Anna Skarimbas, as 1:1 Teacher Aide, assigned to the MD classroom OOD at Norman A. Bleshman Regional Day School effective March 10, 2025 at an hourly rate of \$20.00 pending background check for the 2024-2025 school year. (Account#-11-212-100-106-00-00)
- 14. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Donna Malone, as long term substitute teacher (leave replacement) assigned to the Middle School English classroom effective February 19, 2025 through June 30,2025 at a per diem rate of \$175.00. (Account#-11-130-100-101-09-06-0000-080)
- 15. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Michelle Kim as District Physical Therapist at \$175.00 per diem (pending certification) effective March 24, 2025 pending background check for the 2024-2025 school year. (Account#-11-000-219-104-09-00-0000-000)
- 16. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Maria Vega, as a Lunch Aide assigned to School #6 effective February 19, 2025 at an hourly rate of \$15.49 (pending background check) for the 2024-2025 school year. (Account#-60-000-200-107-00-00)
- Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Gabriela Amaya, as High School Counselor, at \$175.00 per diem (pending certification) effective March 3, 2025 for the 2024-2025 school year. (Account#-11-000-218104-02-00-0000-030)
- 18. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to approve Athletic position for the following staff member for the 2024-2025 school year, as per negotiated contract.

Last Name	First Name	CPHS SPRING Athletic Positions	Compensation
Winters	Maya	Softball, Assistant Coach	\$6,300
Thoma	Olyvia Volleyball-Boys, Assistant Coach		\$6,300

PERSONNEL, (Continued)

19. Resolution, recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint the following staff members as Spring 2025 Volunteer Coaches:

Name	SPRING 2025-Sport
Charles Diaz	Softball
Cynthia Moreno	Softball
Misurela Llukovi	Softball

20. Resolution, recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint the following teachers to work the PreK-8 After School Program at \$30.00 per hour for the 2024-2025 school year:

Taine Jackson	Christina Salerno
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PERSONNEL

RESOLUTION

21. WHEREAS, an employee of the Cliffside Park Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"), whose name is on file with the Interim Superintendent of Schools' Office, has been placed on administrative leave with pay on February 21, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Interim Superintendent of Schools recommended that the administrative leave with pay be continued for said employee through the date of the employee's resignation for purposes of retirement on May 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Board determined that it is in the best interest of the District to continue this employee on administrative leave with pay through the date of the employee's resignation for purposes of retirement on May 1, 2025.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the administrative leave with pay of this employee shall be continued through the date of this employee's resignation for purposes of retirement on May 1, 2025.

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 recorded roll call majority vote of its full membership at its duly authorized meeting on February 26, 2025.

> Louis Alfano Business Administrator/Board Secretary

DATED: February 27, 2025

PERSONNEL

RESOLUTION

22. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to appoint John Lombardo, Vice Principal of School #6 / Middle School, as the Affirmative Action Officer for the 2025-2026 school year.

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 February 26, 2025.

Louis Alfano Business Administrator/Board Secretary

PERSONNEL

RESOLUTION

23. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to authorize John Lombardo, Affirmative Action Officer (AAO), and the Affirmative Action Team (AAT), to conduct a needs assessment and develop a comprehensive equity plan for the 2025-2026 school year.

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 February 26, 2025.

Louis Alfano Business Administrator/Board Secretary

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- 24. 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 2025.
- 25. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to confirm the outcome of the bullying incident and investigation. (Number 287476)
- 26. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to confirm the outcome of the bullying incident and investigation. (Number 286437)
- 27. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to confirm the outcome of the bullying incident and investigation. (Number 287866)
- 28. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to approve the following minutes:

January 22, 2025 – Work Session/Regular Meeting Agenda

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

29. Whereas, The Cliffside Park School District provides that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for the 2025-2026 school year.

Resolved, That the Cliffside Park Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2025-2026 school year at the sum of \$50,000.00.

Resolved, That the following expenses, in the aggregate, and per unit are approved for the Cliffside Park Board of Education Board members, the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator at the Annual Convention of the New Jersey School Boards Association in October of 2025:

Workshop Registration:	Aggregate \$2,000.00
Daily allowance:	Group Rate for all attendees
Mileage Reimbursement:	Aggregate not to exceed \$1,300.00
	Individual: State regular mileage rate
	change of \$.47

Resolved, That \$18,342 was budgeted in 2024-2025; and \$9,940.27 has been spent as of February 26, 2025 in 2024-2025.

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 February 26, 2025.

LOUIS ALFANO Business Administrator/Board Secretary

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

RESOLUTION

30. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to approve the agreement for a Cooperative Wrestling Program between the Cliffside Park High School and Ridgefield High School for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years. The term of this agreement shall be from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027, and an option to renew for an additional two years, as per NJSIAA guideline, thus expiring June 30, 2029. This agreement is subject to approval by the NJSIAA Executive Committee after prior board approval by the Cliffside Park Board of Education and the Ridgefield Board of Education.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES:7NAYS:0ABSTENTIONS: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 26, 2025</u>.

Louis Alfano Business Administrator/Board Secretary

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

31. Resolution, recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to permit the use of the following facilities for the 2024-2025 school year:

SCHOOL	FACILITY	DATES REQUESTED	TIME	PURPOSE	REQUESTED BY
High School	Cafeteria	01/27/2025	7:00 p.m 8:00 p.m.	Little League meeting	Jacy Acquaviva
High School	Cafeteria	01/30/2025	6:00 p.m 8:00 p.m.	Parent/Student meeting	ML Department
School #4	Gymnasium	01/30/2025	6:00 p.m 7:30 p.m.	PTO meeting	Robin Marrero
School #4	Gymnasium	01/31/2025	3:00 p.m 5:00 p.m.	Dance Jam	School #4 PTO
High School	Gymnasium	02/08/2025	8:00 a.m 12:00 p.m.	Recreation wrestling	Michael Miller
High School	Gymnasium	02/15/2025	8:00 a.m 8:00 p.m.	Recreation wrestling	Michael Miller
School #5	Gymnasium	02/13/2025	8:30 p.m 8:30 p.m.	Sweetheart Dance	School #5 PTO
High School	Cafeteria hallway	02/19/2025- 02/28/2025	11:00a.m 12:00 p.m.	Fundraiser	Michelle Kolic
High School	Auditorium	02/25/2025	6:00 p.m 10:00 p.m.	NHS	Lawrence Pinto
School #4	Gymnasium	02/25/2025	5:00 p.m 8:00 p.m.	International Night	Robin Marrero
High School	Auditorium	02/25/2025	6:00 p.m 8:00 p.m.	National Honor Society induction	Kimberly Shaw
High School	Cafeteria	02/26/2025	4:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.	End of season celebration	Brandy Luderer
High School	Cafeteria hallway	02/27/2025	12:00p.m- 1:15 p.m.	Class ring sale	Patricia Petermann
High School	Cafeteria	02/28/2025	5:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.	Pre show dinner	Therese Rembecky

High School	Gymnasium	03/06/2025	4:00 p.m 8:00 p.m.	Senior vs. Staff basketball game	Michelle Kolic
High School	Auditorium & Rooms 103, 112	03/21/2025	5:00 p.m 10:00 p.m.	Family/Alumni Night	Therese Rembecky
High School	Auditorium/Music room	04/05/2025 & 04/12/2025	9:00 a.m- 3:00 p.m.	Tech rehearsal	Therese Rembecky
High School	Cafeteria	05/01/2025 05/02/2025	4:00 p.m 5:00 p.m.	Cast/crew dinner	Therese Rembecky
High School	Auditorium Music room, drama closet	05/01/2025- 05/03/2025	5:30 p.m 9:00 p.m.	Spring musical	Therese Rembecky
High School	Gymnasium	05/20/2025	3:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.	Teacher jousting fundraiser	Michelle Kolic
High School	Gymnasium & Lobby	06/09/2025	4:00 p.m 9:00 p.m.	Athletic awards	David Porfido

FINANCE

- 32. Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve Agreement between the Cliffside Park Board of Education and Princeton HealthCare System for the provision of Onsite Education Services for **one** attending student for the 2024-2025 school year commencing February 20, 2025, for approximately six weeks for a total tentative charge of \$3,900.00.
- 33. Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve Agreement between the Cliffside Park Board of Education and LearnWell for the provision of 10 hours of educational services and an additional 33% administrative and preparation time per week at a rate of \$58.75 per hour for **one** attending student for the 2024-2025 school year commencing February 19, 2025 and ending February 26, 2025 for a total approximate charge of \$783.14.
- 34. Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve January 30, 2025 payroll in the amount of \$1,964,136.35 which includes the After School/Enrichment Program and the Cafeteria Payroll.
- 35. 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 \$108,436.72 to cover Health Benefits Contributions from Employees to Reimburse Employer for the covered period of January 16, 2025 through January 31, 2025.
- 36. Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve Athletic Association bills for the month January 2025 in the amount of \$14,395.00 as follows:
- Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve February 14, 2025 payroll in the amount of \$2,121,552.15 which includes the After School/Enrichment Program and the Cafeteria Payroll.
- 38. 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 \$96,150.20 to cover Health Benefits Contributions from Employees to Reimburse Employer for the covered period of February 1, 2025 through February 15, 2025.

FINANCE, (Continued)

- 39. Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve NJ State Educators Health Benefits Program for the covered period of February 1, 2025 through February 28, 2025 in the amount of \$842,952.33.
- 40. Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve the bill list for February 2025 in the amount of \$2,612,820.16 as follows:
- 41. Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve the stop payment of lost stale dated check #6316, dated May 21, 2024, payable to Angely Xil in the amount of \$100.00 from the High School Internal Account and adding the funds back into the Annie & Natalia Performing Arts Scholarship account.
- 42. Resolution recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve the stop payment of lost stale dated check #6338, dated June 5, 2024, payable to Christine Shawala in the amount of \$785.14 from the High School Internal Account and adding the funds back into the Drama Club account.
- 43. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to accept the Treasurer of School Monies financial report for the month of January 2025.
- 44. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to accept the Board Secretary's financial report for the month of January 2025.
- 45. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(d)*, the Business Administrator certifies that as of January 31 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8-1.
- 46. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve the Monthly Transfer Report for the month of January 2025.

The Board unanimously approved by voice vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Louis Alfano, Business Administration/Board Secretary

FINANCE

RESOLUTION

47. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve the acceptance of the US EPA Environmental Education Local Grant in the amount of \$5,000 from Bergen Community College, which includes stipends in the amount of \$1,000 and \$500 respectively to Mr. Danho and Mr. Bernstein. Bergen Community College recently received a US EPA Environmental Education Local Grant to partner with five high-need metro NJ high schools to fund "Sustainability Design Challenges" at each school.

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 26, 2025</u>.

LOUIS ALFANO

Business Administrator/Board Secretary

FINANCE

RESOLUTION

48. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve Application #10 by the Cliffside Park Board of Education to Grove Contracting for High School Lobby Addition and Renovations in the amount of \$114,239.24 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 26, 2025</u>.

LOUIS ALFANO

Business Administrator/Board Secretary

FINANCE

RESOLUTION

49. Resolution, recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools to approve the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) FY 26-Corrective Action Plan (per attached).

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 26, 2025</u>.

LOUIS ALFANO

Business Administrator/Board Secretary

February 26, 2025: 6:00PM Work Session-DISCUSSION TOPICS:

SURPLUS \$5.1M: \$1M excess surplus: to be applied to 2025-26 budget; \$4.1M-capital reserve (Discussed at October 23/November 20 work sessions)-**December 18 Meeting: auditor on site.**

2025-2026 Budget-Preliminary Revenues and Expenses 'THE GAP' was discussed + Tax Levy Diagnostic (SEE ATTACHED): Refer to 2/13/25 email; **Key Dates:** 2/27 meet with Borough; March 6-5PM Special Meeting with the Board; March 7 budget DUE TO COUNTY.

Food Service: FY24 Audit-P/L update; and how 2024-25 will be impacted-<u>overview from</u> <u>auditor December 18 work session-FOOD SERVICE WILL ENTER INTO DEFICIT IN 2025-</u> <u>Analysis and Recommendations-Presented at 1/22/25 Work Session.</u>

<u>GYM LOBBY RENO UPDATE:</u> flooring, tile, ceiling, substantial completion-2/19/25 site visit: LAN, Grove, Joe, Teddy, Ciro.

Mandated Board Member Training-after REORGANIZATION MEETING- (April-May 2025)-DUE DATE 12/31/24-GOVERNANCE IV- COMPLETED.

PRE-K EXPANSION-refer to Public Meeting July 24 resolution-RECEIVED \$25K in start-up funding+ estimated \$471K funding for 2025-26 – STATUS OF PROJECT + WORK BOOK COMPLETION – MARCH 2025.

Update: The HS ANNEX Project- Joe and Lou met with F Berardo and J. Rutch on Oct. 29-Provided FY23 audit documents +operation costs-Nov. 12 Council Meeting-**update at Dec.18 work session-Joe communicated to the Board that this project the Borough has decided not to move forward with the HS ANNEX PROJECT-NEXT STEPS-ENV Architects present overview to Board at March 26 meeting-engage a Physical Needs Assessment for HS with firm-TBD.**

UPDATE : Dr. Meese-Orthopedic: additional options-Dr. Dominguez-<u>PROPOSAL RECEIVED</u> -\$24K-expect to appoint Dr. Dominguez at Reorganization Meeting for 2025-2026 school year.

February 26, 2025: 6:00PM Work Session-DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Unit-ventilator Project School 6 (\$716K ROD GRANT funded): <u>December 5 PRE-</u> <u>CONSTRUCTION MEETING-CONTRACTS FINALIZED (A101, A201): Next Pre-Construction</u> <u>Meeting Late April/May 2025.</u>

HS New Cameras/Servers Assessment: Elite Plus Services in conjunction with IT-work in progress-GYM LOBBY RENO EXPECTED COMPLETION-3/11/25.

Dr. Hayes-extension letter-1/3/25 mailed and emailed to Executive County Superintendent and Acting Commissioner-**UPDATE: COMMISSIONER DENIED REQUEST-**Search is ongoing.

<u>CPEA Contract Negotiations:</u> meeting #1-February 20, 2025.

NEXT MEETING IS 6PM Work Session March 26 + 7PM PUBLIC MEETING March 26 March 6-5PM SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING.