

# MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

## January 22, 2024

AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRESENT: Kathleen Clohessey, John J. Friend, Rachel Kabbash  
Stephen Koger, Christopher Patterson  
John R. Giacchi, Superintendent  
Carlos Sarmiento, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

ABSENT: Wayne Bartron, Erin Henry, Stephanie Perna, James Saltzman

The Board President opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M., with the Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by the following statement read by the Board Secretary:

This meeting is being conducted in compliance with the “Open Public Meeting Act – Chapter 231 – Public Laws of 1975.” Advance written notice of at least 48 hours was given specifying the time, date and to the extent known, the agenda, and stating whether formal action may or may not be taken and has been properly posted at the school, mailed to the Clerk/Administrator, and mailed to the New Jersey Herald and the Star Ledger.

### Approval of Regular Board Minutes

On motion by Mr. Friend, seconded by Mr. Patterson, and carried unanimously by roll call vote, approved the minutes of the following meetings as presented:

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. December 11, 2023 - Regular Meeting Minutes    | <b>ATTACHMENT 1</b> |
| 2. January 3, 2024 - Organization Meeting Minutes | <b>ATTACHMENT 2</b> |

### CORRESPONDENCE: NA

### PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Student Presentation: Bella Hrbek and Brooklyn Nunez presented the different Cereal Box Project initiatives.
- B. Mr. Giacchi read out a pre-written speech for the Governor’s Services Professional of the Year Award recipient Harriet Panagakis, Secretary, and the Governor’s Educator of the Year Award recipient Heather Labance, Teacher.

### OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - AGENDA ITEMS

On motion by Mr. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Koger, and carried unanimously by voice vote, opened the meeting to the public for comment on the agenda items.

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The Board Secretary read the following statement:

At this time, members of the public are invited to address the Board. Please note that public comments on the agenda items will be made in accordance with Policy 0167 - Public Presentation at Board meetings. Each statement made by all participants may be limited to three minutes in duration. If you would like to address the Board, please raise your hand to be called upon. Once called, please come to the microphone and state your name, municipality of residence, and/or group affiliation, and the agenda item you will address.

Please let the record reflect that the Board of Education does not endorse comments, nor will the Board of Education be held liable for comments made by a member of the public about a staff member or any other individual that may be considered defamatory and/or libelous, as that individual retains all rights to pursue any legal remedies against you.

This public session is designed for members of the public to speak on issues for Board consideration. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comment. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board at the conclusion of public participation. This portion of the meeting is meant to hear public comment, not to have a dialogue between the Board and the person speaking.

*No one addressed the Board.*

On motion by Mr. Friend, seconded by Mr. Koger, and carried unanimously by voice vote, closed the meeting to the public for comment on the agenda items.

### **BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

- A. Mr. Sarmiento mentioned to the Board that he can answer any questions they have regarding the Board Secretary's Report.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- A. Mr. Giacchi provided an update on school events:
- The Hardyston Basketball Tournament is being held at Hardyston School February 12-16, 2024.
  - There is a half-day of school for students on Thursday.
- B. Mr. Giacchi reported that the Franklin Borough PTO was named the recipient of the YMCA 2023 Community Partner of the Year Award.
- C. Mr. Giacchi reported the following clinical practice student will be at Franklin Borough School as listed below:

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Practicum Student	Cooperating Teacher	Subject/University	Dates
Saige Frederick	Erin Garrity	K-5 - William Paterson University	Three (3) days per week from January 25, 2024 - May 10, 2024

D. Mr. Giacchi reported that the fire and security drills held during the month of November were as follows:

- December 8, 2023 at 9:08 a.m. - Fire Drill
- December 15, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. - Safety Drill

### Personnel Committee – Kathleen Clohessey

#### Discussion: NA

On motion by Mr. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Koger, and carried unanimously by roll call vote, approved the following resolutions:

A. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, rescinds the following personnel appointment for the 2023-2024 school year: *(Note that this appointment was originally made at the December 11, 2023 Board of Education meeting.)*

Rescinded Staff Member	Rescinded Compensation
Dayna Scheper (.71 FTE) – Part-time Paraprofessional	\$16.30 per hour, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required paperwork <i>Plus \$1.00 differential for providing a higher level of care.</i>

B. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the following resignation:

Employee	Position	Effective Date
Myrna Montes	Part-time Paraprofessional	Last day worked was December 22, 2023, <i>pending an agreement with the Franklin Education Foundation (FEA) stating that early release is not precedent setting</i>

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- C. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following maternity leave of absence request:

Employee	Dates
Kristen Hosty	Beginning on or about May 20, 2024 and ending on the last day of school utilizing 10 sick days, 2.5 personal days, 2 family illness days and two personal less sub pay days

- D. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following intermittent leave of absence request:

Employee	Dates
Elaine Tizzano	Intermittent leave beginning January 2, 2024 through June 30, 2024 utilizing sick days

- E. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following staff members' movement on guide pending receipt of required documents:

Staff Member	New Guide Placement	Old Guide Placement	Effective Date
Kailee Gori	MA/BA +45, Step 4 - \$63,714	BA 30, Step 4 - \$61,564	February 2024

- F. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following teacher as a mentor for the 2023-2024 school year:

Mentor	Provisional Teacher	Date	Mentor Fee
Nicholas Speer	Jordan Florio	A total of 30 weeks of mentoring beginning on December 11, 2023	\$550 for 30 weeks

- G. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the \$1.00 per hour compensation differential for the following paraprofessional who provides a higher level of care for the 2023-2024 school year per contract language:

Paraprofessionals Receiving \$1 Differential for Higher Level of Care	Dates
Jennifer Torres	November 27, 2023 - June 30, 2024

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- H. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves supplemental pay for the following staff member for the 2023-2024 school year:

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
Tyler Bauer	As needed	\$16.30 per hour <i>Plus \$1.00 differential for providing a higher level of care.</i>
Lisa Davis	As needed	\$16.30 per hour <i>Plus \$1.00 differential for providing a higher level of care.</i>
Jordan Florio	As needed	\$43.00 per hour
Angela Gonzales	As needed	\$16.30 per hour <i>Plus \$1.00 differential for providing a higher level of care.</i>
Janice Perry	As needed	\$43.00 per hour
Jennifer Torres	As needed	\$16.30 per hour <i>Plus \$1.00 differential for providing a higher level of care.</i>
Jessica Arteaga	As needed	\$16.30 per hour <i>Plus \$1.00 differential for providing a higher level of care.</i>
Elizabeth Davenport	As needed	\$16.30 per hour <i>Plus \$1.00 differential for providing a higher level of care.</i>
Elda Gamella	As needed	\$16.30 per hour <i>Plus \$1.00 differential for providing a higher level of care.</i>
Jane Gamutan	As needed	\$16.30 per hour <i>Plus \$1.00 differential for providing a higher level of care.</i>
Victoria McBurney	As needed	\$16.30 per hour
Jessica Ross	As needed	\$16.30 per hour <i>Plus \$1.00 differential for providing a higher level of care.</i>

- I. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, appoints the following personnel for the 2023-2024 school year as follows, pending receipt of required paperwork where applicable:

<b>Staff Member/Appointment</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
Sara Blondina (1 FTE) – Long-term Substitute Teacher	January 11, 2024 - March 12, 2024	\$170 per day, not benefit eligible, pending a waiver from the Sussex County Office of Education.
Jennifer Carrelo (.71 FTE) – Part-time Paraprofessional	Beginning on January 17, 2024	\$16.30 per hour, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required paperwork <i>Plus \$1.00 differential for providing a higher level of care.</i>
Nicole Saft (1 FTE) – Long-term Substitute Teacher	January 2, 2024 - on or about March 1, 2024	\$170 per day, not benefit eligible, pending a waiver from the Sussex County Office of Education.

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<b>Staff Member/Appointment</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
Ryan Silvestri (.71 FTE) – Part-time Paraprofessional	Beginning on or about January 22, 2024	\$16.30 per hour, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required paperwork <i>Plus \$1.00 differential for providing a higher level of care.</i>

- J. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, amends the following appointment for the 2023-2024 school year as follows: *(Note that this appointment was originally made at the September 18, 2023 Board of Education meeting.)*

<b>Staff Member/Appointment</b>	<b>Amended FTE and Dates</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
Shakeel Danwatta – Part-time Paraprofessional	<b>From .48 FTE beginning October 10, 2023 to .71 FTE beginning January 2, 2024</b>	\$16.30 per hour, no benefits, pending completion of required paperwork <i>Plus, \$1.00 per hour for providing a higher level of care per contract language.</i>

- K. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year, compensation payable upon completion of timesheets. *(Note that benefits are not included for any substitute position listed below, and all approvals are pending receipt of required paperwork, where necessary.):*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Substitute Position</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
Jared Babler	Substitute Paraprofessional	\$110 per day, no benefits, pending completion of required paperwork
Mitchell Morrison	Substitute Teacher	\$150 per day, no benefits, pending completion of required paperwork
Justyna Ogrodnik	Substitute Nurse	\$250 per day, no benefits, pending completion of required paperwork

- L. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following professional development days:

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Professional Development</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Carolyn Ryder	Online – Two-day Train-the Trainer - DYSLEXIA: Best Targeted Interventions for Greater Literacy Success (Grades K - 6)	Registration: \$645.00	February 28, 2024 February 29, 2024

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Staff Member	Professional Development	Cost	Dates
Allison Murphy	Online - First Steps in Music Certification	Registration: \$400.00	February 09, 2024 February 16, 2024 February 23, 2024 March 1, 2024 March 8, 2024 March 15, 2024
Christina Lash-Lain	Play Therapy Conference: Engaging and Powerful Techniques for the Treatment of Disruptive Behavior Disorders and Trauma, Suffern, NY	Registration: \$294.50	March 7, 2024 March 8, 2024

- M. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following rate of pay increases for the substitutes listed below:

Position	Compensation
Substitute Custodian	\$15.50 per hour
Substitute Secretary	\$15.50 per hour

- N. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a \$2,500 stipend for the 2023-2024 school year for an Assistant Yearbook Advisor, pending an agreement with the Franklin Education Association (FEA) that doing so is not precedent setting.
- O. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, appoints the following extra-curricular stipend position for the 2023-2024 school year:

Extra-curricular Position	Staff Member	Stipend
Band Director	Sarah Healey	\$3,690

- P. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following teachers to receive supplemental pay at a rate of \$50 per hour for providing before- and after-school tutoring funded through the High Impact Tutoring Grant. Compensation payable upon the submission of timesheets:

Staff Members Providing Before- and After-school Tutoring	
Yackelin Barrientos	Kim Panaite
Kristen Bauer	Kelly Reger
Karen Crosby	Stephanie Sapio
Jaime Dippel	Kelly Sparta
Janel Edwards	Melissa Storch

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<b>Staff Members Providing Before- and After-school Tutoring</b>	
Erin Garrity	Rebecca Szymansky
Heather Labance	Selena Vieira
Kenza Mjahad	

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Christopher Patterson – Chair**

**Discussion: NA**

On motion by Mrs. Kabbash, seconded by Mrs. Clohessey, and carried by the following roll call vote, approved the following resolutions:

- A. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the Franklin Borough School Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. **ATTACHMENT 3**
- B. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the 2024-2025 Preschool Annual Operational Plan. **ATTACHMENT 4**
- C. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the following out-of-district tuition and transportation costs for the 2023-2024 school year:

Student	Provider	Dates	Cost
#*****2125	Sheppard School 2 Miller Road Kinnelon NJ 07405	From on or about January 16, 2024 to June 30, 2024	Tuition: \$31,202.82, prorated  Transportation: \$121.66 per day

- D. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the following out-of-district transportation costs:

Student	Dates	Costs
#*****4998	January 8, 2024 through June 30, 2024	\$197.50 per day

- E. Resolved that the Board of Education approves a shared services agreement with Hardyston Township School District to use the services of their behaviorist as needed at \$42.18 per hour, plus transportation at the OMB rate. **ATTACHMENT 5**
- F. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the following field trip:

Grade	Location	Date	Cost
8	Winter Garden Theater 1634 Broadway New York, NY 10019	May 29, 2024	\$4,596.50



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Yes        -        4  
 No         -        0  
 Abstain   -        Mr. Patterson

**FINANCE/BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – John J. Friend, Chair**

**Discussion: NA**

On motion by Mrs. Clohessey, seconded by Mr. Koger, and carried by following roll call vote, approved the following resolutions:

- A. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the vendor payments dated December 12, 2023 - January 22, 2024. **ATTACHMENT 6**

Fund 10	Charter School/ER FICA Share	\$49,121.74
Fund 11	General Expense	\$1,274,921.99
Fund 12	Capital Outlay	\$8,662.00
Fund 20	Special Revenue	\$234,764.22
Fund 60	Cafeteria	\$495.00
Fund 95	Student Activities	\$1,270.08
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,569,235.03</b>

- B. Resolved that the Board of Education accepts the attached Board Secretary’s Report and Treasurer of School Monies report for December 2023.

Resolved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, the Board Secretary does certify that as of December 31, 2023, no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1;

Therefore be it resolved that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 4 the Board of Education does certify that as of November 30, 2023, the Board Secretary Monthly Financial Report, did not reflect an over expenditure in any Major Account for Fund, and based on the Appropriation Balances reflected on this report and on the advice of District Officials, that sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

**ATTACHMENT 7**

- C. Resolved that the Board of Education approves between line-item transfers as required by State rules and regulations for the month of December 2023. **ATTACHMENT 8**

- D. Resolved that the Board of Education accepts the NJ High Impact Tutoring Grant funds in the amount of \$75,992.

- E. Resolved that the Board of Education approves Mathnasium as a State-approved vendor.

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- F. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the following facility use requests pending receipt of required paperwork and providing there are no conflicts with school events. *Note that when the school closes for the day or for early dismissal due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, all evening activities are canceled.*

Organization	Time/Date	Space/Cost
Franklin Police Department	Various Times/Dates	Various areas of the building – No Cost Pending completion of required paperwork
Pizazz! Dance Academy	June 8, 2024 Times: TBD	Auditorium, including sound/ lighting equipment <b>Costs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Auditorium usage fee: \$300</li> <li>• Custodial overtime fees: TBD</li> </ul> Pending completion of required paperwork

Yes	-	5
No	-	0
Abstain	-	0

### OLD BUSINESS:

On motion by Mr. Koger, seconded by Mr. Friend, and carried unanimously by roll call vote, approved the following annual appointments:

- A. SCEESC Board Representative - Kathleen Clohessey and Stephanie Perna
- B. NJSBA County Representative - Erin Henry
- C. NJSBA State Representative - Wayne Bartron

### NEW BUSINESS:

On motion by Mr. Koger, seconded by Mr. Friend, and carried unanimously by roll call vote, approved the District Goals.

### OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – VISITORS ADDRESS THE BOARD

On motion by Mr. Friend, seconded by Mr. Koger, and carried unanimously by voice vote, opened the meeting to the public for visitors to address the board.

The Board Secretary read the following statement:

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At this time, members of the public are invited to address the Board. Please note that public comments on non-agenda items will be made in accordance with Policy 0167 - Public Presentation at Board meetings. Each statement made by all participants may be limited to three minutes in duration. If you would like to address the Board, please raise your hand to be called upon. Once called, please come to the microphone and state your name, municipality of residence, and/or group affiliation.

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This public session is designed for members of the public to speak on issues for Board consideration. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comment. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board at the conclusion of public participation. This portion of the meeting is meant to hear public comment, not to have a dialogue between the Board and the person speaking.

*No one addressed the Board.*

On motion by Patterson, seconded by Mr. Koger, and carried unanimously by voice vote, closed the meeting to the public for visitors to address the board.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION: NA**

On motion by Mr. Koger, seconded by Mr. Patterson, and carried unanimously by voice vote, adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Sarmiento  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary