

# MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING December 9, 2024

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

PRESENT: Wayne Bartron, Kathleen Clohessey, Erin Henry,  
Rachel Kabbash, Stephen Koger, James Saltzman (arrived 7:06),  
John R. Giacchi, Superintendent  
Carlos Sarmiento, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

ABSENT: John J. Friend, Christopher Patterson, Stephanie Perna

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 Ms. Henry, seconded by Mr. Bartron, and carried by the following roll call vote, approved the minutes of the following meetings as presented:

1. November 18, 2024 – Regular Meeting Minutes **ATTACHMENT 1**
2. November 18, 2024 – Executive Session Minutes

## PRESENTATIONS

- A. School Updates – National Junior Honor Society Students, Lily Geuther and Addy Snyder
- B. Dr. Jim Saltzman, Board Member Recognition – Mrs. Kathleen Clohessey presented Dr. Saltzman with a crystal clock and thanked him for the years he served on the Franklin Board of Education.

## CORRESPONDENCE: NA

## OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - AGENDA ITEMS

On motion by Ms. Henry, seconded by Mrs. Kabbash, and carried unanimously by voice vote, opened the meeting to the public for comment on the agenda items.

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 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

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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.

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

### BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

- A. November 5, 2024 Election Results:
  - a. Ms. Erin Henry – Three-year term expiring 2027
  - b. Mr. Christopher Patterson – Three-year term expiring 2027
  - c. Mr. John VanKampen – Three-year term expiring 2027
  
- B. Organization Meeting – January 2, 2025

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Giacchi provided the following information:

- A. School updates- Thanked the students for their presentation. Dr. Giacchi brought to the Board of Education's attention all the upcoming student events for the season. Dr. Giacchi asked for the community and the Board of Education to continue to support them.
  
- B. To report that Ariadne Diaz-Rojas is Franklin Borough School's 2024-2025 Governor's Educator of the Year award recipient.
  
- C. To report that Sabrina Mohammed is Franklin Borough School's 2024-2025 Educational Services Professional of the Year award recipient.

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- D. To report that Walkkill Valley Regional High School (WVRHS) will use Franklin Borough School’s gymnasium on at least two dates in December as WVRHS is hosting a middle school basketball tournament in their gymnasium.
- E. To report that the fire and security drills held during the month of November 2024 were as follows:
  - November 18, 2024 at 1:15 p.m. – Fire Drill
  - November 22, 2024 at 8:34 a.m. – Lockdown Drill

**Personnel Committee – Wayne Bartron, Chair**

**Discussion: NA**

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

- A. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves \$250 for Ariadne Diaz-Rojas to use in the classroom as the 2024-2025 Governor’s Educator of the Year award recipient for Franklin Borough School.
- B. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the following resignations:

Staff Member	Position	Date
Nicole Amado Scaglione	Part-time Paraprofessional	Last day worked December 13, 2024 <i>Note that this is pending receipt of notice from the Franklin Education Foundation that release prior to 60 days is not precedent setting.</i>
Savanah Rivera	Speech Language Pathologist	Last day worked January 22, 2025

- C. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following job descriptions:

Extra-Curricular Job Descriptions	Attachment
TREP\$ Market Moderator	<b>ATTACHMENT 2</b>
TREP\$ Assistant Market Moderator	<b>ATTACHMENT 3</b>

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Yearbook Assistant Advisor	ATTACHMENT 4
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D. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, appoints the following personnel for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of required paperwork:

Staff Member/Appointment	Start Date	Compensation
Jordan Cross - (.71 FTE) Part-time Paraprofessional	On or about December 16, 2024	\$19.00 per hour, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required documentation <i>Plus a \$2.00 per hour compensation differential for providing a higher level of care</i>
Brandie DiCarlo – (1 FTE) Long-term Substitute Preschool Teacher	On or about February 14, 2025 through on or about May 2, 2025	\$170 per day for 60 days. On day 61, on guide at BA Step 1 at \$60,637 per year (prorated) retroactive to day 1, and benefit eligible on day 61. This appointment is pending completion of required documentation.

Staff Member/Appointment	Start Date	Compensation
Christina Nogueras - (.71 FTE) Part-time Paraprofessional	On or about December 16, 2024	\$19.00 per hour, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required documentation <i>Plus a \$2.00 per hour compensation differential for providing a higher level of care</i>

E. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, amends the end-date of the following paraprofessional's \$2.00 per hour compensation differential for paraprofessionals who provide a higher level of care for the 2024-2025 school year, per contract language:

Paraprofessional No Longer Receiving the \$2.00 Per Hour Differential for Higher Level of Care	\$19.00 Per Hour Rate Begin Date
Jesse Artega	January 2, 2025

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F. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a \$500.00 stipend for the following New or Non-Stipend Clubs for the 2024-2025 school year:

<b>New or Non-Stipend Club</b>	<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Stipend</b>
Franklinites Dance Club – Fall 2024 Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stephanie Correal</li> <li>Lisa Dylewski</li> </ul>	September 30, 2024 to on or about December 16, 2024	\$500.00 <i>Note that the advisors will split the \$500 stipend equally for the 10-week club, \$250 per advisor.</i>
Franklinites Dance Club – Spring 2025 Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stephanie Correal</li> <li>Lisa Dylewski</li> </ul>	Dates are TBD - The Spring Session will begin after the school play and end in May 2025	\$500.00 <i>Note that the advisors will split the \$500 stipend equally for the 10-week club, \$250 per advisor.</i>

<b>New or Non-Stipend Club</b>	<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Stipend</b>
Fiber Optics Club – Fall 2024 Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lisa Grillo</li> <li>Christy Kota</li> </ul>	From October 2024 through January 2025	\$500.00 <i>Note that the advisors will split the \$500 stipend equally for the club, \$250 per advisor.</i>
Fiber Optics Club – Spring 2025 Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lisa Grillo</li> <li>Christy Kota</li> </ul>	From February 2025 through May 2025	\$500.00 <i>Note that the advisors will split the \$500 stipend equally for the club, \$250 per advisor.</i>
RISE Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laura Roberts</li> </ul>	From September 2024 to June 2025	\$500.00

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

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Professional Development</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Dates</b>
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Arcangelo Iurato	TECHSPO '25 Conference in Atlantic City, NJ	Registration: \$590.00 Hotel: \$194.00 <i>(\$97.00 per night for 2 nights)</i> Meals: \$170.00 Mileage: \$147.77 Parking/Tolls: \$50.00	January 29 - 31, 2025
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- H. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approves a one-week (five-day) suspension without pay, to be scheduled at the discretion of the Chief School Administrator, for employee #755 in accordance with executed settlement agreement.
  
- I. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approves a one-week (five-day) suspension without pay, to be scheduled at the discretion of the Chief School Administrator, for employee #569 in accordance with executed settlement agreement.

### Education Committee – James Saltzman, Chair

#### Discussion: NA

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

- A. Resolved that the Board of Education accepts the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) report shared in Executive Session at the November 18, 2024 regular Board of Education meeting:

HIB Case Number	Finding	Determination
HIB 24-25-01	Unsubstantiated	Accept/Reject/Modify

- B. Resolved that the Board of Education approves Jeffery A. Oster, Private Investigator, at \$48.00 per hour and \$0.65 per mile on an as needed basis to investigate student residency concerns.
  
- C. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the second reading and adoption of the following regulation:

Number	Title	Attachment
R 2340	Field Trips	ATTACHMENT 5

### Finance/Buildings & Grounds – Kathleen Clohessey

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**Discussion: NA**

On motion by Ms. Henry, seconded by Mr. Bartron and carried unanimously by roll call vote, approved the following resolutions:

- A. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the vendor payments dated November 16, 2024 - December 6, 2024. **ATTACHMENT 6**

Fund 10	Charter School/ER FICA Share	30,325.30
Fund 11	General Expense	499,600.38
Fund 12	Capital Outlay	0
Fund 20	Special Revenue	64,097.07
Fund 60	Cafeteria	4,995.21
Fund 95	Student Activities	225.00
	<b>Total</b>	599,242.96

- B. Resolved that the Board of Education accepts the attached Board Secretary's Report and Treasurer of School Monies report for October 2024.

Resolved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, the Board Secretary does certify that as of October 2024, 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 October 2024, the Board Secretary Monthly Financial Report, did not reflect an over expenditure in any Major Account or 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 October 2024. **ATTACHMENT 8**

- D. Resolved that the Board of Education accepts the following donations for the 2024-2025 school year:

<b>Organization Providing the Donation</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Franklin Education Foundation	2024-2025 Mini-grants	\$8,435.94
Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)	2024-2025 Winter4Kids Program	\$2,000.00

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- E. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the submission of and accepts the ESEA Consolidated grant amendment to include carryover funds for the project period July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025 with the following allocations:

Title I	Amount
100-100 Salary of Teachers	\$150,293
100-800 Other Objects	\$2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$152,293</b>

- F. Resolved that the Board of Education approves a portion of the following paraprofessionals' salaries to be charged to the ESEA Title I-A grant in FY 2025:

Staff Member	Amount	Percentage of Salary
Kiara Rodriguez	\$10,000	57%
Lourdes Vazquez	\$10,000	52%
Diane Witherby	\$10,000	57%
Mary Pandy	\$2,533	15%
<b>Total \$32,533</b>		

- G. Resolved that the Board of Education, approves the attached joint transportation agreement with the Ogdensburg Board of Education in the amount of \$30.00 per hour not to exceed a total of \$420.00 for the month of December 2024. **ATTACHMENT 9**

- H. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the following purchase:

Vendor Information	Description	Cost
Nielsen Fleet 31 Williams Parkway East Hanover, NJ 07936 New Jersey State Contract Contract #23-FLEET-34923	2023 Ford F-450 DRW (F4H) XL 4WD Reg Cab 145" WB 60"CA Western 9' Pro Plus Snow Plow	\$93,364.00

- I. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the disposal of the following items:

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Music	Classical Guitars	7	Damaged - already replaced with ukuleles	Room 14
Library K-8	Various books, videotapes, and DVDs in the library purchased between 2001- 2012 <i>Discarded items will be donated or recycled</i>	318	Either old, damaged, obsolete, missing, or irrelevant	Library

- J. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the following facility use request for the 2024-2025 school year pending receipt of required paperwork and provided there are no conflicts with school activities:

Organization	Time/Date	Space/Cost
Men's Basketball League for those 30 years old and up	Wednesday evenings from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. from January 8, 2025 to March 31, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Gymnasium</li> <li>• Costs:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Service Fee: \$300</li> <li>○ <b>Waived:</b> \$1,500 facility use fee</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**OLD BUSINESS: NA**

**NEW BUSINESS: NA**

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

On motion by Mr. Bartron, seconded by Ms. Henry, 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:

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.

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

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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.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Entered Executive Session at 7:16 pm.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b), the Board of Education may exclude the public from the portion of a public meeting at which the Board discusses any of the matters described at N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(1)-9;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education shall forthwith enter closed session to discuss the following matter(s) concerning:

- Matters rendered confidential by state or federal law - HIB #24-25-02
- Personnel
- Appointment of a public official
- Matters covered by the attorney-client privilege
- Pending or anticipated litigation
- Pending or anticipated contract negotiations
- Protection of the safety or property of the public
- Matters which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy
- Matters in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the United States Government
- Matters concerning collective negotiations and/or the negotiation of terms and conditions of employment of employees of the Board of Education
- Possible imposition of a civil penalty or suspension

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that said discussion may be disclosed to the public when the reasons for discussing and acting upon it in closed session no longer exist.

The Board returned to regular session at 7:44 p.m.

On motion by Mr. Bartron, seconded by Dr. Saltzman, and carried unanimously by voice vote, adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Carlos Sarmiento  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary