

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING October 14, 2024

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

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

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

1. September 16, 2024- Regular Meeting Minutes

ATTACHMENT 1

Yes	-	5
No	-	0
Abstain	-	Ms. Henry, Mr. Koger, Dr. Saltzman

PRESENTATIONS

- A. National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Students-Discussed Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Discussed clubs and events and trunk or treat.
- B. 2023-2024 School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act - Lisa Vallacchi, Principal. Dr. Vallacchi discussed fully the Self-Assessment for Determining Grades.

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- C. Audit Presentation – Mrs. Valerie Dolan, from Nisivoccia LLP, presented the June 30, 2024 Audit. On October 1, the state gave the audit information and Mrs. Dolan stated that the audit report was acceptable, and Franklin received an audit report of a 77, not a 78.
- D. Parette Somjen Architects, LLC - Jean and Tracy Boss-Mr. Bartron, Mr. Friend and Ms. Henry asked questions regarding the Annex bathroom invoice.

CORRESPONDENCE: NA

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - AGENDA ITEMS

On motion by Mr. Bartron, seconded by Ms. Henry, 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 on 2023-2024 School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act and other 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.

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

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT: NA

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Giacchi provided the following information:

- A. School updates-October 14, Columbus Day, no students attended, but there was a Professional Development Day for staff. Some of the teachers were involved with Lakeside Counseling. The YMCA also offered Yoga, Cardio classes and country line dancing. Our PTO has been very active so far this year.
- B. To report that the fire and security drills held during the month of September were as follows:
 - September 10, 2024 at 1:16 p.m. – Fire Drill
 - September 13, 2024 at 9:41 a.m. – Security Drill, Sounding of Lockdown Alarm
- C. To report the following clinical experience students (Practicum) will be at Franklin Borough School one day per week from January 23, 2025 through May 14, 2025:

Teacher Candidate	Teacher assigned	Grade	Placement Requested
Zachary Bidwell	Sarah Healey	K-8	Music/Instrumental
Krenare Shaqiri	Kailee Gori	PreK-PreK	Early Childhood
Josie Ugliono	Elaine Tizzano	K-5	Physical Education/Health

Personnel Committee – Wayne Bartron, Chair

Discussion: NA

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

Approve Items A – O

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

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Employee	Position	Effective Date
Shakeel Danwatta	Part-time Paraprofessional	Last Day Worked was October 4, 2024

- B. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, rescinds the following appointments:

Rescinded Appointment	Originally Approved
Krista Ross - (.71 FTE) Part-time Paraprofessional	Originally approved at the September 16, 2024 Board of Education meeting.
Dylan Rodriguez - (.71 FTE) Substitute Custodian	Originally approved at the September 16, 2024 Board of Education meeting.

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

Employee	Maternity Leave Request
Emily Wynne	February 17, 2025 and ending May 2, 2025

- D. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, appoints the following long-term substitute teacher, pending receipt of required paperwork:

Staff Member/Appointment	Start Date	Compensation
Neil Kozlowski - (.79 FTE) Long-term Substitute Math Teacher	From on or about October 17, 2024 through on or about December 20, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$55.00 per hour, not to exceed 5.5 hours per day • 3 Paid Sick Days • 1 Paid Personal Day • Not benefit eligible <p>Compensation upon completion of timesheets</p> <p>Appointment is pending completion of required paperwork</p>

- E. 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
Kristen Bauer - (1 FTE) Teacher	October 1, 2024	BA Step 4 at \$60,637 per year, benefit eligible

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Aurora Brown - (.71 FTE) Part-time Paraprofessional	October 14, 2024	\$19.00 per hour, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required documentation
Katie Ghaleb - (.71 FTE) Part-time Paraprofessional	October 1, 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>

- F. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year pending completion of required paperwork, where applicable. Compensation upon submission of timesheets. *(Note that benefits are not included for any of the substitutes listed below.)*

Name	Position	Compensation
Shakeel Danwatta	Substitute Teacher	\$150 per day, not benefit eligible
Megan DeVoe	Substitute Paraprofessional	\$110 per day, not benefit eligible
Rupinder Kaur	Substitute Teacher	\$150 per day, not benefit eligible, pending completion of required paperwork

- G. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the \$2 per hour compensation differential for paraprofessionals who provide a higher level of care for the 2024-2025 school year, per contract language:

Paraprofessionals Receiving \$2 Differential for Higher Level of Care	Dates
Jesse Arteaga	October 5, 2024 – June 30, 2025
Angela Maione	September 24, 2024 - June 30, 2025
Angelica Muniz	October 15, 2024 – June 30, 2025
Kiara Rodriguez	October 1, 2024 – October 11, 2024
Laura Sanders	September 30, 2024 - June 30, 2025
Lourdes Vazquez	October 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

- H. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, rescinds the substitute teacher stipend for the following staff member for the 2024 - 2025 school year:

Employee/Position	Rescinded Appointment	Rescinded Annual Stipend
Lisa Dylewski	Substitute Teacher as needed	\$3,000

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- I. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the substitute teacher stipend for the following paraprofessional for the 2024 - 2025 school year, per contract language:

Employee/Position	Appointment	Annual Stipend
Kelly Baldassano	Substitute Teacher as needed	\$2,130

- J. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following referee for the 2024-2025 school year, compensation upon submission of timesheets:

Staff Member	Position	Compensation
Yuri Missenheim	Soccer Referee	\$65 per game

- K. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following custodial stipends for the 2024-2025 school year:

Staff Member	Position	Stipend
David McDole	Assistant to the Head Custodian	\$1,800
Joshua Savely	Night Foreman	\$1,200
Michael Clint	Assistant to the Night Foreman	\$250

- L. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the following certified staff for before-school and after-school tutoring funded by the High Impact Tutoring Grant, compensation upon submission of timesheets:

Staff Member
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yackelin Barrientos • Kristen Bauer • Laurie Black • Janel Edwards • Heather Labance • Alyxx Manginge • Melissa Storch • Kelly Sparta • Selena Vieira

- M. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following stipend for 30 weeks of mentoring the following novice teacher:

Mentor	Stipend	Novice Teacher
Regina Norris	\$550 stipend for 30 weeks of mentoring	Kristen Bauer

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

Staff Member	Professional Development	Cost	Dates
Chelsea Lange	School Mental Health Workshop: <i>Treating Students K-12</i> in Boston, MA	Registration: \$415.00 Hotel: \$359.00 (for 2/7/2025 only) Meals: \$68.00 Mileage: \$223.91 Parking/Tolls: \$50.00 TOTAL: \$1,115.91	February 7-8, 2025
Sandra Molla-Saracco	School Mental Health Workshop: <i>Treating Students K-12</i> in Boston, MA	Registration: \$415.00 Meals: \$68.00 TOTAL: \$483.00	February 7-8, 2025

O. Resolved that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, amends the meal per diem allotment for the following professional development:
(NOTE: This professional development request was originally approved at the September 16, 2024 Board of Education meeting.)

Staff Member	Professional Development	Cost	Dates
Michele Fuzia	42nd Annual Autism Conference in Atlantic City, NJ	Registration: \$500.00 Plus Hotel: \$95.00 per night Meals: \$51.00 per day Mileage: \$154.25 Parking/Tolls: \$50.00	October 24-25, 2024

Education Committee – James Saltzman-Chair

Discussion: NA

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

Approve Items A-C

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- A. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the submission of the 2023-2024 School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act to the NJDOE.
- B. Resolved that the Board of Education amends transportation costs for the following out-of-district students:

Student	Amended Cost	Dates
#*****2125	Move Me at \$320 per day	From September 26, 2024 through June 30, 2025 or the last day of school
#*****8649		

- C. Resolved that the Board of Education approves a sidebar agreement with the Franklin Education Association (FEA) for the following stipend positions to exist for the duration of the current collective bargaining agreement dated July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028:

ATTACHMENT 2

Stipend Position	Yearly Stipend
TREP\$ Market Moderator	\$1,230
TREP\$ Assistant Market Moderator	\$650
Yearbook Assistant Advisor	\$2,500

Yes - 7
 No - 0
 Abstain - Mr. Patterson (B)

Finance/Buildings & Grounds – John J. Friend, Chair

Discussion: NA

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

Approve Items A – N

- A. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the vendor payments dated September 1, 2024 - October 14, 2024. **ATTACHMENT 3**

Fund 10	Charter School/ER FICA Share	57,484.14
Fund 11	General Expense	1,135,869.84
Fund 12	Capital Outlay	44,488.69

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Fund 20	Special Revenue	89,963.62
Fund 60	Cafeteria	1,626.66
Fund 95	Student Activities	650.00
	Total	1,330,082.95

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

Resolved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, the Board Secretary does certify that as of August 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 August 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 4**

- C. Resolved that the Board of Education approves between line-item transfers as required by State rules and regulations for the month of August 2024. **ATTACHMENT 5**

- D. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the submission of the annual Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist 2024-2025 to the County Office as required by NJQSAC.

- E. Resolved that the Board of Education approves a corrective action plan for food service. **ATTACHMENT 6**

- F. Resolved that the Board of Education accepts a \$200 donation from Weis Markets for the Weis 4 School Program.

- G. Resolved that the Board of Education approves payment application #5 to D&E for the Window Project in the amount of \$41,632.62.

- H. Resolved that the Board of Education approves disposing of two (2) AEDs with Lithium batteries. **ATTACHMENT 7**

- I. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the submission of Form M-1 (Annual Maintenance Reserve Worksheet) to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on or before November 15, 2024.

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- J. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the 2023-2024 Audit with the following allocations for surplus:

CAPITAL RESERVE		
Date/Description	Increase/Decrease	Balance
July 1, 2023		1,539,802.93
FY 2024 Windows Phase 2	(1,298,000)	241,802.93
HVAC Auxiliary Gym Room	(35,000)	206,802.93
Unexpended balance of projects returned	53,284.25	260,087.18
FY 2024 transfer	491,193	751,280.18

MAINTENANCE RESERVE		
Date/Description	Increase/Decrease	Balance
July 1, 2023		446,985.09
FY 24 Withdrawal fence repair	(4,051.77)	442,933.32

- K. Resolved that the Board of Education approves travel expenses related to the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) Annual Workshop to be held October 21 - 24, 2024 at the Tropicana hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey:

Name	Hotel \$120/ Night	Mileage 318 miles @.47	Food Allowance	Tolls and Parking	Total
Clohessey, Kathleen	\$360	\$149.46	\$238	\$50	\$797.46
Bartron, Wayne	\$240	\$149.46	\$170	\$50	\$609.46
Kabbash, Rachel	\$360	\$0.00	\$238	\$0.00	\$598.00
Giacchi, John	\$360	\$149.46	\$238	\$50	\$797.46
Sarmiento, Carlos	\$360	\$149.46	\$238	\$50	\$797.46

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- L. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the final expenditure reports for fiscal year 2024 for the following grant:

ARP IDEA Grant	Carryover to FY 2024
ARP IDEA – Basic	\$0
ARP IDEA – Preschool	\$0

- M. Resolved that the Board of Education approves the second reading and adoption of the following regulation:

Number	Title	Attachment
R 7510	Use of School Facilities	ATTACHMENT 8

- N. 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
Walkkill Valley Youth Basketball	From 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Friday, November 1, 2024 through Friday, March 21, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Gym • Cost: N/A

Yes - 5
 No - 0
 Abstain - Mrs. Kabbash(K), Mr. Bartron(K), Mrs. Clohessey(K)

OLD BUSINESS: NA

NEW BUSINESS: Dr. Giacchi thanked Mr. Sarmiento for the audit results and the successful transition. Mr. Sarmiento thanked Dr. Giacchi and the Board of Education for their continued support.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – VISITORS ADDRESS THE BOARD

On motion by Ms. Henry, seconded by Dr. Saltman, 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

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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 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.

Discussion:

- A. Mrs. Westermann addressed the Board regarding an incident that occurred at the school. The Board took note of what was said.

- B. A seventh grade student addressed the Board.

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: NA

On motion by Dr. Saltzman, seconded by Ms. Henry, and carried unanimously by voice vote, adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Sarmiento
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary