

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Public Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2021

Dr. Kulikowski called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. at the Terrill Middle School Auditorium, 1301 Terrill Road, Scotch Plains.

Members Present

Ms. Nancy Bauer
Mrs. Amy Boroff
Ms. Deb Brody
Mrs. Karen Mitchell
Ms. Stephanie Suriani
Ms. Tonya Williams
Ms. Amy Winkler
Mr. Evan Murray, Vice President
Dr. Karen Kulikowski, President

Others Present

Joan Mast, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Robert A. McGarry, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of
Curriculum and Instruction
Christopher Jones, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Jeanne Cleary, Director of Operations and Special Projects
James Canellas, Assistant Business Administrator/
Assistant Board Secretary
Peter N. Pitucco, Director of Human Resources
Lisa Rebimbas, Director of Special Service
Douglas Silvestro, Esq., Board Attorney

Motion by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mrs. Boroff at 7:16 p.m., that the Board of Education adopts the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education must discuss subjects concerning Personnel, HIB, and Legal Matters; and,

WHEREAS, the aforesaid subjects are not appropriate subjects to be discussed in a public meeting; and,

WHEREAS, the aforesaid subjects to be discussed are within the exemptions which are permitted to be discussed and acted upon in private session pursuant to P.L. 1975, Chapter 231,

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the aforesaid subjects shall be discussed in private recess by this Board and administrative staff, and information pertaining thereto will be made available to the public as soon thereafter as possible and once the reasons for non-disclosure no longer exist.

The meeting returned to public session at 8:16 p.m.

Members Present

Ms. Nancy Bauer
Mrs. Amy Boroff
Ms. Deb Brody
Mrs. Karen Mitchell
Ms. Stephanie Suriani
Ms. Tonya Williams
Ms. Amy Winkler
Mr. Evan Murray, Vice President
Dr. Karen Kulikowski, President

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Kulikowski reported the Personnel, HIB, and Legal Matters were discussed in Executive Session.

Dr. Mast is looking forward to Dr. McGarry's presentation and the Girls Varsity Tennis Team celebration.

Mr. Jones is excited to start the budget process for 2022-2023.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted at the Board of Education offices located at 512 Cedar Street, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Such notice was also provided in written notice forwarded to the *Times*, now known as the *Union County Hawk*, the *Star Ledger*, the Township Clerk of Scotch Plains and the Borough Clerk of Fanwood in the revised Annual Notice of Regularly Scheduled Meetings as adopted September 1, 2021.

INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATES

Dr. Mast introduced the Girls Varsity Tennis Team and praised them for such a remarkable, successful year and acknowledged that their commitment helped develop their expertise. Tennis Coach, Luke Piede commended this group of incredible girls for their ability to focus, persevere, and make history.

Motion by Dr. Kulikowski, seconded by Ms. Bauer, that the Board of Education adopts the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the 2021 Varsity Girls' Tennis Team had the most remarkable season in the history of Girls' Tennis at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School; and,

WHEREAS, the team placed 3rd overall at the Union County Championships at Hubstine Field in Plainfield at the end of September. Following an outstanding showing at the County Championship, the team earned the 3rd seed in the North II Group III Sectional Tournament, hosting Belleville on September 30th and Cranford on October 5th, both matches decidedly won by Scotch Plains-Fanwood 5-0; and,

WHEREAS, the team traveled to Chatham in the Semi-Final round and overcame a tough Cougar program by winning 3-2, which included a match that had to be completed the next day. On October 12th, the Raiders traveled to perennial champion, Millburn and earned a 3-2 victory and the first North II Group III Sectional Title since 1996; and,

WHEREAS, on October 14th, the Raiders traveled to Mercer County Park to face Mainland High School, the South Group III Champion and fought to a 3-2 victory and after a few hours rest, faced off with the North I Group III Champion Tenaflly; and,

WHEREAS, the Varsity Girls' Tennis Team defeated Tenaflly by a score of 4-1, earning the first Group III Title in the history of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Varsity Girls' Tennis; and,

WHEREAS, the 2021 Girls' Varsity Tennis Team was comprised of the following athletes:

Anna Szczuka - Grade 12
Samantha Edelman - Grade 12
Ellora Majumdar - Grade 12
Nikita Sahasrabudhe - Grade 11
Jion Shim - Grade 11
Diti Nainwal - Grade 10
Diya Nainwal - Grade 10

WHEREAS, the Varsity Girls' Tennis Team exhibited outstanding talent, dedication, and teamwork throughout the season and was led by Head Coach Luke Piede and Assistant Coach Barbara Joyner. This team received well-deserved recognition from fellow students, staff, and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood communities for their outstanding efforts and accomplishments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education recognizes and congratulates the 2021 Varsity Girls' Tennis

Team and their Coaches Luke Piede and Barbara Joyner for their outstanding achievements and wishes them continued success in all future endeavors.

Carried 9-0-0

Dr. Robert McGarry presented the District Testing Report for 2020-2021.

The meeting was opened to public comments at 9:17 p.m.

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| John Dening, SP | Critical parents should discuss racism with their children, far too important to leave to the schools; racism lives in the heart not in the skin color or religion; disagrees with Dr. Mast's decision on June 17 suggestion to read Dr. Joshi's book. |
| Fanwood Resident | Racism definitely exists in our schools. Admissions just following the law. Inappropriate words were spray-painted over the schools Supports anti-biased training. The Strategic Planning meetings reflect the need. |
| Mike LaMond, SP | Thinks African American History should be taught at lower levels, hoping he can help with Strategic Planning although he was not happy with the presenter. Asked the Board to create inclusion for teaching. |
| Dr. Mast | Thanked the group and addressed Mr. Dening. The Board stated it did not support Dr. Joshi's Tweets. Q&A's will be published soon. Strategic Planning Process will include tracking. |
| John Dening, SP | June 17th was supposed to be open questions. It was not. Dr. Mast said she will incorporate all questions into a future email. |
| Lea Amas | Thanked Dr. McGarry for his reports. She appreciates Dr. Joshi's work. The teachers need to prepare teachers for tough conversations. |

The public comments ended at 9:25 p.m.

Committee Reports

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| Curriculum | Report by Ms. Suriani - Just met to review the report presentation. |
| Wellness and Equity | Report by Ms. Williams - Professional Development assistance from Dr. McGarry; Workshops with focus on reading in elementary and reading and writing in High School; Workshops will also focus on |

diversity and inclusion; Updates on Park renaming ceremony with the activities planned, learning projects, essay contest winners, REAL Parents book donation

Community Relations Report by Ms. Brody - Laura Bishop, Communications Consultant, planning sending out Good News, snippets of student achievements; Instructional Updates; Goal is to communicate so all people receive the news - regular mail, email, Facebook, print, making copies available.

Letters to the Board

Two emails were received from the public. The appropriate administrator responded.

Board Motions

Curriculum Report

Motion by Ms. Winkler, seconded by Mrs. Boroff, that the Board of Education:

3-C approves the revised Student Calendar where Election Day, November 2, 2021 is closed for students and is a Professional Development Day for teachers and November 8 is a single session day for Elementary Schools.

and

4-C acknowledges the receipt of the report presented by the Superintendent on the October 15, 2021 enrollment numbers.

and

5-C approves the following field trips:

- High School Robotics Club requests to go to Don Bosco Prep High School in Ramsey, NJ on Nov. 13, 2021. 17 students and 2 chaperones will compete in a Robotics competition.
- High School Robotics Club requests to go to Dwight Morrow High School in Englewood, NJ on Jan. 15, 2022. 15 students and 2 chaperones will compete in a Robotics competition.
- High School Robotics Club requests to go to Bayonne High school in Bayonne, Bayonne, NJ on Feb. 6, 2022. 17 students and 2 chaperones will compete in a Robotics competition.

- SPFHS DECA requests to attend the DECA State competition Feb. 28, 2022 through March 2, 2022 at Harrah's Convention Center in Atlantic City, NJ. 50 students and 5 chaperones will attend.
- SPFHS DECA requests to attend the DECA National competition April 22-27, 2022 in Atlanta Georgia. 23 students and 3 chaperones will be attending.

and

6-C approves the NJDOE LEA Agency Guidance for Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual Instruction Program for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Carried 9-0-0

1-PERS Motion by Ms. Winkler, seconded by Ms. Brody, that the Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendations for personnel on the Personnel Report dated October 28, 2021 in the areas noted below:

1. Retirements
2. Resignations/Terminations
3. Appointments
4. Change of Status
5. Leaves of Absence
6. Sixth Period Assignment
7. Nurse Stipend
8. Auxiliary Employment
9. Substitute Staff

Carried 9-0-0 on a roll call vote

Business Report

Motion by Ms. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Williams, that the Board of Education:

1-BUS approves the staff training report dated October 28, 2021.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools
Board Approval for Staff Training and Seminars, Conventions and Conferences
Board Meeting: October 28, 2021

Number Attending	Conference Title	Dates Location	Anticipated Reimbursement	Purpose	Date of Request	Date of Board Approval

	* Expenses may exceed state and federal reimbursement guidelines + How will this activity promote the delivery of instruction, improvement of curriculum, or further district goals?					
One	Maintaining and Protecting School Buildings – South Jersey	Nov. 18, 2021 Mt. Laurel, NJ Sponsor: NJASBO	\$150.00 (registration)	Learn about preventative maintenance required to ensure that the school building is safe for all students and staff.	Oct. 20, 2021	Oct. 28, 2021
One	January Coaching Institute on the Teaching of Reading	Jan. 23-26, 2022 Virtual Institute Sponsor: Teachers College	\$800.00 (registration) Utilizing – Title II funds)	Learn methods of teaching whether within mini-lessons, guided reading, shared reading, read aloud or small group work. Support teachers in implementing curriculum effectively in their own classrooms.	Oct. 22, 2021	Oct. 28, 2021

and

2-BUS approves the following related services vendors for 2021 ESY and 2021-2022 School Year:

2021 ESY

Related Service

Service Provider

Rate

Behavioral/Educational Consultants

Brett DiNovi & Associates

\$130/\$55.00

2021-2022 School Year

Related Service	Service Provider	Rate
Bilingual Evaluations (Speech, Psych, Education, Social)	The Learning Tree	\$800.00
Home/Bedside Instruction	St. Clare Hospital	\$55.00
Psychological Evaluations	Erin Mori	\$300.00
Psychiatric Evaluations	Platt Psychiatric	\$750.00-Basic - \$1,300.00 Complex
Psychiatric Evaluations	Dr. Bryan Fennelly	\$715.00 Basic - \$775.00 Emergency
Neurological Evaluation	Dr. Kavita Sinha	\$400.00
Neuropsychological Evaluation	Dr. Ilyse O'Desky	\$4,000.00
Neurological Evaluation	Children's Specialized Hospital	\$930.00
Vocational Assessment	Jewish Vocational Service	\$900.00
Speech Language and Social Communication Evaluation	Princeton Speech Learning Center	\$1,800.00
Neuropsychological Evaluation	Morris Psychological Group	\$3,600.00

and

3-BUS approves the:

- a) transportation agreement contracted out via Somerset County Educational Commission effective September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022; and
- b) transportation to the Phoenix Center for Student Cases 08-20 and 08-13 for the 2021-2022 School Year at the per diem rate of \$278 with required personal aide and additional \$140 for two bus aides (\$70 each).

and

4-BUS approves the proposal by Global Mark Security LLC (28 Overlook Road, Livingston, NJ 07039) to provide S.O.R.A (NJ Security Officers Registration Act) security officers at the High School at the rate of \$45 per hour effective October 5, 2021 through October 4, 2022.

and

5-BUS ...pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a), designates Christoher Jones, School Business Administrator, Board Secretary, as the (Qualified) Purchasing Agent for the Board of Education and authorizes to award contracts, in full accordance with the law, for purchases that do not exceed in the aggregate in a contract year the total sum of \$44,000.00 (bid threshold) without public advertising for bids. Furthermore, Christopher Jones is authorized to solicit competitive quotations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37(a) and to award contracts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37(c). In the absence or unavailability of the Purchasing Agent, the board hereby authorizes James Canellas, Assistant Business Administrator, to approve contracts in the absence of the Business Administrator, Christopher Jones, and to award contracts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a).

and

6-BUS acknowledges receipt of the 2022-2023 Tentative Budget Calendar.

and

7-BUS approves the following theater vendors:

Name	Title	Stipend To Be Paid From Proceeds
Jill Cookingham	Park MS Musical Choreographer	\$1,000
Katherine Lewis	Park MS Musical Director/Producer	3,443
Morgan Knight	Rep Theater Director	4,000
Morgan Knight	Rep Theater Choreographer	2,250
Joanne Sprague	Rep Theater Costume Designer	1,500
Emalina Thompson	Terrill MS Musical Director/Producer (A)	3,443
Beth Kasper	Terrill MS Musical Director/Producer (B)	3,443
Gailmarie Sprague	Terrill MS Musical Choreographer	1,000

and

8-BUS approves Christopher Jones School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, to prepare all student athletic transportation bid specifications for the board of education. Reference—N.J.A.C. 6A:27-9.2 (c)

and

9-BUS authorizes Christopher Jones, Business Administrator/Board Secretary to approve the payment of bills between board meetings pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:19-4.1. Such warrants shall be presented to the board at the next Regular Business Meeting for ratification.

and

10-BUS approves the Sidebar Nurse Stipend Agreement where the nurses will receive a \$4,000 stipend funded by the federal grant ARP - ESSER III.

and

11-BUS acknowledges receipt of the district schools Security and Fire Drill Reports for the month of September 2021.

and

12-BUS acknowledges receipt of Board Secretary's Reports, Treasurer of School Funds Reports, and Budget Adjustments:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c), the Board Secretary certifies that as of September 30, 2021, no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C.

6A:23A-16.10(a); and that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c), the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, after review of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's monthly financial reports, certifies that no major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(b).

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Education approves receipt of Budget Transfers, the Board Secretary's Report and the Treasurer of School Monies Report for the month ending September 30, 2021.

and

13-BUS acknowledges receipt of the following disbursement listings dated September 30, 2021:

- Creative Summer Workshop
- Cafeteria
- Payroll Agency Account
- Petty Cash
- Music Account
- Athletic Account
- Elementary Student Activity
- Park and Terrill Middle Student Activity
- High School Student Activity

and

14-BUS approves bills for the period of September 25, 2021 through October 22, 2021 in the amount of \$4,327,912.46.

and

- 15-BUS approves the 2021-2022 Nonpublic School Technology Initiative Program Agreements for the JCC in the amount of \$700.16.

and

- 16-BUS approves the Summit Management Solutions, LLC agreement for a Business Consultant for the approximate time period of December 1, 201 through March 31, 2022 in the amount of \$5,000 per month.

and

- 17-BUS approves the disposal of the following items via public bid sale:

Description	Quantity
Dell 3180 ChromeBooks	280

WHEREAS, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District is the owner of certain surplus property which is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District is desirous of selling said surplus property in an “as is” condition without express or implied warranties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, County of Union, approves the disposal of listed equipment by public bid sale and reserves the right to accept or reject any bid submitted.

and

- 18-BUS approves the release of Maintenance Reserve Funds for the Airphone System Upgrade by Hogan Security Group at the Central Office up to \$12,000.

and

- 19-BUS approves the release of Maintenance Reserve Funds for Medify air filters up to \$41,000 by Safeware.

and

- 20-BUS approves the Swing Education Contract for additional services for substitute teachers and substitute aides at the current substitute pay rates plus an additional 25% service fee. The Swing Education Services are supplemental to the current district substitutes.

and

- 21-BUS approves the special education legal settlement for Case # 21-08 where the student attends Winston School effective September 1, 2021 and the parents will be reimbursed for tuition for the months of September and October. Beginning with November, the Winston School shall bill the district directly.

and

- 22-BUS authorizes submission of the 2020-2023 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and M-1 Reports as presented by the Business Administrator.

Carried 9-0-0

Board Policies

Motion by Ms. Winkler, seconded by Ms. Brody, that the Board of Education:

- 1-POL adopts the following state mandated board policies on October 28, 2021:

1648.13	School Employee Vaccination Requirements
1648.14	Safety Plan for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings-COVID-19
2425	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program
1648.11	The Road Forward COVID-19 Health and Safety

and

- 2-POL approves the first reading of the following board policy on October 28, 2021:

5751	Sexual Harassment of Students
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Carried 9-0-0

Other Board Business

Motion by Dr. Kulikowski, seconded by Ms. Brody, that the Board of Education adopts the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education has declared the month of October 2021 as “National Principals Month” in coordination with the efforts of the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the American Federation of School Administrators, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, working with the U.S. Congress, to designate “National Principals Month” and resolutions thereof;

WHEREAS, the vision, dedication, and determination of a principal provides the leading force behind any school reform effort, especially now during a global pandemic;

WHEREAS, principals are expected to be educational visionaries, instructional leaders, assessment experts, disciplinarians, community builders, public relations experts, budget analysts, facility managers, special programs administrators, and guardians of various legal, contractual, and policy mandates and initiatives, as well as committed to the education and development of young people, the most valuable resource;

WHEREAS, principals will play a vital role in successful implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA);

WHEREAS, principals set the academic tone for their schools and work collaboratively with teachers to develop and maintain high curriculum standards, develop mission statements, and set performance goals and objectives for schools to achieve educational excellence;

WHEREAS, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education honors such exemplary elementary public, private, and independent school leaders committed to serving students from pre-kindergarten to grade eight (pre-K–8) in their profession;

WHEREAS, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education recognizes outstanding middle level and high school principals who have succeeded in providing high quality learning opportunities for students, as well as their commendable contributions to the profession;

WHEREAS, to honor and recognize the contribution of all school principals and assistant principals at all grade levels to the success of students in New Jersey elementary and secondary schools; and to encourage residents of New Jersey to observe “National Principals Month” with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of school leadership’s role in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in honor of the service of all elementary, middle level, and high school principals, and to recognize the importance of their school leadership so that every child has access to a high quality education, the month of October 2021, is hereby designated in the State of New Jersey to be “National Principals Month,” and the Scotch Plains- Fanwood Board of Education is especially proud to celebrate with our school principals Dr. David Heisey, Dr. Jocelyn Dumaresq, Dr. Kevin Holloway, Mr. Scott Bortnick, Dr. Karen Wetherell, Mrs. Colleen Haubert, Dr. Sasha Slocum, and Mr. Justin Fiory and commend their continued school leadership.

Motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Brody, that the Board of Education approves the following minutes listed below:

1. September 29, 2021- Regular Board Meeting - Executive Session
2. September 29, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting

The meeting was opened for public comments at 9:46 p.m.

Lauren De, SP Thank you for lunch. Looking for a better lunch. Thankful for diversity training.

Joan Peters, Clark Thanked Dr. McGarry for his presentation. Thank you for pushing for diversity and inclusion. She highly recommends Dr. Joshi.

The meeting was opened for public comments at 9:51 p.m.

Good Of The Order

Mr. Murray Congratulations to Girls Soccer. Big Win against Woodbridge Friday Night. The lights bring out the community.

Motion by Mr. Murray, seconded by Ms. Winkler at 10:01 p.m., that the Board of Education adjourns.

Carried 9-0-0



Christopher Jones
Board Secretary