

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Public Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2022

Dr. Kulikowski called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Administration Building, 512 Cedar Street, Scotch Plains.

Members Present Ms. Nancy Bauer
 Mrs. Amy Boroff
 Mrs. Karen Mitchell
 Ms. Stephanie Suriani
 Ms. Tonya Williams
 Ms. Amy Winkler
 Dr. Karen Kulikowski, President

Members Absent Ms. Deb Brody
 Mr. Evan Murray, Vice 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 Services
 Douglas Silvestro, Esq., Board Attorney

Motion by Ms. Bauer, seconded by Mrs. Boroff at 7:34 p.m., that the Board of Education adopts the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education must discuss subjects concerning Personnel, HIB, Suspensions/Detention Report, and Legal Status Report; 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.

Carried 7-0-0

The meeting returned to public session at 8:05 p.m.

Members Present Ms. Nancy Bauer
 Mrs. Amy Boroff
 Mrs. Karen Mitchell
 Ms. Stephanie Suriani
 Ms. Tonya Williams
 Ms. Amy Winkler
 Dr. Karen Kulikowski, President

Members Absent Ms. Deb Brody
 Mr. Evan Murray, Vice President

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Kulikowski reported that Personnel, HIB, Suspensions/Detention Report, and Legal Status Report were discussed in Executive Session.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Mast reported on the Mental Health Program that was held at the district.

Business Administrator’s Report

Christopher Jones deferred to the budget presentation.

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

- Mike Noriega and Jennifer Applebee from the Educational Enrichment Foundation (EEF) Recognize 2021-2022 Grant Recipients
- 2022-2023 Proposed School Budget Presentation by Christopher Jones

2022-2023 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

Motion by Ms. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Williams, that the Board of Education approves to adopt the Tentative Budget for FY 2022-2023:

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2022-2023 School Year using the 2022-2023 state aid figures and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	GENERAL	SPECIAL	DEBT	
	FUND	REVENUES	SERVICE	TOTAL
2022-2023 Total Expenditures	\$107,689,477	\$2,767,509	\$758,500	\$111,215,486
Less: Capital Reserve Withdrawal	0	0	0	0
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$10,417,513	\$2,767,509	0	\$13,185,022
Taxes to be Raised	\$97,271,964	0	\$758,500	\$98,030,464

And to advertise said proposed budget in the *Union County Hawk* and the *Star Ledger*, local newspapers, in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education Building located at 512 Cedar Street, Scotch Plains, New Jersey on April 28, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2022-2023 School Year.

Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement 2022-2023

WHEREAS, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education established \$250,000 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$26,679 as of March 10, 2022; now

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$250,000 for the 2022-2023 school year.

Carried 7-0-0

The meeting was open for public comments at 8:46 p.m.

John Dening, SP - Expressed concerns related to the new health curriculum

Susan Hachera, SP - Expressed concerns related to the new health curriculum

Public comments ended at 8:53 p.m.

Committee Reports

Finance - Report by Ms. Bauer

Student Activities and Athletic - Reported by Ms. Bauer

Wellness and Equity - Report by Ms. Winkler

Letters to the Board

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

Board Motions

Curriculum Report

For 2-C, 4-C, and 5-C:

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

1-C Approved March 10, 2022

2-C approves the superintendent's decisions in the following HIB cases discussed in Executive Session on March 10, 2022. Of the five cases, one case was determined to be HIB.

Case#: 060-2122-08
Case#: 065-2122-08
Case#: 050-2122-006
Case#: 065-2122-09
Case#: 070-2122-03

3-C Approved March 10, 2022

4-C approves the following Field Trip:

- Joan Jennings and Joe Roskin (QUEST teachers) are requesting that Nettingham and Terrill Middle Schools 8th grade QUEST students (approximately 39 students and 4 chaperones) go to Macculloch Hall Historical Museum, 45 Macculloch Ave, Morristown, NJ 07960. Date TBD: possibly May 12, May 18 or May 19, 2022. Students will participate in an architecture program that will include hands-on activities and a walking tour of the various architectural styles in the surrounding historical district. This will support the QUEST architecture unit by helping students explore the history and culture through architecture in a local NJ neighborhood. Students will apply what they've learned on the trip to the unit project.

5-C approves the attached 2022 Creative Summer Workshop Offerings.

Carried 7-0-0

Personnel Report

1-PERS Motion by Ms. Winkler, seconded by Mrs. Boroff that the Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendations for personnel on the Personnel Report dated March 24, 2022 in the areas noted below:

1. Resignations/Terminations
2. Change of Status
3. Leaves of Absence
4. Sixth Period Assignments
5. Job Description
6. Auxiliary Employment
7. Substitute Staff - as needed for the 2021-2022 School Year

Carried 7-0-0 on a roll call vote

Business Report

For all applicable BUS items:

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

- 1-BUS Approved March 10, 2022
- 2-BUS Approved March 10, 2022
- 3-BUS approves the renewal subscription invoice from Raptor Technologies in the amount of \$5,625 under the ESCNJ BID #19/20-33 for the Visitor Management System for the eight schools and the administration building.
- 4-BUS Removed
- 5-BUS approves the \$3,000 anonymous donation to Evergreen Elementary first grade, art, and music teachers for classroom supplies.
- 6-BUS acknowledges receipt of the district schools Security and Fire Drill Reports for the month of February 2022.
- 7-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 February 28, 2022,, 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 February 28, 2022.

8-BUS acknowledges receipt of the following disbursement listings dated February 28, 2022:

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

9-BUS approves bills for the period of February 23, 2022 through March 18, 2022 in the amount of \$5,531,916.19.

10-BUS Approved March 10, 2022

11-BUS approves the renewal of the professional services contract with Effective School Solutions, LLC, Summit, NJ pertaining to in-district clinical services including, but not limited to, therapeutic mental health services for at-risk students with emotional and behavioral problems at the High School and Terrill, applicable to the 2022 Summer Program and the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$389,120, per the Board's determined need to render these services in district for students found to be eligible.

12-BUS approves the acceptance of the following EEF Grant awards:

Grant Name	Participants	Summary	Funded Amt
Women in STEM and Business Career Exploration Night	Kristine Lockwood, Marjorie FitzGibbon, and Cynthia Prybella - SPFHS	Grades 9-10: Freshman and sophomore high school girls will learn about STEM and business career opportunities, as well as network with female professionals/role models through a career night event.	\$450

Expanding Musicianship Skills through Orff Instruments	Lyndsey Larsen - School One Elementary	Grades 1-4: Elementary students' musicianship skills will be enhanced through the use of Orff instruments. Skills include performing music, reading written music, defining aural skills through performance, composing music, and enhancing creative thought.	\$1,825
Finding Our Diverse Voices through Dance	Barbara Prestridge - Nettingham Middle School	Grades 6-8: Students will learn African dance and storytelling from a dancer-in-residence. Class activities will embrace diversity through the teaching of African dances and their influences on contemporary dance, as well as through the accompaniment of student percussionists.	\$2,000
Terrapins in the Classroom	Zach Rittner - SPFHS	Grades 11-12: This grant will facilitate the development of a Headstart Program to raise baby Northern diamondback terrapins at SPFHS in association with Project Terrapin.	\$400
Story Works	Elena DePaolo - Terrill Middle School	Grade 5: Scholastic's Storyworks publications will be used to encourage students to read different genres and to ignite interest in non-fiction reading. The goal is to increase student performance in reading and writing.	\$214
Integrating Robotics and Coding through Hands-On Experiences and Non-fiction Reading	Sasha Slocum and John Lohn - McGinn Elementary	Grades 1-4: Students will gain access to non-fiction texts that supplement existing resources for coding and programming in the library and in classrooms. Students will learn about the evolution of and interconnectedness of robotics materials.	\$381
Reinforcing Raider Robotics 2022 (RRR 2022)	Matthew Ducker Duffy, Jason Tannenbaum, Jazlyn Navarro,	Grades 9-12: A student-led initiative to provide Raider Robotics more resources to better support its members throughout the learning process and to	\$2,034

	Saanvi Suresh, Virginia Nanton, and Sara Fevrier - SPFHS	help them in efforts of being STEM leaders in the district.	
Move to Succeed	Kimberly Loschiavo, Brianna Tufaro, Cailin Frantz, and Dr. Karen Wetherell - Coles Elementary	Grades PreK-4: A whole school approach will integrate sensory tools and strategies to help increase student self-regulation and decrease disruptive and distractible behaviors. This will impact all learners within the classroom and hallways by enhancing the learning environment and increasing student academic and behavioral successes across content areas.	\$995
Teacher, Teacher Quite Contrary How Does Your “Vertical Gardyn” Grow? With Lots of Kids and Really Cool Technology	Charlene Hall, Ellyn Gorman, Jessica Brzezinski, Genna Pepe, and Gabriella Marino - Brunner Elementary	Grade 3: Students will research plants of diverse cultures and enhance their technology skills by growing food using a vertical garden with the support of artificial intelligence.	\$1,685
Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Community Garden	Meaghan Whitesides, Noel Baxter, and Dr. David Heisey - SPFHS	Grades 9-12: A school garden will be established at SPFHS that will be used for a variety of academic and social-emotional learning opportunities. The garden will help students to learn life lessons about self-sufficiency and will also provide many opportunities for community connections.	\$2,350
		2022-2023 Total Grants	\$12,334
13-BUS	Moved to 5-C		
14-BUS	approves the staff training report and addendum dated March 24, 2020.		

15-BUS approves the following related service vendor for 2021-2022 SY:

Related Service	Service Provider	Current Yr	Hourly Rate
Interpreter	Rodriguez Nativo LLC	\$500	\$150/hour

16-BUS approves the disposal of 29 books from the Terrill Media Center for the following reasons: obsolete, outdated, and not checked out for five or more years.

17-BUS approves submission of the 2022-2023 ELLI Grant Application for preschool plan funding in the amount of \$49,500.

18-BUS approves agreement with Nisivoccia LLP to provide the auditing services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 at a cost of \$59,000 (2% increase). The district also is required to implement GASB 87 “Leases” so there will be additional costs to be determined once the full impact of implementation can be assessed. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Professional Service” under the provisions of the Public School Contracts Law.

19-BUS approves the addition of the high school bleachers to the Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) for approximately \$226,000.

20-BUS approves acceptance of the Athletic Transportation Bid Award, through the Union County Educational Services Commission, to Golden Arrow Transportation, 745 North Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07062 to paid on an hourly rate for an estimated total of \$10,000 effective March 28, 2022.

21-BUS approves the specifications and advertisements for the General Education Transportation Routes Bid and the Activities and Athletic Transportation Bid for 2022-2023.

Carried 7-0-0

Other Board Business

4-OBB Motion by Ms. Winkler, seconded by Ms. Williams, that the Board of Education adopts the following Autism Awareness resolution:

WHEREAS, autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder that results in difficulties with communication and social interaction, as well as repetitive behaviors;

WHEREAS, autism can affect anyone regardless of race, ethnicity, or other factors;

WHEREAS, it is both a moral and fiscal imperative that services be made available that maximize the potential of each unique child/adult living with autism to contribute to the greatest extent possible to the society and economy of the United States;

WHEREAS, it is well established that early intervention can improve outcomes by significantly improving the cognitive, language, and adaptive skills of people with autism;

WHEREAS, a variety of physical, medical, and mental health issues may accompany autism, resulting in marked functional impairment in all activities of daily living;

WHEREAS, these conditions may include epilepsy, Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome, gastrointestinal problems, immune-system disorders, sleep disturbance, sensory integration dysfunction, and metabolic disorders;

WHEREAS, many individuals on the autism spectrum face co- occurring mental-health challenges, including anxiety, obsessive compulsions, and depression;

WHEREAS, individuals living with autism are highly valued and deserve the highest level of dignity and acceptance by society; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, April 2022 would be an appropriate month to designate as National Autism Awareness Month to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with autism and the family members and medical professionals who care for individuals with autism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education expresses support designating April 2022 as National Autism Awareness Month; recognizes and commends both individuals living with autism and the parents and relatives of those individuals for their sacrifice and dedication.

Carried 7-0-0

Minutes Executive Session and Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes for February 24, 2022 were approved March 10, 2022.

The meeting was open for public comments at 9:05 p.m.

There were no comments.

Good of the Order

- Mrs. Boroff Complimented Matt Bellace, Ph.D., comedian and psychologist's great presentation, who was introduced by the Mental Health Awareness Club, Mr. Rittner's awesome Wolf Study, and a thank you to the EEF for the amazing grants!
- Ms. Williams Congratulated Girls Track Team.
- Dr. Kulikowski Praised Nettingham's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.
- Mrs. Mitchell Mentioned Movie Night at Nettingham.

Motion by Ms. Williams, seconded by Ms. Winkler at 9:12 p.m., that the Board of Education adjourns.

Carried 7-0-0



Christopher Jones
Board Secretary