

**SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Open Agenda Meeting Minutes**  
**October 14, 2021**

Dr. Kulikowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Auditorium, 667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains.

<b>Members Present</b>	Ms. Nancy Bauer Mrs. Amy Boroff Mrs. Karen Mitchell Ms. Stephanie Suriani Ms. Tonya Williams Ms. Amy Winkler Mr. Evan Murray, Vice President Dr. Karen Kulikowski, President
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<b>Members Absent</b>	Ms. Deb Brody
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<b>Others Present</b>	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 Douglas Silvestro, Esq., Board Attorney
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<b>Members Absent</b>	Lisa Rebimbas, Director of Special Services
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**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Instructional Update**

**Celebration of Newly Tenured Teachers**

Dr. Mast congratulated the twenty-one members of the district community. We celebrate this occasion with those earning tenure who secure the hearts and intellects that guide in partnership with the futures of SPF families with passion, commitment, and resilience with professionalism and expertise.

Administrators Mr. Bortnick, Dr. Wetherwell, Ms. Haubert, Dr. Slocum, Mr. Fiory, Dr. Dumaresq, Dr. Holloway, Dr. McGarry, and Dr. Mast praised their corresponding colleagues earning tenure.

Students Jackson Rozycki, 4th Grader at Coles, Lubow Ferencerych, 8th Grader at Nettingham, Kate Tibbals, 6th Grader at Nettingham, and Saman Zeb, 9th Grader at SPF High School, briefly spoke about how meaningful the teachers are to them.

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

**WHEREAS**, the Mission of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools is to educate and empower our community of individual learners to be successful citizens of the world; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education will always expect exceptional performance by staff, will always hire only the most qualified candidates, and will promote the maximum performance and achievement of every student and staff member; and,

**WHEREAS**, the following teachers and support staff are deserving of receiving tenure in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools this year:

**Brunner Elementary  
School**

Kenneth Buckalo  
Breanna Marin

**William J. McGinn  
Elementary School**

Kerri Horvath  
Cheryl Ward

**Scotch Plains-Fanwood  
HS**

Hitisha Patel

**Department of Special  
Services**

Agnieszka DeLuca

**J. Ackerman Coles  
Elementary School**

Nicole Krupa  
Lori Travers

**School One  
Elementary School**

Madison Savulich

**Malcolm E.  
Nettingham  
Middle School**

Cybil Brown  
Angela Camilleri

**District**

Lisa Howard  
Wayne Mallette

**Evergreen  
Elementary  
School**

Erica Bruns  
Scott Fourre  
Emily Koprowski  
Kathleen  
McArdle

**Terrill Middle  
School**

Suprit Dharmi  
Lauren Mains  
Amanda Wolf

**Human  
Resources**

Peter Pitucco

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education recognizes and congratulates these newly tenured teachers, administrators and support staff; and offers our support and best wishes as they continue to diligently work with our students and their peers in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools.

Carried 8-0-0 on a roll call vote

Motion by Mr. Murray, seconded by Ms. Winkler at 7:39, 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 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.

Carried 8-0-0

The meeting returned to public session at 8:15 p.m.

<b>Members Present</b>	Ms. Nancy Bauer Mrs. Amy Boroff Mrs. Karen Mitchell Ms. Stephanie Suriani Ms. Tonya Williams Ms. Amy Winkler Mr. Evan Murray, Vice President Dr. Karen Kulikowski, President
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<b>Members Absent</b>	Ms. Deb Brody
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Dr. Kulikowski reported the Personnel Agenda, Suspensions/Detentions Report, HIB, and Legal Status Report were discussed in Executive Session.

Dr. Mast reported that, while there have been some positive Covid cases and quarantining, we have not seen strong evidence of in school transmission. We are in touch with the Board of Health regularly and asked them to consider reducing the number of quarantine days.

We are excited to start the second session of the Strategic Planning and encourage participation to help build a strong district and strong futures. Back to School Nights for all schools were virtual and we received positive feedback. Friday was Seniors' Night for Football, Marching Band, and Cheerleading and ended with a very exciting game win against Linden.

Mr. Jones indicated he did not have updates at this time.

### **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.

The meeting was opened for public comment at 8:25 p.m.

Kim Bongiorno, SP Thanks to Dr. Joshi for coming to the school. It was very helpful. Also, the REAL Parents had a book initiative and collected 132 books and thank you for the gift and helping to make a connection with all children.

Public comments ended at 8:29 p.m.

### **Committee Report**

Facilities	Reported by Mr. Murray - IDA Damage Claim update - High School damages include the Media Center, counselor offices and science rooms and also Media Center at Park; Dude Solutions - assessing information requirements, process for implementation; Concrete around the district; Examining Covid Testing setup and possible coordination with Mirimus; Pomptonian is serving hot food at the high school and will move to other schools after workflow is determined; Assessment of redevelopment in Scotch Plains and Fanwood continues.
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## **Letters To The Board**

Five emails were received from the public and the appropriate administrator responded.

## **Board Motions**

### **Curriculum Report**

- 1-C Motion by Mrs. Boroff, seconded by Ms. Suriani, that the Board of Education affirms the Superintendent's decision in the one Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) case # 050-2122-001 reported in Executive Session on September 29, 2021 was determined not to be HIB.

Carried 7-0-1, Mr. Murray abstained

Dr. Mast reviewed the following for vote at the next meeting:

- 2-C Out of district placements - possible  
3-C Student Calendar  
4-C October 15, 2021 enrollment numbers

- 1-PERS Motion by Mr. Murray, seconded by Ms. Suriani, that the Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendations for personnel on the Personnel Report dated October 14, 2021 in the areas noted below:

1. Retirements
2. Resignations/Terminations
3. Appointments
4. Change of Status
5. Leaves of Absence
6. Co-Curricular Appointments - 2021-2022 School Year
7. Repertory Theater - 2021-2022 School Year
8. Auxiliary Athletic Events Personnel 2021-2022 School Year
9. Substitute Staff – as needed for 2021-2022 school year
10. Home Instructors - as needed for 2021-2022 school year

Carried 8-0-0 on a roll call vote

## Business Report

1-BUS Motion by Mr. Murray, seconded by Ms. Williams, that the Board of Education approves the staff training report dated October 14, 2021:

<b>Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools</b> <b>Board Approval for Staff Training and Seminars, Conventions and Conferences</b> <b>Board Meeting: October 14, 2021</b>						
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	Teaching and Modeling Behavior Course and Fine NJSIAA Requirement for all Disqualified Coaches	Date TBD  Virtual course	\$100.00  (registration for course)	Participate in virtual course in teaching and modeling behavior course and fine NJSIAA requirement for all disqualified coaches.	Sept. 27, 2021	Oct. 14, 2021
Seven	Suicide Prevention in School Setting: Identification and Intervention	Oct. 18, 2021  Virtual webinar	\$60.00 each  (registration)	Learn how to identify students at risk for suicide. Learn risk factors and indicators and policies and procedures in addressing this issues will be explored.	Oct. 1, 2021	Oct. 14, 2021
One	Strengthening Essay Writing Skills of Students who Experience Difficulty	Oct. 22, 2021  Virtual workshop	\$75.00  (registration)	Learn research-validated strategies for strengthening	Oct. 1, 2021	Oct. 14, 2021

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	with the Writing Process			essay-writing quality and supporting self-regulation skills among students who experience difficulty with the essay process.		
One	Baseball History as American History	Oct. 22, 2021 Rutgers University	\$35.00 (registration)	Learn the role baseball has played in American History for US 1 and US 2 curriculums.	Sept. 30, 2021	Oct. 14, 2021
Three	Tri-State Consortium Introductory Training	Dec. 7-8, 2021 Rye, NY	\$390.00 each (Registration for 2 day training)	Attend Tri-State Consortium Introductory Training	Sept. 21, 2021	Oct. 14, 2021
One	Bolshevik Russia and Nazis Germany War of Annihilation	Mar. 25, 2022 Rutgers University	\$10.00 (registration)	The conference will cover the growth of Nazi Germany during and right after the Bolshevik Revolution.	Oct. 1, 2021	Oct. 14, 2021
Two	Pensions – North Jersey	Oct. 19, 2021 Whippany, NJ	\$100.00 each (registration)	Learn about the retirement systems from two standpoints: as an administrator in the district and personal role as a member of	Oct. 13, 2021	Oct. 14, 2021

				the system.		
Two	Maintaining and Protecting School Buildings – North Jersey	Nov. 16, 2021 Whippany, NJ	\$100.00 each (registration)	Workshop will address the preventative maintenance required to ensure that the school building is safe for all students and staff.	Oct. 13, 2021	Oct. 14, 2021
Two	Open Public Records Act and Records Management – North Jersey	Dec. 21, 2021 Whippany, NJ	\$100.00 each (registration)	Learn an overview of the Open Public Records Act and Records Management as it applies to school districts.	Oct. 13, 2021	Oct. 14, 2021
Two	Financial Planning – North Jersey	Jan. 20, 2022 Whippany, NJ	\$100.00 each (registration)	Learn the basics of financial planning and income tax planning and what leads to financial life.	Oct. 13, 2021	Oct. 14, 2021
Two	School Law and Legislation Update – North Jersey	Feb. 22, 2022 Whippany, NJ	\$100.00 each (registration)	Workshop will discuss updates on school law and legislation updates.	Oct. 13, 2021	Oct. 14, 2021

Carried 8-0-0

Mr. Jones reviewed the following business items:



2-BUS	Related Services vendors
3-BUS	Special Education Transportation Contract
4-BUS	Global Mark Security LLC
5-BUS	Purchasing Agent
6-BUS	2022-2023 Tentative Budget Calendar.
7-BUS	Theater Vendors
8-BUS	Student Athletic Transportation Bid
9-BUS	Payment of Bills Between Board Meetings
10-BUS	Sidebar Nurse Stipend Agreement
11-BUS	Security and Fire Drill Reports
12-BUS	Receipt of Board Secretary's Reports, Treasurer of School Funds Reports, and Budget Adjustments:
13-BUS	Disbursement listings
14-BUS	Bill List

### **Other Board Business**

#### **Liaison Reports**

Shared Services	Ms. Winkler reported that both SP and FW were hit hard by IDA, community events like The Rose Checchio walk for breast cancer, Scotch Plains Day, Fanny Wood Day, Walk to School Day took place; Dan Mason of JPM suggested the budgets and aid received from Federal and State governments from SP, FW, and BOE be discussed; Police programs include a Beer Garden, Coffee with a Cop, Faith and Blue, Raiders - Don't Risk It with senior class and LEAD and Cops and Kids planned for spring.
Union Co. SBA	Dr. Kulikowski reported that the recent program was highly attended virtually and in person.

The meeting was opened for public comments at 8:45 p.m. There were no comments.

### **Good of The Order**

Mrs. Mitchell	Remind your students to use crosswalks.
Mr. Murray	Congratulations to Girls Varsity Tennis Group 3 for defeating Mainland in the Semis and Tenaflly in the Finals.
Mr. Pitucco	90.5% of staff is vaccinated.

Dr. McGarry                Thank you to the SPF REAL Parents for the gift to the Media Center;  
Great Professional Development Day on Monday - thank you to the  
Supervisors and Administrators who lent their valuable skills.

Mrs. Boroff                Wanted to acknowledge the Tenure Ceremony - great to see such a large  
number of skilled people dedicated to the children and the district. Also,  
thank you to Dr. Mast for talking to the Board of Health about possibly  
easing the 14-day Quarantine and still abiding by its current guidelines.

Ms. Suriani                Thanks to the IT Team for preparing iPads for students and providing  
services.

Dr. Kulikowski            Thank you to the League of Women Voters and PTA Council for the  
Annual Candidates Night.

Motion by Mr. Murray, seconded by Ms. Williams, at 8:53 p.m. that the Board of Education  
adjourns.

Carried 8-0-0

  
Christopher Jones  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary