

BOARD OF EDUCATION
WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
January 22, 2024
Board Secretary's Memorandum

DATE

Monday, January 22, 2024

PLACE

MS Cafeteria Classroom

EXECUTIVE SESSION

5:15 P.M.

ADJOURNED

6:40 P.M.

CALLED TO ORDER

7:06 P.M.

ADJOURNED

8:11 P.M.

OPEN MEETING

Ms. Maryadele Wojtowicz, Board President, presided and voiced the call to order in Executive Session at 5:15 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Ms. Sacco-Calderone Seconded by Mr. Schaer to approve the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-11, permits boards of education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Essex Regional Board of Education adjourns to Executive Session to discuss Personnel, Student, Negotiations and/or Litigation matters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that public release of these discussions will occur when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

OPEN MEETING:

The Board will reconvene from Executive Session and Ms. Maryadele Wojtowicz, President, will presided and voiced the call to order at 7:06 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Ms. B. Buccino

Ms. L. Cristobal

Ms. D. Holinstat - Absent

Mr. F. Perrotti

Ms. D. Sacco-Calderone – Vice President

Mr. J. Schaer – Arrived at 5:19 P.M.

Mr. R. Stampone – Arrived at 5:17 P.M.

Ms. M. Wojtowicz –President

Administration:

Mr. Damion Macioci, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Melissa Kida, Board Secretary/Business Administrator

West Essex Regional Board of Education
MINUTES– January 22, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING:

Notice of the January 22, 2024 meeting of the Board of Education was e-mailed to the Clerks of the Boroughs of Essex Fells, North Caldwell and Roseland and to the Township of Fairfield, and to the editor of The Progress on January 5, 2024 and The Star Ledger on the same day.

Motion by Mr. Schaer Seconded by Mr. Perrotti to approve the following motion:

To approve the resignation of **Brian Trauman** from the West Essex Regional Board of Education effective January 8, 2024.

ROLL CALL:	Yes:	Ms. Buccino, Mr. Perrotti, Ms. Sacco-Calderone, Mr. Schaer, Mr. Stampone, and Ms. Wojtowicz
	No:	None
	Abstain:	Ms. Cristobal
	Absent:	Ms. Holinstat

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following unfinished business motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items **1 - 3**, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by Ms. Sacco-Calderone Seconded by Mr. Schaer to approve the following motions:

1. BOARD COMMITTEES & DELEGATES

RESOLVED, that the West Essex Regional School District Board of Education approves the following Board Committees and Delegates, from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024:

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION	FINANCE & PHYSICAL PLANT MGMT
Frank Perrotti, Chair	Raphael Stampone, Chair
Bethany Buccino	Deborah Sacco-Calderone
Debbie Holinstat	Jonathan Schaer
POLICY	SAFETY & SECURITY
Bethany Buccino, Chair	Jonathan Schaer, Chair
Laila Cristobal	Frank Perrotti
	Raphael Stampone

NEGOTIATIONS – WECMA
Debbie Holinstat, Chair
Deborah Sacco-Calderone
Maryadele Wojtowicz

[NOTE: Ms. Wojtowicz, Board President, is an ex-officio member of all Committees.]

West Essex Regional Board of Education
MINUTES– January 22, 2024

2. DELEGATE TO COUNTY SBA

RESOLVED, that the West Essex Regional School District Board of Education approves **Debbie Holinstat** as Delegate to the Essex County School Boards Association, at the recommendation of the Board President, from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

3. DELEGATE TO NJSBA

RESOLVED, that the West Essex Regional School District Board of Education approves **Maryadele Wojtowicz** and **Deborah Sacco-Calderone** as Delegates to the New Jersey School Boards Association, at the recommendation of the Board President, from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

ROLL CALL:	Yes:	Ms. Buccino, Mr. Perrotti, Ms. Sacco-Calderone, Mr. Schaer, Mr. Stampone, and Ms. Wojtowicz
	No:	None
	Abstain:	Ms. Cristobal
	Absent:	Ms. Holinstat

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Ms. Maryadele Wojowicz thanked Mr. Trauman for his time and service on the Board. She acknowledged the retirement of Mr. Anthony Minnella, Athletic Director, who has been with the district for 33 years. She wished both well in the future. Ms. Wojtowicz mentioned that January is School Board Appreciation Month and recognized our Board, thanking all for their time and service. There will be a county meeting on January 31, 2024 and invited all Board members to attend the virtual meeting. She also reminded the Board of the upcoming Board Retreat on February 7, 2024.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Mr. Macioci thanked the Board members for all that they do. He commented on Mr. Minnella’s commitment to his position with the district and wished him the best in his retirement. Mr. Macioci commented on the weather conditions in the past few weeks and thanked the community for their support and understanding and he thanked the Principals for their flexibility with the adjustments to the Mid-Term schedule. Summer Enrichment registration was rolled out this evening and thanked Mr. Gupta the early rollout.

Mr. Macioci introduced Joslyn deGuzman, Student Board Representative, who spoke about events in the month of January. Ms. deGuzman outlined the activities in conjunction with the No Place for Hate program. Ms. deGuzman commented on the changes in schedules due to the weather and thanked the district for their empathy and understanding with the students who were unable to attend school due to the floods. She thanked the Board for adjusting the Mid-Term schedule.

West Essex Regional Board of Education
MINUTES– January 22, 2024

PRINCIPAL’S REPORTS:

Dr. Gina Donlevie, Middle School Principal discussed the following:

- 6th Grade Parent Night – Outlined the events of the night, thanked the Guidance Staff, Assistant Principal Mrs. Tamburri, and WE Lead 8th Grade Students Vivian Fiore and Marlo Derian
- Michael Fowlin - Upcoming presentation to 7th/8th Grade Students

Mr. Caesar Diliberto, High School Principal, discussed the following:

- E-Sports – West Essex is considered one of the premiere programs, and proud of our first E-Sports Scholar, Nicholas Lever
- Coach Michael Markey Accomplishments – 100th Career Wins in Wrestling, team is currently undefeated, and coach of the year.
- Region Ensembles – students accepted were recognized
- Dance Team Showcase - February 3, 2024
- Key Club – Restock the Pantry

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Ms. Wojtowicz commented that the Lever family is pleased with the E-Sports program and thrilled for their son to be awarded this scholarship. **Mr. Schaer** also commented on the scholarship opportunity. **Mr. Perrotti** asked if E-Sports is regulated under the NJSIA Mr. Diliberto responded.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Wojtowicz opened the floor to the public for comments on agenda items only. Hearing none, she closed the floor and resumed the meeting.

West Essex Regional Board of Education
FINANCE– January 22, 2024

The following finance motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items 1- 5, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by Mr. Stampone Seconded by Mr. Schaer to approve the following motions:

West Essex Regional Board of Education
FINANCE– January 22, 2024

1. To approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for **December, 2023**, in the amount of **\$23,355,543.31** Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a), the West Essex Regional School District Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the secretary's certification, and after review of the monthly financial report (appropriations section) certifies that, to the best of its knowledge, as of **December, 2023**, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Enclosures 1F – 51F

2. To approve the bills and claims **check number 053335** and **check number 053343** through **check number 053458** and **check number 053465** through **check number 053569**.
Payroll check number 501190 and **check number 501191** and **check number 510749** and **check number 510750**.
Void check numbers 055249, 053337 through **053342, 053459** through **053464**,
Totaling: \$2,466,717.36

Enclosures 52F – 58F

3. To approve the **Student Activity Check Register** from January 3, 2024 through January 19, 2024, **check number 15507** through **check number 15588**.
Void Check Numbers: None
Totaling: \$31,744.68

Enclosures 59F-67F

4. To approve the Reorganization Meeting Minutes of **January 4, 2024**.

Enclosures 68F – 83F

5. To approve the Executive Session Minutes of **January 4, 2024**.

Enclosure 84F

ROLL CALL:	Yes:	Ms. Buccino, Mr. Perrotti, Ms. Sacco-Calderone, Mr. Schaer, Mr. Stampone, and Ms. Wojtowicz
	No:	None
	Abstain:	Ms. Cristobal
	Absent:	Ms. Holinstat

West Essex Regional Board of Education
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – January 22, 2024

The following building & grounds motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

West Essex Regional Board of Education
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – January 22, 2024

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Item 1, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by **Ms. Buccino** Seconded by **Mr. Stampone** to approve the following motions:

- To approve the following application for **Use of Facilities** with the appropriate fees in accordance with **Board Policy #7510**:

Organization	Priority	Event	Facilities	Date(s)	Fees
Fairfield Recreation	3	Volleyball Clinic	High School Main Gym	Sundays 1/14, 1/21/ 1/28/ 2/4, 2/11, 2/25, & 3/3/24	No Cost
Fairfield Recreation	3	Wrestling Tournament	High School Main Gym and Aux Gym	Sundays 02/04 & 02/18/24	No Cost

ROLL CALL: Yes: Ms. Buccino, Mr. Perrotti, Ms. Sacco-Calderone,
 Mr. Schaer, Mr. Stampone, and Ms. Wojtowicz
 No: None
 Abstain: Ms. Cristobal
 Absent: Ms. Holinstat

West Essex Regional Board of Education
PERSONNEL – January 22, 2024

The following personnel motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items 1- 7, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by **Jonathan Schaer** Seconded by **Mr. Stampone** to approve the following motions:

- To approve the resignation of the following staff member(s):

Name	Position	Reason	Location	Last Day of Employment
Anthony Minnella	Athletic Director	Retirement	WERSD	6/30/2024

- To approve the appointment(s) of the following staff members, for the 2023/2024 school year, pending receipt of mandatory paperwork in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18-A:6-7.9:

Name	Location/ Position	Tenure Track or Leave Replacement	Replacing or New Position	Guide	Step	Salary/Hourly Rate	Effective Date(s) on or about
Mia Faieta	HS Business Teacher	Tenure Track	Brittany Whitford	WEEA	BA/Step 1-2	\$59,386	1/23/2024

West Essex Regional Board of Education
PERSONNEL – January 22, 2024

3. To approve the appointment(s) of the following substitute staff members for the 2023/2024 school year, pending receipt of mandatory paperwork in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18-A:6-7.9:

Name	Position	Daily Rate	Effective Date(s)
Carol Storms	Substitute Nurse	\$250/day	1/23/2024
Juliana Morella	Substitute Teacher/Substitute Aide	\$125/day	1/23/2024

4. To approve the following Middle School teacher(s) for a 3/5ths of a 6th period assignment (**WE Rise**), for the 2023/2024 school year, at the negotiated rate of \$6,300, prorated, as per WEEA contract:

Subject	Teacher	Effective Date
Science 7	Paula Arbadji	01/17/2024

5. To approve the following **2023/2024 Winter** Coaching appointments:

Sport	Candidate	Position	Step	Stipend
Boys Basketball	Jason Ahmed	Assistant	5	\$7,771
E-Sports	Michael Johnson	Head Coach	3	\$6,703
E-Sports	Steven Siragusa	Assistant	1	\$4,589

6. To approve the following volunteer coaching appointment for the **2023/2024 Spring** season:

Joseph DeGiacomo	Baseball
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7. To approve the following Leave of Absence(s) for the 2023/2024 school year:

Name	Position	Type of Leave	LOA w/ pay	FMLA w/o Pay, w/ Benefits	LOA w/o Pay, w/o Benefits	Return Date, on or about
Olivia Macaluso	WEHS Teacher of English	Medical	02/20/2024 - 03/07/2024	03/08/2024 – 06/07/2024	06/10/2024 – 01/31/2025	02/03/2025

ROLL CALL: Yes: Ms. Buccino, Mr. Perrotti, Ms. Sacco-Calderone, Mr. Schaer, Mr. Stampone, and Ms. Wojtowicz
 No: None
 Abstain: Ms. Cristobal
 Absent: Ms. Holinstat

West Essex Regional Board of Education
CURRICULUM/SPECIAL EDUCATION – January 22, 2024

The following curriculum/special education motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Item 1, will be voted upon in one motion.

West Essex Regional Board of Education
CURRICULUM/SPECIAL EDUCATION – January 22, 2024

Motion by Mr. Perrotti Seconded by Mr. Stampone to approve the following motions:

- To approve the following parent volunteer chaperones for the Middle School Band trip to Tenaflly Middle School, on Wednesday, April 24, 2024:

Michael Ciallella	Jenni Fishbein	Anna McLoren	Annie Michalski
Dipti Rand	Allison Stupak	Angela Vega	

ROLL CALL:

Yes:	Ms. Buccino, Mr. Perrotti, Ms. Sacco-Calderone, Mr. Schaer, Mr. Stampone, and Ms. Wojtowicz
No:	None
Abstain:	Ms. Cristobal
Absent:	Ms. Holinstat

West Essex Regional Board of Education
MISCELLANEOUS – January 22, 2024

The following miscellaneous motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items 1 - 3, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by Ms. Deborah Sacco-Calderone Seconded by Mr. Schaer to approve the following motions:

- To approve the following revisions to the **2024/2025 school calendar**:
 - Monday, January 22, 2024 – From Single Session day to Full Day
 - Friday, January 26, 2024 – From Full Day to Single Session Day
(NOTE: Tuesday, January 23, Wednesday, January 24, and Thursday, January 25, 2024 remain Single Session Days)
- To approve the *amended* 2023/2024 transportation bus routes, as appended.

Enclosures 1M-2M

- BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 008 (HS) for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

ROLL CALL:

Yes:	Ms. Buccino, Mr. Perrotti, Ms. Sacco-Calderone, Mr. Schaer, Mr. Stampone, and Ms. Wojtowicz
No:	None
Abstain:	Ms. Cristobal
Absent:	Ms. Holinstat

West Essex Regional Board of Education
MINUTES – January 22, 2024

Ms. Wojtowicz opened the floor to the public for comments on non-agenda items. Hearing none, she closed the floor and resumed the meeting.

Ms. Wojtowicz explained the candidate interview process to all present. She introduced Mr. Joseph Sabol, the lone candidate for the vacant North Caldwell Board of Education seat.

Board members interviewed Mr. Sabol using a prepared set of questions.

Immediately following the interview, Ms. Wojtowicz, Board President, suggested the Board take a brief recess to discuss the candidate interviewed to fill the vacant North Caldwell seat.

RECESS: 8:05 PM

RETURN FROM RECESS: 8:06 PM

During the recess, the Board discussed Mr. Sabol's qualifications and he was unanimously approved by the present Board members for his appointment, with the following motion made:

Motion by Mr. Perrotti Seconded by Mr. Schaer to approve the following motion:

Motion to appoint **Joseph Sabol** to fill the vacant Fairfield seat on the West Essex Board of Education for the remainder of the term until the school election in November 2024.

ROLL CALL:	Yes:	Ms. Buccino, Ms. Cristobal, Mr. Perrotti, Ms. Sacco-Calderone, Mr. Schaer, Mr. Stampone, and Ms. Wojtowicz
	No:	None
	Abstain:	None
	Absent:	Ms. Holinstat

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Sacco-Calderone Seconded by Mr. Schaer at **8:11 PM**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business before this Board of Education, BE IT RESOLVED that this public meeting be adjourned and that the Board enters into private session to discuss matters of personnel, negotiations and litigation with the possibility of reconvening to public session to conduct additional business. The matters discussed in executive session will be disclosed to the public when the need to maintain their confidentiality no longer exists.

President

Business Administrator/Board Secretary