

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
January 25, 2021
Board Secretary's Memorandum**

In accordance with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Local Operational Guidance – Covid-19: Guidance for Remote Public Meetings in New Jersey.

DATE

Monday, January 25, 2021

PLACE

Remote Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION

6:36 P.M.

ADJOURNED

7:00 P.M.

CALLED TO ORDER

7:33 P.M.

ADJOURNED

9:08 P.M.

OPEN MEETING:

Ms. Maryadele Wojtowicz, Board President, presided and voiced the call to order in Executive Session at 6:36 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Ms. Egan Seconded by Ms. Sacco-Calderone 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 reconvened from Executive Session and Ms. Maryadele Wojtowicz, President, presided and voiced the call to order at 7:33 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Ms. C. Egan

Ms. A. Fahey

Ms. J. Marcus

Mr. F. Perrotti

Mr. A. Rubinich

Ms. D. Sacco-Calderone – Vice-President – Arrived at 6:38 PM

Ms. J. Skelton

Mr. R. Stampone

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 25, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING:

Notice of the January 25, 2021 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 7, 2021 and The Star Ledger on the same day.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Ms. Wojtowicz commended staff members on their efforts to schedule more in-person class time for students for the third marking period. Ms. Wojtowicz commended all involved in the HS Masquers virtual performance of The Greek Mythology. Ms. Wojtowicz wished Ms. Rubell, special education teacher, well in her upcoming retirement.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Mr. Macioci commented on the dedication and hard work involved in staging the HS Masquers virtual performance of The Greek Mythology. He wished Ms. Rubell well in her upcoming retirement. Mr. Macioci commented on the return of in-person instruction. Mr. Macioci updated all on the district’s current COVID status. He commented on the start of the winter sports season. Mr. Macioci thanked Administration and the Re-opening Task Force for their efforts to increase in-person instruction for the third marking period.

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM’S REPORT:

Mr. Gupta updated all on the results of the last survey pertaining to the effectiveness of hybrid remote instruction. He stated that respondents were also asked to commit to either remote or in-person instruction for the third marking period. Administration used the results of this latest survey to determine the feasibility of increasing in-person instruction.

PRINCIPALS’ REPORTS:

Dr. Gina Donlevie, Middle School Principal, commented on the district’s commitment to educating the whole child with the goal of bringing more students on campus for in-person instruction. She reported on the middle school’s two-cohort schedule for the third marking period.

Mr. Caesar Diliberto, High School Principal, commented on the upcoming retirements of Lisa Rubell and Janice Emering. He commented on the following:

- The upcoming Senior Ball and Junior Prom
- The Masquers’ virtual production of The Greek Mythology
- Upcoming PSAT’s
- COVID guidelines

Mr. Diliberto stated that, based on the amount of students committing to remote instruction, the high school will begin the third marking period with only one cohort. He reported on plans formulated at the high school to logistically accommodate the increase in students. A question and answer period followed.

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COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS: NONE

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMENTS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Wojtowicz opened the floor to the public for comments on agenda items:

- **Ms. Rita Lodato** thanked Administration for their hard work involved in returning students to campus for increased in-person instruction.

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 Mr. Rubinich Seconded by Ms. Egan 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, 2021 through December 31, 2021:

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION	FINANCE & PHYSICAL PLANT MGMT
Jann Skelton, Chair	Raphael Stampone, Chair
Jill Marcus	Cynthia Egan
Deborah Sacco-Calderone	Frank Perrotti
POLICY	SAFETY & SECURITY
Ann Fahey, Chair	Deborah Sacco-Calderone, Liaison
Frank Perrotti	Jill Marcus
Anthony Rubinich	Raphael Stampone
STRATEGIC PLANNING	SUSTAINABLE JERSEY SCHOOLS
Anthony Rubinich, Liaison	Cynthia Egan, Liaison
Cynthia Egan	Ann Fahey
Deborah Sacco-Calderone	
Jann Skelton	

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

West Essex Regional Board of Education
UNFINISHED BUSINESS – January 25, 2021

2. DELEGATE TO COUNTY SBA

RESOLVED, that the West Essex Regional School District Board of Education approves **Anthony Rubinich** as Delegate to the Essex County School Boards Association, at the recommendation of the Board President, from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

3. DELEGATE TO NJSBA

RESOLVED, that the West Essex Regional School District Board of Education approves **Jann Skelton** as Delegate to the New Jersey School Boards Association, at the recommendation of the Board President, from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. [NOTE: Anthony Rubinich will serve as alternate.]

ROLL CALL:	Yes:	Ms. Egan, Ms. Fahey, Ms. Marcus, Mr. Perrotti, Mr. Rubinich, Ms. Sacco-Calderone, Ms. Skelton, Mr. Stampone and President Wojtowicz
	No:	None
	Abstain:	None
	Absent:	None

West Essex Regional Board of Education
FINANCE– January 25, 2021

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items 1- 8, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by Ms. Egan Seconded by Ms. Wojtowicz to approve the following motions:

1. To approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for **December, 2020**, in the amount of **\$10,993,483.87** 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, 2020**, 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 – 49F

West Essex Regional Board of Education
FINANCE– January 25, 2021

2. To approve the attached transfer report from **December 1, 2020** through **December 31, 2020**.

Enclosure 50F

3. To approve the bills and claims **check number 045572** through **check number 045580** and **check number 045582** through **check number 045681** and **check number 045685** through **check number 045695** and **check number 510629** through **check number 510631**.

Payroll check number 500956 through **check number 500957**.

Void check number 045581, 045682, 045683, and 045684.

Totaling: \$1,995,416.66

Enclosures 51F – 55F

4. To approve the Reorganization/Regular Meeting Minutes of **January 6, 2021**.

Enclosures 56F – 69F

5. To approve the Executive Session Minutes of **January 6, 2021**.

Enclosure 70F

6. To approve submittal of request to the Essex County Superintendent for a waiver from the NJ State Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) for the 2021/2022 school year.

7. To approve the service/consulting agreement with **IMAC Insurance Agency** to provide brokerage and consultancy services for specifically contracted lines of coverage on behalf of the West Essex Regional School District, for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, for a fee of \$65,000.

8. To approve a contract for the 2020/2021 school year with the Borough of Caldwell in the amount of **\$11,600**, for use of the swimming pool at the Caldwell Center by the West Essex Swim Team for home swim meets and practices for the 2020/2021 swim season.

ROLL CALL:	Yes:	Ms. Egan, Ms. Fahey, Ms. Marcus, Mr. Perrotti, Mr. Rubinich, Ms. Sacco-Calderone, Ms. Skelton, Mr. Stampone and President Wojtowicz
	No:	None
	Abstain:	None
	Absent:	None

West Essex Regional Board of Education
CURRICULUM/SPECIAL EDUCATION – January 25, 2021

The following curriculum/special education 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 Ms. Marcus Seconded by Mr. Stampone to approve the following motions:

1. To approve the following requests for Professional Development:

Employee Name	Conference/Workshop	Location	Date(s)	Expenses
Tamburri, Lisa	Legal One HIB Law Update	On-line	Thursday 02/18/21	Conference Fee: \$100.00
Tamburri, Lisa	Legal One - Adapting the Code of Conduct to COVID19, Conduct 1	On-line	Monday 02/22/21	Conference Fee: \$100.00
Tamburri, Lisa	Legal One – Code of Conduct Equity on Race/Protected Classes	On-line	Tuesday 03/16/21	Conference Fee: \$100.00
Tamburri, Lisa	Legal One – Code of Conduct Specialized Populations – Conduct 3	On-line	Wednesday 04/07/21	Conference Fee: \$100.00
Aschoff, Greg	SUPA Spring Conference	On-line	Wednesday 03/24/21	Conference Fee: No Cost

2. BE IT RESOLVED by the West Essex Regional Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) that the terms, stipulations and conditions as established in the Settlement Agreement and Release (hereinafter referred to as “Agreement”) between the Board and the parents of **Student ID #2500742**, and which Agreement is located in the student’s file, are hereby adopted and approved by the Board. The Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement, and any other documents necessary to effectuate the settlement.

Enclosures 1CSE – 9CSE

3. To approve the formation of a new Schedule B Club/Activity for the 2020/2021 school year named “**eSports Club**” with Michael Johnson as volunteer advisor.
4. To *amend* Curriculum/Special Education Motion #5 previously approved at the **November 2, 2020** Board meeting approving a high school Writing Center, to read: with virtual sessions to be held Mondays and Thursdays during the lunch block, at a rate of \$54 per session, pro-rated, for the 2020/2021 school year.
5. To *amend* Curriculum/Special Education Motion #6 previously approved at the **November 2, 2020** Board meeting approving a high school Math Lab, to read: with virtual sessions to be held Tuesdays and Thursdays during the lunch block, at a rate of \$54 per session, pro-rated, for the 2020/2021 school year.

West Essex Regional Board of Education
CURRICULUM/SPECIAL EDUCATION – January 25, 2021

ROLL CALL: Yes: Ms. Egan, Ms. Fahey, Ms. Marcus, Mr. Perrotti,
 Mr. Rubinich, Ms. Sacco-Calderone, Ms. Skelton,
 Mr. Stampone and President Wojtowicz
 No: None
 Abstain: None
 Absent: None

West Essex Regional Board of Education
PERSONNEL – January 25, 2021

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items 1- 10, will be voted upon in one motion.
Motion by Mr. Stampone Seconded by Mr. Perrotti to approve the following motions:

1. To approve **Karen Hudson** to work Tuesday, January 26th, Thursday, January 28th, and Friday, January 29th, for transitional training in preparation for her position as Computer Science teacher assigned to West Essex Middle School, at the substitute teacher/certificated aide rate of \$100.00 per day.
2. To approve the *extension* of a maternity/disability leave of absence for **Stacy Casais**, Teaching Instructional Supervisor for English, Reading, and Librarian Staff assigned to West Essex Regional School District, without pay, without benefits, from **February 20, 2021** through **May 31, 2021**, with a return date of **June 1, 2021**.
3. To *extend* the appointment of **Kimberly Westervelt** to the position of Interim Teaching Instructional Supervisor for English, Reading, and Librarian Staff reflect an end date of **May 31, 2021**.
4. To approve intermittent days of leave, without pay, for employee **#1992**, for the 2020/2021 school year, and effective January 21, 2021, these intermittent leave days will run concurrently and in accordance with the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act, as needed, through June 30, 2021.
5. To approve the following staff members to work as instructors for the high school Writing Center, with virtual sessions to be held Mondays and Thursdays during the lunch block, at a rate of \$54 per session, pro-rated, for the 2020/2021 school year:

Thomas Collins
Alicia Perez
Nicola Ruiz

**West Essex Regional Board of Education
PERSONNEL – January 25, 2021**

6. To approve the following staff members to work as instructors for the high school Math Lab, with virtual sessions to be held Tuesdays and Thursdays during the lunch block, at a rate of \$54 per session, pro-rated, for the 2020/2021 school year:
Melissa Ayers
Lisa Novalis
Melissa Rowen
7. To *amend* **Personnel Motion #17** previously approved at the **December 7, 2020** Board meeting approving the appointment of **Anthony Paris** as a substitute electrician assigned to West Essex Regional School District to reflect an effective date of: December 1, 2020. All other details of the appointment remain the same.
8. To approve with deepest regret, but with 25 years of fondest memories of dedicated service, the letter of resignation, for retirement purposes, from **Lisa Rubell** as a Special Education teacher assigned to West Essex High School effective July 1, 2021.
9. To rescind the appointment of **Mirna Patner** as a permanent substitute teacher assigned to the West Essex Regional School, for the 2020/2021 school year.
10. To approve the appointment of **Mirna Patner (BA15)** as a Special Education teacher assigned to West Essex Regional Middle School, effective January 19, 2021, pending receipt of mandatory paperwork in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18-A:6-7.9, for the 2020/2021 school year, at an annual salary of \$58,341, pro-rated, which is Step 1 of the 2020/2021 Bachelor's+15 Degree Teacher's Salary Guide.
[NOTE: Ms. Patner replaces Stephanie Graham, who retired.]

ROLL CALL: Yes: Ms. Egan, Ms. Fahey, Ms. Marcus, Mr. Perrotti, Mr. Rubinich, Ms. Sacco-Calderone, Ms. Skelton, Mr. Stampone and President Wojtowicz

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

West Essex Regional Board of Education
MISCELLANEOUS – January 25, 2021

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items 1 - 6, will be voted upon in one motion.
Motion by Ms. Fahey Seconded by Mr. Stampone to approve the following motions:

1. To approve the Second Reading of Bylaw #0164.6 – Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency.

Enclosures 1M – 11M

2. To approve the Second Reading of Policy #1648.03 – Restart and Recovery Plan – Full-Time Remote Instruction.

Enclosures 12M – 14M

3. To approve the Second Reading of Policy #2451 – Adult High School.

Enclosures 15M – 19M

4. To approve the Second Reading of Policy #5330.05 – Seizure Action Plan (Policy & Reg.)

Enclosures 20M – 23M

5. To approve the Second Reading of Policy #6470.01 – Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification (Policy & Reg.)

Enclosures 24M – 38M

6. To approve the *revised* 2020/2021 transportation bus routes, as appended.

Enclosures 39M - 41M

ROLL CALL:	Yes:	Ms. Egan, Ms. Fahey, Ms. Marcus, Mr. Perrotti, Mr. Rubinich, Ms. Sacco-Calderone, Ms. Skelton, Mr. Stampone and President Wojtowicz
	No:	None
	Abstain:	None
	Absent:	None

Ms. Wojtowicz opened the floor to the public for comments on non-agenda items:

- **Ms. Ruth DiGiovanni**, Roseland parent, requested clarification on changes implemented at the high school to address the increase in students for the third marking period, while taking into consideration the students still learning remotely. Mr. Diliberto responded.
- **Ms. Wendy Nash**, North Caldwell parent, requested clarification on the length of the school day and in-person physical education classes for the third marking period. Mr. Diliberto responded.
- **Ms. Suzanne Golden**, Roseland parent, requested clarification on the possible repercussion of sending a student to school 2-3 days a week, instead of the requisite four. Mr. Diliberto responded.
- **Ms. Maya Autret**, Essex Fells parent, requested clarification as to why parents opted to keep their children learning remotely. Mr. Gupta responded.
- **Ms. Antoinette Kerstner**, Fairfield parent, requested clarification as to the top three reasons why families opted to keep students learning remotely. Mr. Gupta responded.

West Essex Regional Board of Education
MISCELLANEOUS – January 25, 2021

- **Mr. Joshua Raymond**, North Caldwell parent, requested clarification on the possibility of changing a student's in-person/remote status based on the cohort changes being implemented for the third marking period. Mr. Macioci responded.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Skelton Seconded by Mr. Stampone at 9:08 PM.

ADJOURN: There being no further business before this Board of Education, BE IT RESOLVED that this public meeting be adjourned.

President

Business Administrator/Board Secretary