

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
November 2, 2020
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, November 2, 2020

PLACE

Remote Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION

6:32 P.M.

ADJOURNED

6:54 P.M.

CALLED TO ORDER

7:30 P.M.

ADJOURNED

8:44 P.M.

OPEN MEETING:

Ms. Maryadele Wojtowicz, Board President, presided and voiced the call to order in Executive Session at 6:32 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Mr. Stampone Seconded by Ms. Egan 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 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Ms. C. Egan

Ms. A. Fahey

Ms. J. Marcus

Mr. F. Perrotti

Mr. A. Rubinich – Vice-President - Arrived at 6:34 PM

Ms. D. Sacco-Calderone

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 – November 2, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING:

Notice of the November 2, 2020 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, 2020 and The Star Ledger on the same day.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Ms. Wojtowicz thanked the Administrative team for their efforts pertaining to the reopening of school. She thanked Ms. Stephanie Graham and Dr. Denise D’Meo for their years of service and wished them well in their upcoming retirements.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Mr. Macioci thanked Board of Education members for their tremendous support over the past several weeks. He also thanked staff members for their continued cooperation and resilience during this difficult time. Mr. Macioci thanked Ms. Stephanie Graham and Dr. Denise D’Meo for their years of service and wished them well in their upcoming retirements. Mr. Macioci reported that a significant amount of information had been disseminated to the community in recent weeks in an effort to keep everyone informed in recent events. He summarized discussions held with the various reopening committees.

Ms. Juliann Hoebee, WEHS Assistant Principal, and **Ms. Luisa Tamburri**, WEMS Assistant Principal, provided **School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act** reports for their respective schools. A question and answer period followed.

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM’S REPORT:

Mr. Gupta provided an overview of the results of the distance learning survey. A question and answer period followed.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS: NONE

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMENTS:

Safety & Security Committee – **Mr. Stampone**, Chair, commented that the Committee met on October 21st and discussed COVID cases in the community. The discussion centered around increasing efforts with contact tracing to stem the rise in COVID cases across the state.

Mr. Rubinich commented that he attended the **Essex County School Board Association** meeting on October 14th and discussed the growing awareness of (LGBT) transgender cultural shifts and remote learning.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

West Essex Regional Board of Education
FINANCE– November 2, 2020

The following finance 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 Mr. Rubinich Seconded by Ms. Egan to approve the following motions:

1. To approve the bills and claims check number 045085 through check number 045200 and check number 045202 through check number 045233 and check number 045235 through check number 045249 and check number 045252 through check number 045262 and check number 510617 through check number 510618 and check number 900035.

Payroll check number 500938 through check number 500939.

Void check numbers 045201, 045234, 045250 and 045251.

Totaling: \$4,203,806.10

Enclosures 1F – 6F

2. To authorize the Business Administrator to cancel the prior year below-listed outstanding checks in the aggregate amount of \$7,851.40 from the West Essex Regional Board of Education's General Account:

Check #	Amount	Check #	Amount
43821	\$75.00	44627	\$7,776.40

3. To approve the Student Activity Check Register from October 3, 2020 through October 30, 2020, check number 11688 through check number 11922.

Totaling: \$56,242.79.

Enclosures 7F – 19F

4. To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2020.

Enclosures 20F – 31F

5. To approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 5, 2020.

Enclosure 32F

6. WHEREAS, the West Essex Regional Board of Education ("Board") and the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission ("ERESC") are parties to a transportation contract ("Contract") for the provision of student transportation services to the Board during the 2019-2020 school year; and

WHEREAS, Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on or about March 17, 2020, the Governor declared a state of emergency and required all schools in the State to close; and

WHEREAS, because of the ordered school closures, transportation services were discontinued on or about March 17, 2020; and

6. (continued)

WHEREAS, Public Law 2020, Chapter 27, was enacted, which required school districts and their contracted service providers to make reasonable efforts to renegotiate their contracts and required school districts to pay their contractors for the period of school closure, so that the contractors may meet their payroll and fixed cost obligations, excluding fuel and tolls; and

WHEREAS, The Board and ERESC have renegotiated their Contract, as it pertains to student transportation services provided to the Board by Belair Transport, Inc. and Student Transportation of America; and

WHEREAS, under the renegotiated Contract, the Board will pay a discounted rate of eighty-five percent (85%) of the funds otherwise owed to Belair Transport under the Contract, and a discounted rate of fifty-three percent (53%) of the funds otherwise owed to Student Transportation of America under the Contract; and

WHEREAS, as required by Public Law 2020, Chapter 27, Belair Transport and Student Transportation of America have provided Statements of Assurance, certifying that the payments received will be used to meet payroll and fixed cost obligations and that the companies did not have business interruption insurance coverage for the period of the school closures; and

WHEREAS, the parties have amended their 2019-2020 Contract to reflect the above terms and to clarify their respective responsibilities and obligations, including, but not limited to, ERESC's submission of the signed Contract Addendum to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the West Essex Regional Board of Education hereby approves the Addendum to the Transportation Contract between itself and ERESC covering the 2019-2020 school year, which is attached hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President and the Board Secretary/Business Administrator are hereby authorized to execute the attached Addendum to the Contract and any other documents needed to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

7. To approve the ice rental agreement with Codey Arena, in West Orange, New Jersey, for league games and practices, for the 2020/2021 school year, in the amount of \$425 per hour.

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 – November 2, 2020

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items 1- 12, will be voted upon in one motion.

Prior to action on this motion, Item #12, which was a carry-on, was placed on the screen and read out loud by Ms. Wojtowicz.

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

1. To approve with deepest regret, but with 18 years of fondest memories of dedicated service, the letter of resignation, for retirement purposes, from **Stephanie Graham** as a Special Education teacher assigned to West Essex Middle School effective January 1, 2021.
2. To approve the appointment of **Steven Siragusa** as a substitute teacher/substitute aide assigned to the West Essex Regional School District, for the 2020/2021 school year, at the rate of \$100.00 per day
3. To approve a maternity/disability leave of absence for **Kira Wildes**, English teacher assigned to West Essex Regional High School, beginning on or about **March 22, 2021** through **June 30, 2021**, with a return date of **September 1, 2021**.
4. To *amend* the maternity/disability leave of absence for **Stacy Casais**, Teaching Instructional Supervisor for English, Reading, and Librarian Staff assigned to West Essex Regional School District, to reflect an end date of **February 19, 2021**, with a return date of **February 22, 2021**.
5. 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 **February 19, 2021**.
6. To approve the transfer of a staff member, as follows:
 - **Angela D'Onofrio** from High School to Traveler
7. To approve the following **2020/2021 Winter*** Coaching appointments:

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>CANDIDATE</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
<u>Boys Basketball</u>				
	William Humes	Head Coach	5	\$10,443
	Michael Llauget	Assistant	5	7,323
	Jason Ahmed	Assistant	5	7,323
	Timothy Walsh	Assistant	5	7,323

*[NOTE: If the Board or the State suspends, restricts, or prohibits the 2020 winter season, these appointments shall be rescinded and the advisors shall be paid a prorated amount of their stipend, if any, for services actually rendered.]

West Essex Regional Board of Education
PERSONNEL – November 2, 2020

7. (continued) To approve the following 2020/2021 Winter* Coaching appointments:

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>CANDIDATE</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
<u>Girls Basketball</u>				
	Amber Tobia	Head Coach	1	\$8,707
	Tim Glenn	Assistant	5	7,323
	Erin Bradley	Assistant	3	6,414
<u>Ice Hockey</u>				
	Marc Gregory	Head Coach	5	\$10,443
	Darius Kopec	Assistant	5	7,323
	Tim Shea	Assistant	4	6,795
<u>B/G Swimming</u>				
	Jake Taylor	Head Coach	5	\$6,690
	Kathleen Turnbull	Assistant	5	4,818
<u>Wrestling</u>				
	Michael Markey	Head Coach	5	\$10,443
	Greg Ruggiero	Assistant	5	7,323
	Patrick Nappi	Assistant	5	7,323
	Anthony Perrotti	Assistant	5	7,323
<u>Cheerleading</u>				
	Michele Riker	Head Coach	5	\$6,690
	Jocelyn Pucilowski	Assistant	5	4,818
<u>Fencing</u>				
	Mark Trudnos	Head Coach	5	\$6,690
	Amanda Fernicola	Assistant	3	4,503
	Kaitlin Moleen	Assistant (1/2)	3	2,251.50
	Chris Denude	Assistant	5	4,818
<u>Strength Coach</u>				
	Chris Benacquista	Head Coach	5	\$6,690
	Dominick Linsalato	Assistant Coach	4	4,614

*[NOTE: If the Board or the State suspends, restricts, or prohibits the 2020 winter season, these appointments shall be rescinded and the advisors shall be paid a prorated amount of their stipend, if any, for services actually rendered.]

8. To *rescind* the appointment of **Jason Freda** for a one-half of a 6th period assignment (Social Psychology) effective October 1, 2020.
9. To *rescind* the appointment of **Jason Freda** for 3/5th's of a 6th period assignment (World History) effective October 1, 2020.

West Essex Regional Board of Education
PERSONNEL – November 2, 2020

10. To approve the following Schedule B High School Advisors for the 2020/2021 school year, as per WEEA contract, pending completion of contract negotiations; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Board suspends, restricts, or prohibits the operations of Schedule B activities, these appointments shall be rescinded and the advisors shall be paid a prorated amount of their stipend, if any, for services actually rendered; and, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution:

ACTIVITY	STAFF MEMBER	STIPEND
Yearbook Advisor Milestone	Valerie Romano/Stephen Miller <i>(split)</i>	\$5,953

11. To *amend* **Personnel Motion #18** previously approved at the **October 5, 2020** Board meeting approving **Jenine Serritella (MA+15)** as a 3/5th's School Nurse assigned to West Essex Regional High School, to reflect a start date of November 2, 2020. All other details of the appointment remain the same.
12. To approve with deepest regret, but with 13 years of fondest memories of dedicated service, the letter of resignation, for retirement purposes, from **Denise D'Meo** as a Science teacher assigned to West Essex High School effective December 1, 2020.

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: Mr. Perrotti (#7 Only)

Absent: None

West Essex Regional Board of Education
CURRICULUM/SPECIAL EDUCATION – November 2, 2020

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 - 6, will be voted upon in one motion.
Motion by Ms. Egan Seconded by Mr. Perrotti to approve the following motions:

1. To approve the following request for Professional Development:

Employee Name	Conference/Workshop	Location	Date(s)	Expenses
Procaccino, Amanda	AP Art & Design	On-line	Friday 11/20/20	Conference Fee: \$150.00
Miller, Stephen	AP Art & Design	On-line	Friday 11/20/20	Conference Fee: \$150.00

West Essex Regional Board of Education
CURRICULUM/SPECIAL EDUCATION – November 2, 2020

1. (continued) To approve the following request for Professional Development:

Employee Name	Conference/Workshop	Location	Date(s)	Expenses
Silva, Nicole	Always, Sometimes, Never Math (MS)	On-line	Wednesdays 11/04/20 11/11/20 11/18/20	Conference Fee: \$129.00
Leblein, Dana	Essex County Association of SAC's meetings	On-line	Fridays 12/11/20 01/22/21 02/19/21 03/19/21 05/07/21 06/11/21	Conference Fee: No Cost
Purciello, Danielle	Creating Culturally Responsive Practices in Schools	On-line	Mpnday 11/23/20	Conference Fee: \$75.00
Rowen, Alyssa	Introduction to Prompt	On-line	Wed-Fri 11/18-11/20/20	Conference Fee: \$499.00
Hoebee, Juliann	Legal One – Bias ,Disproportionality & Law	On-line	Tuesday 11/10/20	Conference Fee: \$40.00
Berthelot, Andrea	Health Science Careers Meeting-Rutgers	On-line	Thursday 11/12/20	Conference Fee: No Cost
Smith, Maria	On-line Classroom Management	On-line	Wednesday 11/11/20	Conference Fee: \$49.00

2. To approve West Essex Regional High School's participation in the NJDOE State Seal of Biliteracy Program for the 2020-2021 school year. Students who attain this distinction will receive an NJDOE-issued certificate and a notation on their transcript indicating the Seal of Biliteracy award.
3. To approve the After-School Title I Middle School Program, for the 2020-2021 school year, with virtual sessions to be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, if the district transitions to a Distance Learning environment, at the stipend amount of \$54 per session, pending completion of contract negotiations. Payments are to be allocated through Title I funds, not to exceed \$25,000.00.
4. To approve a MS Title I program to be held in-person within the hybrid schedule from 7:42 - 12:17 pm each day, excluding virtual days, at the stipend amount of \$54 per session, pro-rated, pending completion of contract negotiations, for the 2020/2021 school year. MS Staff will provide supervision and assistance to Title I eligible students during each block as needed. Payments are to be allocated through Title I funds, not to exceed \$26,966.00.
5. To approve a high school Writing Center with virtual sessions to be held Mondays and Wednesdays during the lunch block if the district transitions to a Distance Learning environment, at a rate of \$54 per session, pro-rated, pending completion of contract negotiations, for the 2020/2021 school year.

West Essex Regional Board of Education
CURRICULUM/SPECIAL EDUCATION – November 2, 2020

6. To approve a high school Math Lab with virtual sessions to be held Tuesdays and Thursdays during the lunch block if the district transitions to a Distance Learning environment, at a rate of \$54 per session, pro-rated, pending completion of contract negotiations, for the 2020/2021 school year.

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 – November 2, 2020

The following miscellaneous 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. Prior to action on this motion, Ms. Marcus asked that Policy #0168-Recording Board meetings, be placed on the screen. Ms. Marcus requested clarification on the changes.

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

1. To approve the *amended* 2020/2021 transportation bus routes, as appended.

Enclosures 1M - 3M

2. To approve the Second Reading of Policy #0168 – Recording Board Meetings

Enclosures 4M – 6M

3. To approve the Second Reading of Policy #2270 – Religion in Schools

Enclosures 7M – 8M

4. To approve the Second Reading of Policy #5320 – Immunization (Policy & Reg.)

Enclosures 9M – 18M

West Essex Regional Board of Education
MISCELLANEOUS – November 2, 2020

5. To accept the **School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Reports**, as appended, for drills conducted on October 27, 2020, October 29, 2020 and October 30, 2020 in accordance with NJAC 6A:27-11.2, in the West Essex Regional High School bus drop-off/pick-up area, for Routes #1 through #31, under the direct supervision of Luisa Tamburri, West Essex Regional Middle School Assistant Principal.

Enclosures 19M – 21M

6. To approve submission of the **Comprehensive Maintenance Plan**, as attached, for the 2019/2020 through 2021/2022 school years, in compliance with Department of Education requirements.

Enclosures 22M – 24M

7. To approve the **Nursing Services Plan** of the West Essex Regional School District for the 2020/2021 school year.

[NOTE: The statistics have been updated to reflect the numbers for the current school year, the plan itself remains the same.]

Enclosures 25M – 31M

8. To approve submission of the 2020/2021 **Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement**, with addendum, between Education and Law Enforcement Officials to the Essex County Superintendent of Schools, as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(b) 13 through 15, as on file in the Board Office.

9. To approve the New Jersey Department of Education's **School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act** for West Essex Regional High School the 2019/2020 school year, as appended.

Enclosures 32M – 35M

10. To approve the New Jersey Department of Education's **School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act** for West Essex Regional Middle School the 2019/2020 school year, as appended.

Enclosures 36M – 39M

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 – November 2, 2020

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

- **Mr. Scott Rosen**, North Caldwell parent, commented on technology issues with the use of older chromebooks. Mr. Gupta responded.
- **Ms. Rita Lodato**, North Caldwell parent, commented on Dr. D'Meo's imminent retirement. Ms. Wojtowicz responded.
- **Ms. Debbie Hollinstat**, North Caldwell parent, commented on Dr. D'Meo's imminent retirement. She questioned different data breakdowns of the survey results.
- **Ms. Lisa Calick**, North Caldwell parent, commented on assessment test taking during the hybrid learning environment. Mr. Macioci responded.
- **Ms. Wendy Nash**, North Caldwell parent, commented on various ways to alleviate stress and anxiety levels with the students. Mr. Gupta responded.

Motion to adjourn by **Mr. Perrotti** Seconded by **Ms. Skelton** at **8:44 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