

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
March 15, 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, March 15, 2021

PLACE

Remote Meeting

CALLED TO ORDER

7:32 P.M.

ADJOURNED

8:46 P.M.

OPEN MEETING:

Ms. Maryadele Wojtowicz, Board President, presided and voiced the call to order at 7:32 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
Ms. J. Skelton
Mr. R. Stampone
Ms. M. Wojtowicz - President

Administration:

Mr. Damion Macioci, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Melissa Kida, Board Secretary/Business Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING:

Notice of the March 15, 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.

West Essex Regional Board of Education
MINUTES – March 15, 2021

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Ms. Wojtowicz wished Ms. Lauren Cherny well in her upcoming retirement.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Mr. Macioci wished Ms. Lauren Cherny well in her upcoming retirement. Mr. Macioci acknowledged this year’s **Governor’s Educator-of-the-Year Award** recipients:

Seton Ahearn (MS Teacher)	Andrea Llauget (HS Teacher)
Denise Logan (MS Nurse)	Karen Kinsey (HS Nurse)

Mr. Macioci provided an update on the district’s, and county’s, COVID status. He thanked the various committees involved in guiding the district through this difficult time. He commented on revisions to the COVID travel guidelines regarding quarantine protocol.

Ms. Wojtowicz introduced Mr. Aaron Myerson and his student, who commented on the following **Independent Study Presentation**:

Student	Independent Study	Advisor
Megan Brisco	Film Study	Aaron Myerson

Following the Independent Study presentation, **Ms. Kimberly Westervelt**, Interim Supervisor of English, Reading, and Libraries commented on the department’s goal of increasing student achievement while balancing the health and wellbeing of the students and staff. She stated that staff members have concentrated on professional development opportunities in an effort to strengthen remote/hybrid teaching techniques. She commented on extra-curricular enrichment activities offered at both the middle and high school levels. Ms. Westervelt commented on West Essex alumni and their accomplishments since graduation.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Ms. Marcus expressed her appreciation to the evening’s presenters for a job well done.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMENTS:

Finance & Physical Plant Management Committee – Mr. Stampone, Committee Chair, commented that the Committee met on March 10th and discussed: facility upgrades; a Title I grant program; uninvent purchase; the upcoming bid opening; and the preliminary budget.

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– March 15, 2021

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items 1- 13, will be voted upon in one motion.
Motion by Mr. Perrotti Seconded by Ms. Egan to approve the following motions:

1. To approve the Treasurer's Report, *as AMENDED*, for **December, 2020**, as per the attached, 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.

Enclosure 1F

2. To approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for **January, 2021**, in the amount of **\$8,670,799.70** 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 **January, 2021**, 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 2F – 50F

3. To approve the attached transfer report from **January 1, 2021** through **January 31, 2021**.

Enclosure 51F

4. To approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for **February, 2021**, in the amount of **\$8,634,521.72** 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 **February, 2021**, 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 52F – 100F

5. To approve the attached transfer report from **February 1, 2021** through **February 28, 2021**.

Enclosure 101F

West Essex Regional Board of Education
FINANCE– March 15, 2021

6. To approve the bills and claims check number 045999 through check number 046059 and check number 046061 through check number 046109.
Payroll check number 500968 through check number 500969.
Void check numbers 045657 and 046060.
Totaling: \$732,164.81

Enclosures 102F – 105F

7. To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2021, as amended.

Enclosures 106F – 116F

8. To approve the Executive Session Minutes (1st session), as amended, of March 1, 2021.

Enclosure 117F

9. To approve the Executive Session Minutes (2nd session), as amended, of March 1, 2021.

Enclosure 118F

10. Motion to approve the 2021/2022 Tentative Budget:

BE IT RESOLVED that the West Essex Regional Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools does hereby authorize the transmittal of the tentative advertised budget for the 2021/2022 school year, as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
Total General Fund	\$ 42,173,057	\$ 38,858,193
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 263,000	\$ -
Total Debt Service Fund	\$ 2,003,975	\$ 2,003,975
Totals	\$44,440,032	\$40,862,168

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this budget contains a withdrawal of \$100,000 from the Maintenance Reserve account for window screen replacements, roof repairs/maintenance, walk-in freezer repairs and parking lot striping; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary be authorized to transmit any and all such supporting documentation to the County Superintendent of Schools as may be required.

11. WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12, whereby in each pre-budget year, the West Essex Regional Board of Education is required to establish a **maximum travel expenditure amount** for the budget year which may not be exceeded; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that the maximum travel expenditure amount included all travel that is supported by State and local funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the West Essex Regional Board of Education hereby establishes the maximum travel expenditure amount as \$60,000 for the 2021/2022 school year.

West Essex Regional Board of Education
FINANCE– March 15, 2021

12. To approve the use of the **Greenbrook Country Club**, at no cost to the district, by the West Essex Regional High School Golf Team for the 2020/2021 season.
13. To approve the agreement with **Twin Willows Par 3 Golf Club**, as appended, for use by the West Essex Regional High School Golf Team for the 2020/2021 season.

Enclosure 119F

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 (#8 & #9 Only)
Absent: None

West Essex Regional Board of Education
CURRICULUM/SPECIAL EDUCATION – March 15, 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 - 9**, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by **Ms. Egan** Seconded by **Ms. Sacco-Calderone** to approve the following motions:

1. To approve the following requests for Professional Development:

Employee Name	Conference/Workshop	Location	Date(s)	Expenses
Lippi, Deanna	AP Reading – Environmental Science	On-line	Mon-Thurs 06/14-06/17/21	Conference Fee: No Cost
Dolce, Jody	AP Reading – Biology	On-line	Fri-Fri 06/18-06/25/21	Conference Fee: No Cost
Lippi, Deanna	AP Project-Based Learning & Environmental Science APSI	On-line	Mon-Thurs 07/12-07/15/21	Conference Fee: \$799.00

2. To approve the following requests for Professional Development. The staff member attending the College Board Program for AP Readers will be required to reimburse the district for the cost of substitute coverage for the school day she is not in attendance as per Policy and Regulation #3211.3:

Employee Name	Conference/Workshop	Location	Date(s)	Expenses
Lippi, Deanna	AP Reading – Environmental Science	On-line	Friday 06/11/21	Conference Fee: No Cost

West Essex Regional Board of Education
CURRICULUM/SPECIAL EDUCATION – March 15, 2021

3. To approve the formation of a new Schedule B Club/Activity for the 2020/2021 school year named **“OnBoard!” Middle School Peer Mentorship Program** with Anthony Lambo, Samantha Minnella, and Justin Schwindel as advisors.

[NOTE: Mr. Lambo, Ms. Minnella, and Mr. Schwindel will not be paid this year. If the program is successful, and is recommended for next year, a stipend will be negotiated.]

4. To approve the following staff members to attend the required on-line training program, to be held on Tuesday, March 16th, for implementation of the Boomerang Project’s Middle School **“OnBoard!” Peer Mentorship Program**, at a cost of \$3,750:

Gina Donlevie
Anthony Lambo
Samantha Minnella
Justin Schwindel

5. To approve the West Essex Regional School District to operate the following summer school program from June 28, 2021 through July 22, 2021. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday in the high school for in-person instruction and hybrid instruction from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:

- Extended School Year: Language and Learning Disabilities Class

6. To approve the West Essex Regional School District to operate the following supplemental summer school program from July 26, 2021 through August 5, 2021 to address educational losses due to the pandemic. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday in the high school for in-person instruction and hybrid instruction from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:

- Supplemental Extended School Year: Language and Learning Disabilities Class

7. To approve the West Essex Regional School District to operate the following Title I Middle School summer program from June 28, 2021 through August 5, 2021. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday in the middle school for in-person instruction and hybrid instruction from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.:

- Summer School Program: 7th and 8th Grade Language Arts and Mathematics Classes
- Summer School Program: 7th and 8th Grade Science and Social Studies classes, if needed

Classes will be held Monday through Thursday, each class will be three hours and thirty minutes per day, teachers will be paid for four (4) hours per day, to allow students arriving early and those awaiting pick up in the afternoon to have supervision.

West Essex Regional Board of Education
CURRICULUM/SPECIAL EDUCATION – March 15, 2021

8. 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 Addendum to the Settlement Agreement and Release (hereinafter referred to as “Addendum”) 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 Addendum, and any other documents necessary to effectuate the settlement.

Enclosures 1CSE – 6CSE

9. To *amend* Curriculum/Special Education Motion #2 previously approved at the **March 1, 2021** Board meeting approving AP Test Prep sessions, to reflect the following change:

FROM:	TO:
Computer Science Principles	Computer Science Principles (2)

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 – March 15, 2021

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items 1- 16, will be voted upon in one motion.
Motion by Ms. Fahey Seconded by Ms. Skelton to approve the following motions:

1. To approve with deepest regret, but with 10 years of fondest memories of dedicated service, the letter of resignation, for retirement purposes, from **Lauren Cherny** as a Guidance Counselor assigned to West Essex Regional High School effective July 1, 2021.
2. To approve the letter of resignation from **Maria Tuck** as a Special Education Aide assigned to West Essex Regional Middle School effective March 19, 2021.

West Essex Regional Board of Education
PERSONNEL – March 15, 2021

3. To approve the appointment of **Jennifer McCloskey** as a Classroom/Personal Aide assigned to West Essex Regional Middle School effective March 16, 2021, for the 2020/2021 school year, pending receipt of mandatory paperwork in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18-A:6-7.9, at the rate of \$17.50 per hour.
4. To approve a maternity/disability leave of absence for **Laura Mirsik**, permanent substitute teacher assigned to the West Essex Regional School District, beginning on or about **June 1, 2021** through **October 12, 2021**, with a return date of **October 13, 2021**.
5. To approve a maternity/disability leave of absence for **Sarah Pisano**, 10-month secretary assigned to West Essex Regional High School, beginning on or about **September 13, 2021** through **January 18, 2022**, with a return date of **January 19, 2022**.
6. To approve a family leave of absence, without pay, with benefits, for **Shannon Corcoran**, Science teacher assigned to West Essex Regional Middle School, from **March 2, 2021** through **May 31, 2021**, with a return date of **June 1, 2021**.
7. To approve the following **6th period assignment** effective March 4, 2021 through May 31, 2021, at the stipend amount of \$49 per day:

SUBJECT	TEACHER
Science 8	Lauren Sommer

8. To approve **6th period assignments*** for **Terri Carr** and **Michelle Gonzalez**, effective February 25, 2021 through April 30, 2021, at the stipend amount of \$49 each, per day.

*[**NOTE:** Ms. Carr and Ms. Gonzalez are covering caseloads for Ms. Taylor Lang, who is on a Board-approved leave of absence.]

9. To approve the following **6th period assignments** effective February 11, 2021 through March 19, 2021, at the stipend amount of \$49 per person, per day:

SUBJECT	TEACHER
Genocide & Holocaust	Jason Freda
Genocide & Holocaust	Gary Colucci
Genocide & Holocaust	John Sorrentino
US History I	Abigail Martin
US History I CPA	Timothy Glenn
US History I (WE Connect)	Louis Ferrara

10. To approve the following staff members for AP Test Prep sessions, for the 2020/2021 school year, at the rate of \$49 per hour, not to exceed six (6) hours each:

Course	Teacher	Course	Teacher
American Government	Vaknin Beth	European History	Woodworth, Alan
Art History	Moleen, Kaitlin	French	Klein, Heidi
Biology	Dolce, Jody	Human Geography	Ferrara, Louis

West Essex Regional Board of Education
PERSONNEL – March 15, 2021

10. (continued) To approve the following staff members for AP Test Prep sessions, for the 2020/2021 school year, at the rate of \$49 per hour, not to exceed six (6) hours each:

Course	Teacher	Course	Teacher
Calculus AB	Thom-Carroll, Jenny	Italian	Pivetta, Cristina
Calculus BC	Rowen, Melissa	Latin	Moleen, Kaitlin
Chemistry	Erickson, Nolan	Macroeconomics	Woodworth, Alan
Chinese	You, Mu	Microeconomics	Woodworth, Alan
Computer Science A	Carchietta, Vincent	Music Theory	Mateyka, Donna
Computer Science Principles	Carchietta, Vincent	Physics I	Barros, Taciana
Computer Science Principles	Ratajczak, Dean	Physics II	Barros, Taciana
Drawing	Procaccino, Amanda	Seminar	Blanchard, Caroline
English Language & Composition	Duby, Suzanna	Spanish	Dacosta, Caroline
English Literature	Collins, Thomas	Statistics	Thom-Carroll, Jenny
Environmental Science	Lippi, Deanna	US History II	Blanchard, Caroline

11. To approve **Joseph Velardi** as a school volunteer for the 2020/2021 school year.
12. To approve the following additional individual to work throughout the 2020/2021 athletic seasons, at the rates listed in Schedule E – Sports Non-Coaching Positions:
Stephanie Pezzuti

13. To *rescind* the following Schedule B Middle School Advisor, effective March 1, 2021, for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year, as per WEEA contract:

ACTIVITY	STAFF MEMBER	STIPEND
Key Club	Shannon Corcoran	\$3,124

14. To approve the following Schedule B Middle School Advisor, effective March 4, 2021, for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year, as per WEEA contract:

ACTIVITY	STAFF MEMBER	STIPEND
Key Club	Genna Solari	\$3,124 <i>(pro-rated)</i>

15. To *amend* **Personnel Motion #4** previously approved at the **December 7, 2021** Board meeting approving the **2020/2021 NJSIAA Season 2*** Coaching appointments, to be pro-rated effective February 11, 2021 through March 21, 2021:

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>CANDIDATE</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
<u>Strength Coach</u>	Chris Benacquista	Head Coach	5	\$6,824 <i>(Pro-rated)</i>

16. To *amend* **Personnel Motion #12** previously approved at the **March 1, 2021** Board meeting approving the **2020/2021 NJSIAA Season 4*** Coaching appointments, to be pro-rated effective February 11, 2021 through March 21, 2021:

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>CANDIDATE</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
<u>Strength Coach</u>	Chris Benacquista	Head Coach	5	\$6,824 <i>(Pro-rated)</i>

West Essex Regional Board of Education
PERSONNEL – March 15, 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
MISCELLANEOUS – March 15, 2021

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

1. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 1 (MS) 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.
2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 2 (MS) 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.
3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 3 (MS) 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.
4. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 4 (MS) 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.
5. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 5 (MS) 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.
6. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 6 (MS) 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.

7. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 7 (MS) 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.
8. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 8 (MS) 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.
9. To approve the *revised* 2020/2021 transportation bus route, as appended.

Enclosure 1M

10. To approve the Second Reading of Policy #1643– Family Leave.

Enclosures 2M – 34M

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. Lisa Smith**, Fairfield parent, commented on the benefits of in-person learning. She questioned if Administration would consider maintaining or increasing the number of in-person days for marking period 4.
- **Ms. Antoinette Kerstner**, Fairfield parent, commented on variations to the 6' social distancing rule. She also questioned in-person, hybrid, and remote learning options for the upcoming school year. Mr. Macioci responded.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Wojtowicz Seconded by Ms. Skelton at **8:46 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