

**Board of Education of the Township of Clark, New Jersey**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes October 2, 2017**

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This meeting opened at 5:35 p.m. in the Media Center of the Arthur L. Johnson High School located at 365 Westfield Avenue in Clark, and immediately convened to Executive Session for confidential matters, collective bargaining, matters of personnel, litigation or contract matters, and/or attorney/client privilege. The Public Session of this meeting began at 7:13 p.m. and was held in the Clark Council Chambers located at 315 Westfield Avenue in Clark.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT**

This is a public meeting of the Board of Education of the Clark Public Schools. Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with PL1975, Chapter 231, in that a special notice was made in conformance with Section 13 of the Act.

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL 5:35 P.M.**

**Present:** Lorraine j. Aklonis  
Scott Bohm  
Laura Caliguire  
Steven Donkersloot, Vice President  
Christine Guerriero, Garwood Representative  
Thomas Lewis  
Robert Smorol  
Henry R. Varriano  
Jill Curran, President

**Absent:** Carmen Brocato

**Also Present:** Edward Grande, Superintendent of Schools  
R. Paul Vizzuso, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion: Christine Guerriero  
Seconded: Lorraine j. Aklonis

**Roll Call:** Yes: 9 No: 0 Abstain: 0

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act allows for the exclusion from discussion at the public portion of a meeting certain matters as outlined below, and

WHEREAS, the Clark Township Board of Education wishes to discuss such matters made and will make such discussion public when a proper conclusion has been reached:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clark Township Board of Education will hold a closed Executive Session on this date for the purpose(s) as outlined and described below:

- |                                     |  |       |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1. Confidential Matters per Statute or Court Order             | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | 2. Impact Rights to Receive Federal Funds                      | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | 3. Unwarranted Invasion of Individual Privacy                  | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | 4. Collective Bargaining                                       | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | 5. Acquisition of Real Property or Investment of Funds         | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | 6. Public Safety Procedures                                    | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | 7. Litigation or Contract Matters or Attorney/Client Privilege | _____ |

- 8. Personnel Matters
- 9. Imposition of Penalties upon an Individual

**MOTION TO ADJOURN CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion: Scott Bohm  
 Seconded: Christine Guerriero

**Roll Call:** Yes: 9 No: 0 Abstain: 0

This closed session was followed by an open session where action was taken.

The Board met in Executive Session from 5:35 p.m. until 7:05 p.m. After an 8-minute recess the following roll call was taken:

**OPENING PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT**

This is a public meeting of the Board of Education of the Clark Public Schools. Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with PL1975, Chapter 231, in that a special notice was made in conformance with Section 13 of the Act.

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL 7:13 P.M.**

**Present:** Lorraine j. Aklonis  
 Scott Bohm  
 Carmen Brocato  
 Laura Caliguire  
 Steven Donkersloot, Vice President  
 Christine Guerriero, Garwood Representative  
 Thomas Lewis  
 Robert Smorol  
 Henry R. Varriano  
 Jill Curran, President

**Also Present:** Edward Grande, Superintendent of Schools  
 R. Paul Vizzuso, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
 Saga Elsekhely, Student Board Member

**SHOWCASE OF SUCCESS**

Mrs. Victoria Sasso  
 2017-2018 Union County Teacher of the Year

**PUBLIC HEARING**

District Goals for School Year 2017-2018

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Christine Guerriero  
 Second: Lorraine j. Aklonis

**Roll Call:** Yes: 9 No: 0 Abstain: 1 Carmen Brocato

Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Township of Clark that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that

the following minutes are hereby approved:

Executive and Public Session minutes of the September 11, 2017 Regular Board Meeting  
Once the need for confidentiality no longer exists, Executive Session minutes may be available to the public.

**FLOOR OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

The floor was opened to the public at 7:20 p.m. and immediately closed with no comments from the audience.

**PERSONNEL**

**RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE (1-12)**

Motion: Steven Donkersloot

Second: Lorraine j. Aklonis

**Roll Call:** Yes: 10 No: 0 Abstain: 2 Jill Curran - #11 Christine Guerriero - #1, 4, 10

Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Township of Clark that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that

1. Michelle Chesney is hereby appointed as a cafeteria/playground aide for the Clark Public Schools (VRS) for the 2017-2018 school year, at a rate of \$11.00 per hour, without benefits, pending a criminal history background check and a complete health physical.
2. the placement of Lucas Truempy, teacher for the Clark Public Schools (ALJ), is hereby moved from the teachers' MA salary guide (Step 13A) \$67,512.00 to the teachers' MA+30 salary guide (Step 13A) \$71,462.00, effective October 1, 2017.
3. Daniel House, teacher for the Clark Public Schools (ALJ), is hereby granted an intermittent paternity leave under the New Jersey Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) for the 2017-2018 school year, not to exceed 60 work days without pay but with benefit coverage.
4. the following individuals are hereby approved for the "Other Than Athletics" extracurricular positions for the Clark Public Schools (CHK) for the 2017-2018 school year as listed:

**Carl H. Kumpf Middle School**

**RESCIND:**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
ATOMS Club Advisor	Alessandra Bonacchi	\$717.00
Peer Leadership Advisor	Kellie Yetsko	\$717.00

**APPOINT:**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
ATOMS Club Advisor	Cristina Faro	\$717.00
Peer Leadership Advisor	Kathryn Jones	\$717.00

5. the following individual is hereby approved for the "Athletics" extracurricular position for the Clark Public Schools (ALJ) for the 2017-2018 school year as listed:

**Arthur L. Johnson High School**

**APPOINT:**

**Position**

**Name**

**Amount**

Ticket Sellers

Nancy Jogis

\$88.00 per event

- 6. the following individual is hereby approved for the Winter “Athletics” extracurricular Non-BOE paid coaching position for the Clark Public Schools (ALJ) for the 2017-2018 school year as listed:

**Arthur L. Johnson High School**

**APPOINT:**

**Position**

**Name**

Winter Track

Aya Elsekhely

- 7. payment of the merit goals for the Superintendent of Schools for the 2016-2017 school year as per the terms of his employment agreement is hereby approved.
- 8. submission of the merit goals for the Superintendent of Schools for the 2017-2018 school year to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for his approval is hereby approved. A copy of these goal statements is on file in the Board Office.
- 9. Francis Wagenblast is hereby approved as a School Academic Coordinator for the Clark Public Schools (District) for the 2017-2018 school year at a stipend of \$10,000.00.
- 10. Matthew Serweddes and Marlana Sundo are hereby approved as advisors for the Coding for Cougars program beginning the third week of October 2017 for a stipend of \$750.00 each for each six-week session.
- 11. the following individuals are hereby appointed as substitutes for the Clark Public Schools for the 2017-2018 school year:

**Substitute Teacher**

Samantha Bridgman	(UC)
Amanda Gergich	(UC)
Benjamin Hamilton	(UC)
Reham Neamtallh	(UC-BS)
Rachel Rota	(NJ Elementary School Teacher)
Stephen Sheppard	(UC-BA)
Evagelia Stavrakis	(UC-BA)
Jacquelyn Stulpin	(UC-BS)
Andrew Zub	(UC-BA)

**Substitute Aide**

Samantha Bridgman  
 Emily Curran  
 Pauline Marinorivera  
 Rachel Rota  
 Evagelia Stavrakis  
 Jacquelyn Stulpin

- 12. the following job descriptions are hereby approved. (Attachment A)

Computer Operator—Accounts Payable  
Confidential Secretary—Business Office  
Confidential Secretary—Central Office  
Confidential Secretary—Superintendent’s Office  
Public School Accountant  
School Academic Coordinator  
Secretary—Benefits and Transportation

**CURRICULUM/EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE (13-15)**

Motion: Steven Donkersloot

Second: Lorraine j. Aklonis

**Roll Call:** Yes: 10 No: 0 Abstain: 0

**Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Township of Clark that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that**

13. the Engineering: Design Thinking Curriculum Guide (Semester Course Offering; High School) for the 2017-2018 school year is hereby approved.

14. WHEREAS, the employees listed below are requesting Board of Education authorization to attend the conferences/workshops listed below; and

WHEREAS, the attendance at stated functions was previously approved by the chief school administrator as work related within the scope of the work responsibilities of the attendees and within the funds budgeted for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the attendance at these functions was approved as promoting delivery of instruction or furthering efficient operation of the school district; and fiscally prudent; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes attendance at the stated conferences/workshops and reimbursement for the related expenses in accordance with Board policy on conference and workshop attendance:

Mastering PARCC From Day One: Increasing Student Achievement and Ensuring Testing Success on Thursday, October 26, 2017; 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Gran Centurions, Clark, NJ, at the cost of \$175.00 – Yuri Diaz

Annual Conference for Middle Level Education on Monday and Tuesday, November 6 and 7, 2017; 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA, at the cost of \$524.00 – Victoria Sasso

15. the following educational field trip requests are hereby approved as listed:

**Destination:** Southern Regional High School, Manahawkin, NJ  
**Date:** 10/08/2017 **Grade(s):** 9-12  
**School:** Arthur L. Johnson High School  
Marching Band  
**No. of Adults:** 20 **No. of Students:** 55  
**Cost to BOE:** \$1,900.00



19. WHEREAS, the Clark Board of Education has received the Superintendent’s report of Incident(s) of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying (“HIB”) within the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board has had the opportunity to review the Superintendent’s recommendations with respect to the incident(s) of HIB.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board accepts the Superintendent’s recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:37-15(d), the Superintendent of Schools shall inform the applicable parents/guardians of the students involved in these incidents with the following information within five (5) school days of this Board meeting:

1. The nature of the investigation;
2. Whether the District found evidence of HIB;
3. Whether discipline was imposed;
4. Whether services were provided to address the incident of HIB.

20. approval is hereby given to enter into a partnership with Drew University for the 2017-2018 school year for college student observations.

**FINANCE**

**RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE (21-31)**

Motion: Robert Smorol  
 Second: Laura Caliguire

**Roll Call:** Yes: 10 No: 0 Abstain: 7 Christine Guerriero - #21; Lorraine j. Aklonis - #25 a; Carmen Brocato - #25 b; Laura Caliguire - #25 c; Jill Curran - #25 d; Steven Donkersloot - #25 e; Henry Varriano – #25 g

**Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Township of Clark that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that**

21. approval is hereby given for the out-of-district placement and tuition for the 2017 Extended School Year Program for the following students:

<b>Student #</b>	<b>Placement</b>	<b>Tuition</b>
1236069566 (Elementary)	Rutgers Day School ESY	\$12,566.00

22. approval is hereby given for the out-of-district placement and tuition for the 2017-2018 school year for the following students:

<b>Student #</b>	<b>Placement</b>	<b>Tuition</b>
7125757896 (High School)	Lamberts Mill Academy ESY	\$53,170.00 8,862.00
4973265995 (High School)	Honor Ridge Academy	\$72,651.00

23. approval is hereby given to Stephanie Shaeffer, M.S. CCC-SLP; Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapist, to provide independent Auditory Verbal Therapy Evaluations, as needed, at the following rates:

Therapy in office	\$135.00/per hour
In office evaluation	\$800.00
Out of office visits	\$195.00/first hour
	\$34.00/each additional 15 minutes
Observation (1½ hour, including review of records)	\$500.00

24. approval is hereby given to Theresa Harp, M.A., CCC-SLP; LSLs Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapist, Sound Speech, LLC, to provide independent Auditory Verbal Therapy Evaluations, as needed, at the rate of \$750.00.

25. the following board members and staff are hereby approved to attend the Annual School Boards Workshop in Atlantic City from October 23, 2017 to October 26, 2017 at the following cost: transportation to be reimbursed at .31 cents per mile, meals and incidentals not to exceed \$64.00 per day, lodging at a cost of \$92.00 per night (excluding taxes) not to exceed three nights, and group workshop registration for up to eighteen team members at a cost of \$1,500.00:

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Lorraine j. Aklonis | e. Steven Donkersloot |
| b. Carmen Brocato      | f. Edward Grande      |
| c. Laura Caliguire     | g. Henry R. Varriano  |
| d. Jill Curran         | h. R. Paul Vizzuso    |

26. the 2017-2018 Regular School Year transportation agreement between the Clark Board of Education and the Morris Union Jointure Commission (Attachment C) is hereby approved.

27. the Clark Board of Education hereby accepts the following grant awards for nursing services, technology, textbooks, and auxiliary and handicapped services for students who attend non-public schools in Clark for the 2017-2018 school year:

Non Public Nursing Aid	\$ 63,826.00
Non Public Security	\$ 49,350.00
Non Public Svc Aid Ch. 192	\$184,827.00
Non Public Svc Aid Ch. 193	\$120,382.00
Non Public Technology	\$ 24,346.00
Non Public Textbook Aid	\$ 36,046.00

28. the use of the Arthur L. Johnson High School auditorium light and sound systems will require that a trained student technician be hired by the renting organization at a fee of \$15.00 per hour worked; and,

Be it further resolved that the following students are approved as student technicians that have been adequately trained on such systems for the 2017 – 2018 school year:

- Michael Abbaticola
- Samuel Abbaticola
- Brian Azevedo
- Matthew Kowalenko
- Ryan Kowalenko



- 29. approval is hereby given to accept the proposal from Coastal Clock & Chime Company to repair the clock on the outside front wall of the Arthur L. Johnson High School at a cost of \$3,000.00.
- 30. the Board of Education accepts the financial reports, as submitted, which include the monthly Board Secretary’s report and the Treasurer of School Monies report for the month ended August 31, 2017. The Board notes that the Secretary’s and Treasurer’s reports are in balance for the cash receipts and disbursements for the month ended August 31, 2017 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c), I, R. Paul Vizzuso, Board Secretary, certify that as of August 31, 2017 no budgetary line item Account has obligations and payments which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the District Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8.1, and that the District financial accounts have been reconciled and are in balance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that through the adoption of this resolution, we, the Clark Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10, certify that as of August 31, 2017, after review of the Board Secretary’s monthly financial report (appropriation section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

- 31. the Bill List submitted in the amount of \$515,996.65 for October 3, 2017 is hereby approved and payment authorized as funds of the board are made available following this meeting.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

- Smooth opening of schools thanks to administrators, staff, and students.
- QSAC SOA: 100% for all five areas, i.e., Instruction and Program, Fiscal Management, Governance, Personnel, and Operations. Thanks to hard work of entire district and support of BOE.
- ALJ Senior Emma Knutson named a Commended National Merit Student
- College Fair this afternoon
- ALJ Open House for 2018-19 incoming freshman Tuesday, the 17th at 7 p.m.
- CHK Schools to Watch Re-designation Banner Ceremony on Wed., Sept. 20
- VRS reading program kick-off assembly this afternoon and storytime this Thursday evening; Thanks to Trish Peitz

**Jill Curran, Board President-** Explained that we are now part of a consortium for the College Fair and that the time of the event was dictated by the consortium. The Guidance and Athletic Departments worked together to make sure all students could attend the fair.

**Edward Grande, Superintendent-**Explained that the consortium has long standing relationships with districts and understandably those districts receive the evening time slots. We hope to be able to obtain evening time slots as we further develop and strengthen our relationship with the consortium. Mrs. Babis and her team were thanked for leading this initiative.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**STUDENT BOARD MEMBER UPDATE**

Saga Elsekhely reported to the board on activities for ALJ, CHK, FKH, VRS and CPA.

**HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

The floor was opened to the public at 7:31 p.m.

**Janet Downing, 154 Jupiter St, Clark-**Expressed concern that her daughter does not have a math textbook and how this could affect her ability to learn the material especially at home.

**Edward Grande, Superintendent-** Explained that most textbooks are moving towards digital platforms due to the fact that they become outdated so quickly. Suggested reaching out to the Math Supervisor and himself to address her concerns.

**Janet Downing, 154 Jupiter St, Clark-**Questioned the type and number of notifications announced via the Honeywell Alert System.

**Jill Curran, Board President-**Commented that Honeywell also serves as a reminder for people to come to events and that there may have been a glitch in the system last week which will be looked into.

**Joy Donaldson, Teacher & CEA President-**Announced members of executive board, stated expectations and goals for the upcoming school year. Congratulated Victoria Sasso as U.C. Educator of the Year and Michael Manzella as Clark Education Association’s Educational Support Professional of the Year.

**Jill Curran, Board President-**Commented on behalf of the board that they are looking forward to working with Joy and her Board.

The floor closed at 7:40 p.m.

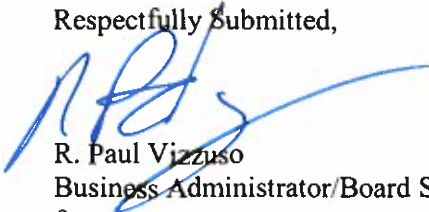
**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Christine Guerriero

Seconded: Laura Caliguire

BE IT RESOLVED, that with no further business to come before the Clark Board of Education, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



R. Paul Vizzuso  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
fm

- Attachment A – Job Descriptions
- Attachment B – 2017-2018 District Goals
- Attachment C – 2017-2018 Regular School Year Transportation Agreement