

Board of Education of the Township of Clark, Union County, NJ
Regular Meeting Minutes December 5, 2017

The Public Session of this meeting began at 6:32 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 6:34 P.M.

Present: Lorraine j. Aklonis
Scott Bohm
Carmen Brocato
Laura Caliguire (Arrived at 6:36 p.m.)
Christine Guerriero, Garwood Representative
Thomas Lewis
Robert Smorol
Henry R. Varriano
Jill Curran, President

Absent: Steven Donkersloot, Vice President

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

SHOWCASE OF SUCCESS

Joseph Turek
ALJ Football Season and Career Rushing Record Holder

Robert Smorol, Board Member and Athletic Committee Chair - Congratulated Joe on a spectacular career and season and also recognized Kim and Bob Turek for all the work they have done. Also, recognized Joe as an All State baseball player.

Jill Curran, Board President - Congratulated Joe and commented that his teammates in attendance are a testament to his character.

Thomas Lewis, Board Member - Congratulated Coach DelConte and DiNucci and commented that in addition to his phenomenal stats, he is also a scholar athlete.

PRESENTATIONS

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Results
and
2017 Pathways to Graduation

VRS Garden

Jill Curran, Board President - Commented that she was happy to hear that the VRS courtyard was being used in a productive manner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Christine Guerriero
Second: Lorraine j. Aklonis

Roll Call: Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 3 Lorraine j. Aklonis (Nov. 6, 2017)
Carmen Brocato (Oct. 30, 2017 & Nov. 6, 2017)
Jill Curran (Nov. 6, 2017)

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 October 30, 2017 Special Workshop Meeting
- Public Session minutes of the November 6, 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 7:00p.m. and closed at 7:04 p.m. after the following comments were made.

Jessica Lopez-Otalvaro, Teacher - Expressed concern over the abolishment of the preschool.

Jill Curran, Board President - Commented that the Superintendent will make remarks later in the meeting regarding the preschool program.

PERSONNEL

RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE (1-11)

Motion: Lorraine j. Aklonis
Second: Laura Caliguire

Roll Call: Yes: 9 No: 0 Abstain: 1 Christine Guerriero - #2, 4, 6-9

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

1. the resignation of Anthony Emmons, content area supervisor, from the Clark Public Schools (ALJ/CHK), is hereby accepted effective January 12, 2018 or sooner pending start date of replacement supervisor.
2. the resignation of Frances Parisi, before/after care aide, from the Clark Public Schools, is hereby accepted effective December 1, 2017.
3. Marc Koellhoffer is hereby appointed as a maternity leave replacement teacher (English) for the Clark Public Schools (ALJ), for the 2017-2018 school year, effective on or about December 18, 2017 to on or about May 31, 2018, at the annual salary of \$52,540.00 (BA Step 4), pro rata, pending a criminal history background check and a complete health physical.
4. James Weaver is hereby appointed as a maternity leave replacement (School Psychologist) for the Clark Public Schools (CHK), for the 2017-2018 school year, effective on or about December 6, 2017 to on or about February 28, 2018, at the annual salary of \$52,540.00 (BA Step 4), pro rata, pending a criminal history background check and a complete health physical.

5. Toby D’Ambola is hereby appointed as a leave replacement teacher (Mathematics) for the Clark Public Schools (ALJ), for the 2017-2018 school year, effective on or about December 1, 2017 to on or about January 8, 2018, at the annual salary of \$52,540.00 (BA Step 4), pro rata.
6. Danielle Fortunato is hereby appointed as a before/after care aide for the Clark Public Schools, for the 2017-2018 school year, at a rate of \$13.50 per hour, without benefits, pending a criminal history background check and a complete health physical.
7. Michele Greenspan is hereby approved as the Club Advisor (volunteer) for the Junior Thespian Society at Carl H. Kumpf Middle School.
8. Nina Conner, teacher for the Clark Public Schools (FKH), is hereby granted a maternity/disability leave commencing on or about February 1, 2018; and
Be it further resolved that Nina Conner shall use thirty-seven (37) accumulated unused sick days at the beginning of this leave; and
Be it further resolved that once the thirty-seven (37) accumulated unused sick days are exhausted, the remaining days of this leave shall be without pay; and
Be it further resolved that this leave shall end on or about June 21, 2018.
9. Resolution #54 of the Board Meeting on June 13, 2017 is hereby amended to include Kathleen Shellhammer to provide IEP directed ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) home services at a rate of \$20.00 per hour.
10. 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

Boys’ Basketball

Name

Anthony Fischetti

11. the following individuals are hereby appointed as substitutes for the Clark Public Schools for the 2017-2018 school year:

Substitute Teacher

Nancy Fakeh

(UC-BA)

Jeffrey Howlett

(UC-BS)

Marc Koellhoffer

(NJ Teacher of English)

James Weaver

(NJ School Psychologist)

Substitute Aide

Claudia Jaimes Amado

Anne Aviram

Christina Doctor

Jenna Koppel

Teresa Petersen

Lisa Savarese

Carolyn Tierney

Stephanie Visconti

Bria Walsh

CURRICULUM/EDUCATION

RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE (12-15)

Motion: Lorraine j. Aklonis
Second: Robert Smorol

Roll Call: Yes: 9 No: 0 Abstain: 1 Christine Guerriero - #13

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

- 12. the Stagecraft (Semester Course Offering; High School) and Tomorrow’s Teachers (Full Year Course Offering; High School) Curriculum Guides for the 2017-2018 school year are hereby approved.
- 13. approval is hereby given for a YMCA Track and Field Club to be offered on a tuition basis (an approximate cost of \$129.00 per student payable to the YMCA for two 1-1.5 hour practices per week with five to six meets) at Carl H. Kumpf Middle School after school from March 19, 2018 to May 18, 2018.
- 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:

Yoga and Mindfulness in the Classroom: Tools to Improve Self-Regulation, Learning and Classroom Climate on Thursday, January 18, 2018, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Edison, Edison, NJ at the cost of \$199.99 – Danielle Vazquez

Strategies! Strategies! Strategies! Strengthen Your Writing Instruction to Significantly Increase Students’ Writing Skills (Grades 6-12) on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 8:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. at the Wilshire Grand Hotel, West Orange, NJ at the cost of \$259.00 – Ann Mahoney

27th Annual NJAGC Conference on Friday, March 23, 2018, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Mercer County Community College, West Windsor, NJ at the cost of \$199.00 – Cindy Tarello

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

Destination: Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Date: 12/08/2017 **Grade(s):** 9-12
School: Arthur L. Johnson High School
No. of Adults: 4 **No. of Students:** 50
Cost to BOE: None

- 18. the 2018-2019 Program of Studies for Arthur L. Johnson High School is hereby approved, as submitted.
- 19. the abolishment of the tuition-based preschool program for the 2018-2019 school year is hereby approved.
- 20. the confidential Settlement Agreement and Release between the Clark Board of Education and N.A. o/b/o A.R., resolving the matter docketed before the Office of Administrative Law as EDS-09561-2015, and directing the Board President and Board Secretary to execute the Agreement, is hereby approved. A copy of the Settlement Agreement is on file in the Board Secretary’s Office.
- 21. the following students from Monmouth University are hereby approved for an Internship/Practicum in the Clark Public Schools as listed:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>School</u>
Mary DeGregorio	Jan. 16, 2018 - May 20, 2018	ALJ (Guidance)
Brianne DiBetta	Jan. 16, 2018 - May 20, 2018	CHK (Guidance)

- 22. 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.

FINANCE

RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE (23-32)

Motion: Robert Smorol
 Second: Laura Caliguire

Roll Call: Yes: 9 No: 0 Abstain: 1 Christine Guerriero - #25-27

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

- 23. approval is hereby given to enter into an agreement with Professional Education Services, Inc. to provide services for student #014485 (high school), for approximately four to six weeks beginning November 3, 2017 at rate of \$30 per hour, 10 hours per week, not to exceed \$1,800.00.
- 24. approval is hereby given to Speech & Hearing Associates to provide the following evaluation or independent evaluation, as needed, at the rate of:

Bilingual Speech-Language Evaluation with report - \$650.00

- 25. approval is hereby given to The DATA Group to conduct a comprehensive Program Evaluation for the district’s self-contained ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) programs, beginning in December for the 2017 – 2018 school year, not to exceed \$5,000.00.
- 26. approval is hereby given to Epic Health Services, Inc., to provide ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) therapy services beginning in December for the 2017 – 2018 school year, as needed, at the following rates:

Level III Para Professional/ABA Therapist	\$41.50 per hour
Master’s Level BCBA Services	\$130.00 per hour

- 27. the following donations to the Frank K. Hehnlly Elementary School (FKH) are hereby accepted from the FKH PTA with appreciation:

- Two Grainger Fans for the gym \$ 474.08
- One 8-foot picnic table and two benches for the playground \$1,799.56
- One Fellows paper shredder for the Main Office \$ 302.48

- 28. WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clark recognize that due to its age and wear and tear, the Turf Field at ALJ is in need of replacement; and

WHEREAS, the Township and the Board recognize that entering into a shared service agreement is beneficial in that these agreements may allow the Township to obtain financing to pay for revitalization and renovation of the Turf Field and track that may be available to the Board of Education to complete this task.

NOW AND THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Clark Board of Education that the Board Secretary and Board President are authorized to review and negotiate a shared services agreement (that will be initially drafted by the Township) between the Clark Board of Education and the Township of Clark regarding the revitalization and renovation of the Turf Field at ALJ High School, at a cost not to exceed \$75,000 per year for not more than five (5) years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when the aforesaid documents are in a form satisfactory to the Board Attorney, she shall present them to the Board for its review and consideration.

- 29. WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture sent a notice on June 14, 2017 to New Jersey school districts participating in the National School Lunch program announcing a significant change in the procurement protocol for the contracting of food service management companies that operate breakfast and lunch programs for New Jersey public schools, and

WHEREAS, this new procurement protocol would change the fundamental basis for awarding food service management contracts from a “Cost Reimbursement Basis” to a “Fixed Price Basis” for contract awards, and

WHEREAS, the Clark Board of Education has engaged staff and the community year after year to provide a local food service program that addresses and meets the needs of our children, and

WHEREAS, the Clark Board of Education credits the current “Cost Reimbursement” procurement method as the reason why the local school district can design a food service program that has the flexibility of meeting the needs of its children, and

WHEREAS, the Clark Board of Education declares that the “Fixed Price” procurement system would dramatically reduce the school district’s ability to change or alter its food service operations without the need to rebid for food service management services, and

WHEREAS, the Clark Board of Education further declares that the “Fixed Price” procurement method would impact the quality of the meals served to its children and therefore impact the participation of children in our breakfast and lunch program, and

WHEREAS, the Clark Board of Education further declares that the “Fixed Price” procurement method may limit the number of competitive proposals received by boards of education, and

WHEREAS, the Clark Board of Education rejects the Department of Agriculture’s underlying reasons for making this change without giving NJ School Districts the opportunity to address their concerns in an attempt to keep this procurement method in place, and

WHEREAS, the Clark Board of Education prefers an optional procurement system for securing Food Service Management Companies whereby the district could choose either Cost Reimbursement” or “Fixed Price” as the basis for contract awards.

NOW AND THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clark Board of Education hereby requests the Department of Agriculture to reconsider its plans to move the basis of awarding Food Service Management contracts to a “Fixed Price” basis and allow the option of continuing to use a “Cost Reimbursement procurement model; or in the alternative, a “Fixed Price” procurement method, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be forward to:

New Jersey Association of School Business Officials
New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture (369 S Warren St, Trenton, NJ 08608)
Local Legislators
NJ School Boards, NJ School Superintendents, NJ Principals and Supervisors, NJ PTA

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 October 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 October 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 October 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 October 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 Board of Education hereby approves the Monthly Transfer Report for the month ended October 31, 2017. (Attachment A)
32. the Bill List submitted in the amount of \$255,815.58 for December 6, 2017 is hereby approved and payment authorized as funds of the board are made available following this meeting.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- Thanked Carmen Brocato for 12 years of service. Tonight is his last formal meeting but he will be back in January to be honored.
- Congratulated Joe Turek and thanked Mrs. Pinto.
- Accomplishments of Fall sports teams
 - Field Hockey:**
Union-Essex Field Hockey League RED Division Champions
 - Football:**
Valley Division Champions
 - Girls Soccer:**
Valley Division Champions
- Wished Mr. Emmons, STEAM Supervisor good luck.
- YMCA Track and Field Club at the middle school
- 18-19 Program of Studies
- Our tuition-based, regular education preschool program will no longer be offered beginning next September. Unfortunately, our enrollment numbers are not where we need them to be in order for it to make good sense for us to continue with this offering. Please trust that this decision has not been made rashly. The program, having been in existence in Clark since 2009, has been closely monitored over its eight-plus years. It has been operating at a loss and, unlike some other local districts that are providing similar programs, we do not receive additional state aid to supplement our program. Since our district is currently experiencing space issues, the fact that these two classrooms will become available for other required programs was also a consideration during the decision-making process. We are currently evaluating our options for how to best use this gain in space that the Mayor and Town Council so very generously give to us at no cost. We will share these plans with the public as soon as we have concrete next steps. Mrs. Kowalski and I will be available to meet with the parents of our current three-years olds on Tuesday, December 12 at 6 p.m. in room 12 of the Preschool to answer any questions that they may have and to share information on other local regular education preschool programs that might be a good fit for their children next year.
- Expressed appreciation for FKH PTA donation of two Grainger fans for the gym, one picnic table and two benches for the playground, and one paper shredder for the main office.
- Parent University: Paint Night on Thurs., Dec. 14
- Happy holidays!

Jill Curran, Board President - The decision to abolish the preschool was a very difficult one but the Board feels it is best for the district at this time.

Thomas Lewis, Board Member – It was a difficult decision because the Board understands the importance of early education which is why we were on the cutting edge to go to a full day kindergarten. Unfortunately, the preschool program was very costly.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

The floor was opened to the public at 7:15 p.m.

Felecia Hrdina-Brown, 20 King Street, Clark - Expressed pleasure with the preschool program and

questioned if we were abolishing full day kindergarten as well.

Jill Curran, Board President - Confirmed that we are not abolishing the full day kindergarten program.

Thomas Lewis, Board Member - Commented that two and one half hours is not enough for kindergarten and the Board is committed to early childhood education.

Katherine Sotolongo, 46 Fairview Rd, Clark - Feels preschool is so important to future success of students especially in areas such as PARCC scores and high school placement.

Laura Caliguire, Board Member - Stressed that it was a difficult decision to close the preschool but that the Board had to take into consideration all factors including the burden on tax payers. Families affected by this decision will have to look at other preschools in the area.

Sandra Kaminski, 10 Peter Circle, Clark - Inquired about tax payer burden and the possibility of increasing the tuition. Also expressed concern with finding another full day preschool.

Laura Caliguire, Board Member - Explained that we are not required by state law to offer a preschool program and since we are losing money, we have to cut the program.

Robert Smorol, Board Member - Explained that a tuition increase could not make up the deficit as it is rather significant.

Thomas Lewis, Board Member - Commented that we do not receive a lot of state aid as other districts do for full day preschool.

Jill Curran, Board President - Explained that the Superintendent and Mrs. Kowalski will present other preschool options at the preschool meeting.

The floor closed at 7:31 p.m.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES

Christine Guerriero reported on the following two resolutions that were presented to the Delegate Assembly for discussion and vote:

Resolution #1 proposing policy to oppose any reduction in state aid from the preliminary amount statutorily provided by the NJ DOE and certified for budget development passed 95 - 5%.

Resolution #2 proposing policy language requiring Out of District providers to be held to the same 2% CAP as regular districts was passed 81-19%.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

Jill Curran, Board President - Thanked Carmen Brocato for his 12+ years of service and for his experience and knowledge especially with safety and security issues.

Carmen Brocato, Board Member - Commented that it was an honor to serve on the Board and with such dedicated members.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER UPDATE

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Christine Guerriero

Second: Robert Smorol

BE IT RESOLVED, that with no further business to come before the Clark Board of Education, the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



R. Paul Vizzuso
Business Administrator/Board Secretary
fm

Attachment A – October Monthly Transfer Report