

CRESSKILL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting, January 25, 2021

Due to public health considerations, this regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting was held via a Zoom video.

The Regular Meeting of the Cresskill Board of Education was held virtually on Monday January 25, 2021 via a Zoom meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Villani at 7:00 p.m.

President Villani led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Trustee Sally Cummings
Trustee Amy Cusick
Trustee Michael DePalo
Trustee Eugene Gorfin
Trustee Dionna Griffin (arrived 7:16pm)
Trustee Mary Klein (arrived 7:05pm)
Vice President Stephen Moldt
Trustee Raffi Odabashian
President Denise Villani

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Burke, Superintendent of Schools
Dawn Delasandro, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

READING OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT:

“The New Jersey Open Public meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with provisions of the act, The Cresskill Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting taking place via Zoom video be published by having date, time and place thereof posted in the Cresskill Board of Education office, sent to the Cresskill Library and Cresskill Borough Hall.”

INFORMATION ITEMS

- January 27** - HSA Parent Speaker Winter Wellness - Guided Meditation, 7:00 p.m.
- February 10** - HSA Parent Speaker Winter Wellness - "How Do We Motivate Our Kids and Stay Motivated Ourselves During this Pandemic", 7:00 p.m.
- February 15 & 16** - President's Day Recess (School Closed)
- February 23** - HSA Parent Speaker Winter Wellness - "Healthy Snacks for a Healthier Life", 7:30 p.m.
- April 2** - Good Friday (School Closed)
- April 5-9** - Spring Recess (School Closed)

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Motion to Introduce Consent Agenda

On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Odabashian and carried, the Board introduced the Consent Agenda.

Minutes:	1
Personnel:	1 THROUGH 13
Educational Planning:	1 THROUGH 5
Finance:	1 THROUGH 15

B. Discussion - any item on Consent Agenda - Board of Education Only

Trustee Cummings asked about Personnel #10 to which Mr. Burke replied the observations were for certification of a Student ESL teacher. Trustee Moldt asked about the change with the Grainger contract. Ms. Delasandro explained we are changing the co-op from which we purchase Grainger supplies for better prices. Trustee Cummings asked about the cost of the food disposal and the change in the Insight contract. Ms. Delasandro explained the cost of food has already been spent and the dollar amount is the inventory we are disposing of. The change of the contract with Insight (Kelly Services) is so the per diem rates remain in compliance with State minimum wage laws. Trustee Klein commented she received concerns when the district switched to Kelly, that there was a drop in quality. Trustee Klein commented on the change in tennis coach to which Mr. Burke explained that he was pleased with the tennis coach but the coach made his own personal decision to leave. Mr. Burke stated that the assistant wrestling coach is a volunteer. The trustees discussed the 2021/2022 calendar and state testing.

C. Open floor to public comment on Consent Agenda only

Citizens may address the Board of Education on any item listed on the agenda. Citizens will give their name and address when recognized to speak. A time limit of three minutes per person and a total of 30 minutes for all communications are allowed. Large groups are urged to select someone to represent them.

There were no comments from the public.

D. Close public participation

E. ROLL CALL VOTE - CONSENT AGENDA

ROLL CALL VOTE

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Trustee Cummings	✓			
Trustee Cusick	✓			
Trustee DePalo	✓			
Trustee Gorfin	✓			
Trustee Griffin	✓			
Trustee Klein	✓			
Vice President Moldt	✓			
Trustee Odabashian	✓			
President Villani	✓			

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Villani stated that January is School Boards Recognition Month. She thanked all the members of the Board for their dedication and commitment. President Villani will be the representative from the 37th district for the Executive Committee of the NJ School Boards Association.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Burke thanked the Board members for all that they are doing in support of the schools and stated that it is very positive for Cresskill that President Villani will be on the Executive Committee. He noted basketball starts tomorrow. He complimented all staff and administration for the work that they are doing. He would like to brainstorm ways to move forward and get more children back into school. In-person attendance figures are down. The State of NJ introduced a new program called “Bridge Year” for current Seniors. They can elect to defer graduation and stay one more year in high school. Mr. Burke is excited for extracurricular activities to start.

PUBLIC COMMENT - ANY SUBJECT:

Citizens may address the Board of Education on any item not listed on the agenda. Citizens will give their names and addresses when recognized to speak. A time limit of three minutes per person and a total of 30 minutes for all communications are allowed. Large groups are urged to select someone to represent them.

Mr. Spelbrink asked when the first day of school 2021-2022 will be. Mr. Burke replied 9/9/2021 for students. Mr. Spelbrink felt that school was safe but worried about students coming to school ill. He also asked since attendance is low, can cohorts be removed. Mr. Burke replied that it is being looked at. Staffing is the real issue when teachers or their own children get ill. Trustee Klein asked if it can be communicated when the state of NJ will allow teachers to receive the vaccine. Bernard Yoo asked the status of standardized testing. Mr. Burke replied that the tests are still scheduled for March, extended over 3 months (NJSLA). Senior tests have been removed. Mr. Burke thanked the town for the use of the community center for use during testing allowing us to socially distance.

TRUSTEE COMMENT – ANY SUBJECT:

Trustee Klein commented about the requirement for students to keep their cameras on and the problem of peers seeing backgrounds. Mr. Burke trusted the Principals judgement, noting teachers have been teaching to blank screens. Specific accommodations can be made on a case by case basis. Trustee Klein replied to Trustee Odabashian's question about sending directions for virtual backgrounds, that Mr. Massaro had already sent out directions. Trustee Klein commented that she is deeply worried about the mental health of students, that we are at a crisis level, that the school's social worker used to handle mindfulness and wellness programs. Trustee Odabashian asked about plans to return to 8am to 3pm school days. Mr. Burke replied that is his plan when the weather gets better, lunch is a major issue, but when it is warmer we could utilize other areas than the cafeteria for lunch.

Trustee Gorfin commented that the high school cancelled finals. Mr. Burke replied that it was not consistent to require finals, and was concerned with quarantines occurring in the middle of finals period. AP assessments will still be held.

Trustee Gorfin asked about the Google forms for COVID symptoms to which Mr. Burke replied with kudos to Melissa Cavins for getting the process rolled out. Trustee Gorfin asked how the school is dealing with non-COVID cold symptoms. Mr. Burke replied the nurses are being cautious and will call home and send home if necessary. Mr. Burke stated there are updated state protocols for returning to school after testing positive.

Trustee Gorfin commented that colleges are dropping SAT/ACT requirements for admission next year. Trustee Cummings asked how the Bridge Year affects students admitted to college. Mr. Burke replied he has read information on the Bridge Year, right now it only applies to New Jersey. Trustee Cusick asked what happens if 30 to 40 seniors decide to take the option of Bridge Year and how we will fit them in scheduling and sports. Trustee Cusick is concerned with equal access to classes/electives for all students. Trustee Cusick asked for a timeframe for combining cohorts in middle school. Trustee Cusick was concerned with parents not being consistent in sending children on their cohort day. Trustee Klein believes some families are not even in the country when accessing remote learning. Trustee Moldt commented that the situation is very fluid and he is concerned that if cohorts are combined, in the spring we will need to revert to cohorts. He stated that the key is that administration needs as much flexibility as possible to make the scheduling work.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

CBOE January 25, 2021 Regular Meeting MINUTES

Hearing no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 8:12 p.m. on the motion of Trustee Moldt, seconded by Trustee Odabashian, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Delasandro

Dawn Delasandro
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

CONSENT AGENDA

Regular Meeting - January 25, 2021

MINUTES

1. Approval - December 14, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

PERSONNEL

1. Approval - Salary classification changes/movement on the salary guide for teachers effective February 1, 2021
2. Approval - Appointment of Sue Welzer, long-term substitute teacher for Kacey Terzini, Elementary teacher, MMS, \$265.50/diem, retroactively effective 01/11/2021-04/01/2021
3. Approval - Revise the overage of one (1) class for Katie Gerber, CHS, Life Skills/Academic Support class, \$10,000, retroactively to September 1, 2020 through June 22, 2021, for the 2020-2021 school year
4. Approval - Student teaching placement of Matt Domville, St. Thomas Aquinas College student, with Mark Boita, Science Department, effective 01/11/2021-05/07/2021
5. Approval - Resignation of David Fried, JV Boys Tennis Coach, for the Spring 2021 season, in the 2020-2021 school year
6. Approval - Appointment of Catherine Durakis, JV Boys Tennis Coach, Year 1, Step 1, \$3,247, for the Spring 2021 season, in the 2020-2021 school year. If the season is shortened as a result of state-directed closing, the stipend will be prorated
7. Approval - Appointment of Nicole Alston, maternity leave replacement for Lisa Ruane, Social Worker, District, pending criminal history review and pre-employment verification, \$265.50/diem, effective 03/10/2021 - 06/22/2021
8. Approval - Appointment John Mullins, Volunteer Coach Assistant for Wrestling, for the 2020-2021 school year
9. Approval - Appointment of Carissa Gleason, substitute nurse for the District, \$150/diem, for the 2020-2021 school year
10. Approval - Ten (10) observation hours of Amanda Mayer, CIEE TEFL program, with ESL teachers Janice Acosta, Laura Bakelaar, Elyse Kaminsky and Judy Beekman, during the month of January 2021
11. Approval - Medical accommodations to teach in full remote setting for Iris Kim, CMS/CHS Special Education teacher, effective January 11, 2021 in accordance with Dr. notification, in the 2020-2021 school year
12. Approval - Medical accommodations to teach in full remote setting for Kristen DePeri, CMS/CHS Math teacher, effective 01/11/2021 in accordance with Dr. notification, in the 2020-2021 school year
13. Approval - Estimated maternity leave request of Kristen DePeri, Math teacher, CMS/CHS, effective 04/12/2021, paid using available sick days until the expected date of birth of 04/26/2021 through 05/21/2021, then placed on unpaid leave of absence in accordance with NJFLA and FMLA, effective 05/24/2021 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, and continue the unpaid leave in the beginning of

2021-2022 school year for eight (8) weeks (dates to be determined when 2021-2022 school calendar finalized)

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

1. Approval - Conferences/Workshops/Travel
2. Approval - In-state approved private school, Windsor Learning Center, 105 days, \$322.00/day, totaling \$33,810.00, effective 01/11/2021 - 06/23/2021
3. Approval - Votech School, BOCES, administrative fee, \$4,513.28, school based mental health, \$37,610.65, totaling \$42,123.93, effective 01/22/2021 - 06/23/2021
4. Approval - District Calendar for the 2021-2022 school year
5. Approval - Home program instruction, Natasha McKenzie, 2 hours/week, \$20/hour, approximately 24 sessions, effective 01/04/2021 - 06/22/2021

FINANCE

1. Approval - Bills for January 2020
2. Approval - Additional Bill List for December 2020
3. Approval - Board Secretary's Report for December 2020
4. Approval - Monthly Reconciliation for December 2020
5. Approval - Transfer Report for December 2020
6. Approval - Payment of Bills for February 2020
7. Approval - Accept the \$2,000 donation from Hosun Lee and Boram Chae
8. Approval - Observe January 2020 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH
9. Approval - Insight Workforce Solutions update pricing for Substitutes
10. Approval - Participation in the NJ State Contract with W. W. Grainger, Inc.
11. Approval - Participation in NASPO Agreement #: MA152 with Verizon Wireless
12. Approval - Settlement Agreement, OOD placement of special education student, \$42,660
13. Approval - NJDOE approved grant application for Addressing Student Learning Loss
14. Approval - Disposal of all perishable food items remaining in the cafeteria, \$4,538.72
15. Approval - Update the Designated Team Physician in 2020-2021

MINUTES:

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the minutes of:
December 14, 2020 - Regular Meeting Minutes

PERSONNEL:

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the movement on the salary guide, as per CEA contract, effective February 1, 2021 for the following teachers:

Name	Department/School	Salary Classification	Salary
Buzharsky, Zhanna	World Languages, CMS/CHS	MA +30, Step 15	\$94,706
DePeri, Kristen	Math, CMS/CHS	MA, Step 8	\$73,150
Martin, Maureen	Elementary, MMS	MA +60, Step 9	\$83,062
Peirano, Barbara	Behaviorist, District	MA +30, Step 11	\$86,938
Seavers Wolfstirn, Ellen	Elementary, EHB	MA, Step 10	\$79,128

2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of **Sue Welzer**, long-term substitute teacher for Kacey Terzini, Elementary teacher, Merritt Memorial School, \$265.50/diem, retroactively effective January 11, 2021 through April 1, 2021.
3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, revise the overage of one (1) class for **Katie Gerber**, Cresskill High School, Life Skills/Academic Support class, \$10,000, retroactively to September 1, 2020 through June 22, 2021, for the 2020-2021 school year.
4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the student teaching placement of **Matt Domville**, St. Thomas Aquinas College student, with Mark Boita, Science Department, effective January 11, 2021 through May 7, 2021.
5. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of **David Fried**, JV Boys Tennis Coach, for the Spring 2021 season, in the 2020-2021 school year.
6. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of **Catherine Durakis**, JV Boys Tennis Coach, Year 1, Step 1, \$3,247, for the Spring 2021 season, in the 2020-2021 school year. If the season is shortened as a result of a state-directed closing, the stipend will be prorated.
7. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of **Nicole Alston**, maternity leave replacement for Lisa Ruane, Social Worker, District, pending criminal history review and pre-employment verification, \$265.50/diem, effective March 10, 2021 through June 22, 2021.
8. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment **John Mullins**, Volunteer Coach Assistant for Wrestling, for the 2020-2021 school year.
9. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of **Carissa Gleason**, substitute nurse for the District, \$150/diem, for the 2020-2021 school year.
10. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a total of ten (10) observation hours of **Amanda Mayer**, CIEE TEFL program, with ESL teachers

Janice Acosta, Laura Bakelaar, Elyse Kaminsky and Judy Beekman, during the month of January 2021.

11. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the medical accommodations to teach in full remote setting for **Iris Kim**, CMS/CHS Special Education teacher, effective January 11, 2021 in accordance with Dr. notification, in the 2020-2021 school year.
12. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the medical accommodations to teach in full remote setting for **Kristen DePeri**, CMS/CHS Math teacher, effective January 11, 2021 in accordance with Dr. notification, in the 2020-2021 school year.
13. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the estimated maternity leave request of **Kristen DePeri**, Math teacher, Cresskill Middle/High School, effective April 12, 2021, paid using available sick days until the expected date of birth of April 26, 2021 through May 21, 2021, then placed on unpaid leave of absence in accordance with NJFLA and FMLA, effective May 24, 2021 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, and continue the unpaid leave in the beginning of 2021-2022 school year for eight (8) weeks (dates to be determined when 2021-2022 school calendar finalized).

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING:

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that, subject to the applicable restrictions and requirements set forth in the New Jersey travel payment guidelines as established by the Department of the Treasury, as well as those guidelines established by the Office of Management and Budget, except to the extent that said guidelines conflict with the provisions of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves travel related to attendance, as well as the payment and/or reimbursement for the allowable costs and expenses associated with the attendance at the conferences or workshops for the professional staff as noted, so long as said costs and/or expenses are consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-11.

Name: Dawn Delasandro
Date(s): January 19, 2021
Conference: NJASBO - monthly education session
"Overview of Insurance Coverages"
Registration Fee: \$50.00

Name: Dawn Delasandro
Date(s): March 16, 2021
Conference: NJASBO - monthly education session
"Purchasing Update & Best practices & NJ Start State
Contract Purchasing"
Registration Fee: \$50.00

Name: Erik Roth, Sean Conlon, Paul Wyka, Janelle Amato,
Michelle Blanco
Date(s): March 9, 2021(AM)

Conference: "Intervention and Referral Services: The Next Generation" online workshop
Registration Fee: \$300.00 (\$60/each)

Name: Danielle Reiffe
Date(s): March 19, 2021
Conference: Basic Training part II, EMDR to Address Disturbing Events
Registration Fee: \$0.00

2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, in accordance with the student's IEP for the 2020-2021 school year, approve the following service for **student #1051653629**, in-state approved private school, **Windsor Learning Center**, 105 days, \$322.00/day, totaling \$33,810.00, effective January 11, 2021 through June 23, 2021.
3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, in accordance with the student's IEP for the 2020-2021 school year, approve the following service for **student #5529261958**, Votech School, BOCES, administrative fee, \$4,513.28, school based mental health, \$37,610.65, totaling \$42,123.93, effective January 22, 2021 through June 23, 2021.
4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the **District Calendar for the 2021-2022** school year.
5. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, in accordance with the student's IEP for the 2020-2021 school year, approve the following service for **student #7738223812**, home program instruction, Natasha McKenzie, 2 hours/week, \$20/hour, approximately 24 sessions, effective January 4, 2021 through June 22, 2021.

FINANCE:

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Bill List January 2021. (Attachment F-1A)

Fund 10	General Fund	\$ 319,044.78
Fund 20	Special Revenue	\$ 60,581.21
Fund 30	Capital Projects	\$ 4,574.39
Fund 40	Debt Service	\$ 0.00
Fund 60	Cafeteria Account	\$ 222.50
Total		\$ 384,422.88

Void Checks Fund 10 \$ 25,173.24

2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Additional Bill List December 2020. (Attachment F-1B).

Fund 10	General Fund	\$ 912,095.08
Fund 20	Special Revenue	\$ 24,205.33
Fund 30	Capital Projects	\$ 0.00
Fund 40	Debt Service	\$ 0.00
Fund 60	Cafeteria Account	\$ 0.00
Total		\$ 936,300.41

Void Checks Fund 10 \$ 1,440.00

3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Board Secretary's Report for the month ending December, 2020 and certify that no major account has been over expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c) 3K, and that, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8-1 sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. (Attachment F-2)
4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Monthly Reconciliation Report for the month ending December, 2020. (Attachment F-3)
5. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the budget transfers for the month of December 2020. (Attachment F-4)
6. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Business Administrator to pay February 2020 bills.
7. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the \$2,000 donation from Hosun Lee and Boram Chae, parents of EHB students. Mr. and Mrs. Lee request that the donation be used in connection with the library at the Edward H. Bryan School.
8. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resolution in honor of New Jersey School Board Recognition Month:

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Board of Education, which adopts the administrative code to implement state education law, has established rigorous standards through its promulgation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which set the expectations of academic achievement for nearly 1.4 million public schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's locally elected and appointed boards of education play a vital role in ensuring that their local school districts meet state standards and adhere to all code provisions,

with the goal of providing an outstanding education to prepare all students for college and the workplace and to enable them to compete in a global economy; and
WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 non-partisan local board of education members and charter school trustees are public servants who dedicate their time, without pay or benefit, to the oversight of school district operations, sound financial practices, comprehensive policies, curriculum, staffing, and the well-being and academic achievement of all students in the district; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of local boards of education, in conjunction with state education officials and local educators, have built a foundation of success that has led to New Jersey's status as a leader in student achievement, as evidenced by the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores; and

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January 2021 to be School Board Recognition Month; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes the contributions of our state's local boards of education to the academic success of its public school students and expresses its sincere appreciation to local board of education members for their continued focus on the achievement of children throughout New Jersey; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education encourages qualified New Jersey citizens to consider serving as members on their local school boards.

9. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Addendum to the Agreement dated October 1, 2018 with Kelly Services (formerly Insight Workforce Solutions) as the provider of staffing for Substitutes in the Cresskill Public School District. Addendum B provides the detailed per diem pricing plan and is effective to June 30, 2021.
10. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the participation in the NJ State Contract **19-Fleet-00566** with W. W. Grainger, Inc., a State of New Jersey provider of facility maintenance supplies.
11. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the participation in NASPO/ValuePoint Master Agreement #: MA152 with Verizon Wireless for the purchase and use of products including wireless, data, and voice service, software and other services and accessories, effective as of January 1, 2021.
12. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Settlement Agreement with the parents/guardians of **student #3320625486** with reimbursement to parents/guardians of tuition for special education school attendance in the amount of **\$42,660** prorated for the 2020-2021 school year and corresponding tuition costs for school years 2021-2022 through 2023-2024, plus costs of transportation to be paid by the district directly to the transporter.
13. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the submission of the application or of any amendments that entail either programmatic or fiscal changes to the final NJDOE approved grant application for Addressing Student

Learning Loss.

- 14. Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the disposal of all perishable food items remaining in the cafeteria estimated at a value of approximately \$4,538.72.

- 15. Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, update the Designated Team Physician for the Cresskill Public Schools in 2020 to be Dr. Jake Zarah, and, in his absence, Dr. Teja Karukonda, at \$200 per home football game for a maximum total of \$600.