

CRESSKILL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting, February 8, 2021

Due to public health considerations, this regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held via a Zoom video, 7:00 PM

The Regular Meeting of the Cresskill Board of Education was held virtually on Monday February 8, 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 (arrived 7:12pm)
Trustee Mary Klein
Vice President Stephen Moldt
Trustee Raffi Odabashian
President Denise Villani

ABSENT: Trustee Dionna Griffin

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.”

PRESENTATION

Annual Audit Review by Andrew Parente of Lerch, Vinci and Higgins

The Audit presentation was given by Andrew Parente, Partner of Lerch Vinci and Higgins. He explained the audit was issued an unmodified opinion, which means the district financials are fairly stated. He reviewed the fund balance and reserve accounts. The audit contained three general comments which are the least severe of recommendations that the auditors will give. Trustee Cummings asked for an explanation of the third comment which is to obtain vendor proposals to compare to state contract amounts (when purchasing through coops).

INFORMATION ITEMS

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 22 - CBOE Regular Meeting, MMS Gymnasium, 7:00 PM

February 23 - HSA Parent Speaker Winter Wellness - "Healthy Snacks for a Healthier Life", 7:30 p.m.

March 8 - CBOE Regular Meeting, MMS Gymnasium, 7:00 PM

March 22 - CBOE Regular Meeting, MMS Gymnasium, 7:00 PM

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 Cusick and carried, the Board introduced the Consent Agenda.

Personnel:	1 THROUGH 5
Educational Planning:	1 THROUGH 4
Finance:	1 THROUGH 8
Policy:	1

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

Trustee Moldt asked about the Bridge Year to which Mr. Burke explained it is a new law allowing seniors to remain in high school for one additional year, due to COVID. The student must have met all graduation requirements by the end of their regular senior year and the student must not turn 20 years old during the Bridge Year. Trustee Klein stated that the deadline was short notice, also the program encouraged spring sport participation, but not fall and winter. Trustee Klein asked about the information given regarding the high school Chiller. A discussion ensued among the Board members. Trustee Gorfin asked about Finance #6, final payment to Tremco, to which Dawn Delasandro explained that the entire cost was paid by insurance, except the \$5,000 deductible. Trustee Klein asked for an explanation of Policy 1649.

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 public comments.

D. Close public participation

E. ROLL CALL VOTE - CONSENT AGENDA

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ROLL CALL VOTE 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 asked for a moment of silence for Carmella Ferrito and described her accomplishments and dedication to her work. President Villani publicly thanked Tom Schillaci and the custodians for the excellent snow removal at all three schools. President Villani congratulated Dawn Delasandro and her staff for excellent Audit results. She thanked Mary Ann Gallivan for her donation to the scholarship fund.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Burke credited Ms. Delasandro on the Audit and thanked Mr. Schillaci on the superb snow removal. Mr. Burke wants to save the last built-in snow day. He thanked Erik Roth for the video that Erik prepared regarding his role as the Director of Curriculum; Mr. Burke stated that this position is essential. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee formed a sub-committee for Professional Development for staff, which will meet tomorrow night. Mr. Burke thanked the town for broadcasting Varsity games, but would like to have Freshman and JV games broadcast also. At the Bergen County Superintendents meeting it was stated that educators should have access to vaccines soon. The staff continue to do a fantastic job.

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.

David Spelbrink, commented that in his daughter's 1st grade class, 7 of 14 children are positive for COVID. He believes a review needs to be done to determine why there was classroom spread. Mr. Burke hopes that all of Mr. Spelbrink's family is recovering. Mr. Burke has been speaking with the medical professionals at the county and state levels and has reassessed the school's procedures. This scenario is why we need to continue to be diligent. Mr. Burke believes that cohorts will be in place through September of 2023. Trustee Cummings asked about outside activities with the 1st grade students. Trustee Klein asked if the school's processes change due to the large number of positives cases. Mr. Burke replied no, the same protocol is in effect, along with the same reporting and quarantining. Mr. Burke believes that at some point the school may be sporadically testing students. Bernard Yoo, asked if there is something between shutting down the school and following the usual process. He specifically asked about ventilation and air circulation. Mr. Burke replied that air circulation is key, the recommendation is to keep windows open, but there is no 3rd quarantine option. Barbara Costa asked if a child has had COVID and travels out of state, is the 14 day quarantine still necessary? Mr. Burke replied yes, because the child can get COVID a second time and can still be contagious. Bernard Yoo asked about the 2/10/2021 Winter Wellness offered by the HSA to which Trustee Klein replied that it was for the Middle/High School families due to limitations on numbers in Zoom meetings. Kathleen Gerber thanked Tom Schillaci and the custodial staff for doing a great job in snow removal and an amazing job in cleaning all year long.

TRUSTEE COMMENT

Trustee Odashian asked about wellness programs for children. Mr. Burke is working with Michelle Blanco and other schools brainstorming ideas. He understands that children are not coming to school because they don't want to quarantine. Trustee Klein suggested a mental health hot line and wellness programs.

Trustee Gorfin asked about declining enrollment in the school. Mr. Burke is seeing the enrollment declining across the county. A previous demographic study showed enrollment at a plateau in 2020, however, today, a family with 7 children enrolled. Online Kindergarten enrollment is at 48 students in the first week. Trustee Cusick felt that 1st grade may grow more since Kindergarten is not required by the state and families may have kept young children home this year. Trustee Gorfin stated that Bridge Year students will need to be factored into enrollment.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Hearing no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 8:07 p.m. on the motion of Trustee Moldt, seconded by Trustee Gorfin, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Delasandro

Dawn Delasandro
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

CONSENT AGENDA

Regular Meeting - February 8, 2021

PERSONNEL

1. Approval - Compensation for Alina Duran, co-testing coordinator of NJDOE testing in Spring 2021, \$1,000, in the 2020-2021 school year
2. Approval - Appointment of Michelle Blanco as NJDOE Bridge Year Liason in the 2020-2021 school year.
3. Approval - Appointment of Joseph Sussman, JV Baseball Coach, Year 1, Step 1, \$4,334, for the 2020-2021 school year. If the season is shortened as a result of a state-directed closing, the stipend will be prorated
4. Approval - Deduction in compensation of one day for Nicole Bodine, Special Education teacher, CHS, \$453.88, for 02/12/2021
5. Approval - Deduction in compensation of one day for Barbara Peirano, Behaviorist, District, \$434.69, for 02/17/2021

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

1. Approval - Conferences/Workshops/Travel
2. Approval - Bilingual psychological evaluation, \$750, and bilingual educational evaluation,\$750, through Supreme Consultants, LLC
3. Approval - Neurological service, St. Joseph's Hospital, Dr. Kornitzer, 1 visit, \$450, on March 10, 2021
4. Approval - Developmental service, Dr. Santiago, 1 visit, \$650, January 2021

FINANCE

1. Approval - Accept the \$600 donation from Maryann Gallivan
2. Approval - Revised Board Secretary's Report for December 2020
3. Approval - School facilities project: St. Therese School
4. Approval - Accept the 2019-2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Auditor's Management Report
5. Approval - Accept and submit the Corrective Action Plan of the 2019-2020 Annual Audit
6. Approval - Final payment of \$32,136.55 to Tremco for roof/canopy repairs at EHB
7. Approval - Dawn Delasandro, as authorized representative, to submit the claim of Unclaimed Funds under Claim #1000154020 in the amount of \$2,077.94
8. Approval - Waiver of Requirements-Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program

POLICY

1. Approval - Move to suspend the rules of Bylaw 0131 that requires two readings to adopt a Bylaw or Policy and adopt Policy 1649 with one reading to be in compliance with the new Federal Families First Coronavirus (COVID-19) Act

PERSONNEL:

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the compensation for **Alina Duran**, co-testing coordinator of NJDOE testing in Spring 2021, \$1,000, in the 2020-2021 school year.
2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of **Michelle Blanco** as New Jersey Department of Education Bridge Year Liason in the 2020-2021 school year.
3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of **Joseph Sussman**, JV Baseball Coach, Year 1, Step 1, \$4,334, for the 2020-2021 school year. If the season is shortened as a result of a state-directed closing, the stipend will be prorated.
4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the deduction in compensation of one day for **Nicole Bodine**, Special Education teacher, Cresskill High School, \$453.88, for February 12, 2021.
5. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the deduction in compensation of one day for **Barbara Peirano**, Behaviorist, District, \$434.69, for February 17, 2021.

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: Janice Acosta, Laura Bakelaar, Judith Beekman,
Elyse Kaminsky
Date(s): May 25, 26 & 27, 2021
Conference: NJTESOL/NJBE Virtual Spring Conference
Registration Fee: \$1,196 (\$299/each, early registration) under Title III funds

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 a new student, bilingual psychological evaluation, \$750, and bilingual educational evaluation, \$750, through Supreme Consultants, LLC.

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 #8202012951**, neurological service, St. Joseph's Hospital, Dr. Kornitzer, 1 visit, \$450, on March 10, 2021.
4. **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 #8202012951**, developmental evaluation, Dr. Santiago, 1 visit, \$650, January 2021.

FINANCE:

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the **donation of \$600** from **Mary Ann Gallivan** to the Elizabeth Gallivan Rosa Memorial Scholarship Fund.
2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the **Revised 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 December 2020- Bd Secty Revised)
3. Whereas, The Board of Education of Cresskill in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the "Board"), desires to proceed with a school facilities project consisting generally of:

USE OF ST. THERESE SCHOOL

Whereas, the Board now seeks to take the initial steps in order to proceed with the Project:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF CRESSKILL IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, as follows:

Section 1. In accordance with the requirements of Section 6A:26-3 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, the Board hereby approves the Educational Specifications prepared in connection with the project and the Board further authorizes the submission of same to the Bergen County Superintendent of Schools and the New Jersey Department of Education for approval. This project is designated "Other Capital" and the Board is not seeking state funding.

Section 2. In accordance with the requirements of Section 6A:26-3 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, the Board hereby approves the Schematic Plans prepared in connection with the Project and the Board further authorizes the submission of same to the Bergen County Superintendent of Schools and the New Jersey Department of Education for approval.

Section 3. The Board hereby authorizes the amendment to its Long-Range Facilities Plan in order to reflect the proposed Project.

Section 4. The School Administration and such other officers and agents of the Board as are necessary, including the Board attorney, bond counsel and architect, are hereby authorized to perform such other acts, to execute such other documents and to do such other things as are necessary to implement the determinations of the Board set forth in this resolution.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the **2019-2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Auditor's Management Report** prepared by Lerch, Vinci and Higgins, LLP Fair Lawn, NJ.
5. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept and submit the **Corrective Action Plan of the 2019-2020 Annual Audit** to the County Superintendent of Schools.
6. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the final payment of **\$32,136.55 to Tremco/Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc.** for completion of the canopy roof repairs at Edward H. Bryan school.
7. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Dawn Delasandro, School Business Administrator, as authorized representative to submit required documentation on behalf of the Cresskill Board of Education in connection with the claim of Unclaimed Funds under Claim #1000154020 in the following amounts:

<u>Property Type</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Refunds (3)	Scholastic Book Clubs	\$1,859.94
Vendor Checks	Interstate Hotels	\$218.00

8. WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS-SPECIAL EDUCATION MEDICAID INITIATIVE (SEMI) PROGRAM

Whereas, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2021 - 2022 school year, and

Whereas, the Cresskill Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Cresskill Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Bergen an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A23A-5.3 for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

POLICY:

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, move to suspend the rules of Bylaw 0131 that requires two readings to adopt a Bylaw or Policy and adopt Policy 1649 with one reading to be in compliance with the new Federal Families First Coronavirus (COVID-19) Act.

Policy 1649 - Federal Families First Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Act