

CRESSKILL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting, March 8, 2021
Merritt Memorial School Gymnasium, 7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Cresskill Board of Education was held on Monday March 8, 2021 in the gymnasium of Merritt Memorial School. The meeting was called to order by President Villani at 7:01 p.m.

President Villani led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Trustee Sally Cummings
Trustee Amy Cusick
Trustee Dionna Griffin
Trustee Mary Klein
Vice President Stephen Moldt (arrived 7:25pm)
Trustee Raffi Odabashian
President Denise Villani

ABSENT: Trustee Michael DePalo
Trustee Eugene Gorfin

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 at Merritt Memorial School Gymnasium, 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

Curriculum Presentation, Erik Roth, Director of Curriculum

Erik Roth presented on the elimination of the ELA Honors program for 6th to 8th grades beginning with 6th and 7th grades next year and 8th grade in 2022-2023. The district is looking to continue individualized instruction from Elementary through Middle School and to shift away from middle school ELA tracking. In Cresskill, 54% of students are from homes where English is not the primary language. Cresskill has been working with the company “Words of Advice” to improve K-5 engagement and focus on literacy. The question of math tracking was raised to which Mr. Burke replied that all other comparable schools track math.

INFORMATION ITEMS

March 10, 11 & 12 - Parent/Teacher Conferences for Elementary Schools, 12:00 p.m. dismissal for elementary students

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 Moldt, seconded by Trustee Klein and carried, the Board introduced the Consent Agenda.

Personnel: 1 THROUGH 8
 Educational Planning: 1 THROUGH 6
 Finance: 1 THROUGH 4

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

Trustee Klein commented on the proposed calendar for next year and on Passover dates. Trustee Klein asked if we have any visually impaired students and how maternity leave is handled when it runs over 2 school years. Trustee Odabashian asked how many students attend Sylvan. Dr. Amato replied that currently there are 8 students.

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 all of the basketball teams had great seasons. Boys Varsity went 11 and 4, Girls Varsity went 8 and 3 (with 4 cancelled games). Colleen McQuillen scored her 2,000th point! President Villani thanked all of the coaches. President Villani attended the legislative meeting which highlighted QSAC relief, audit delay, Chapter 44 amendment and a grant toward regionalization (of which she is not in favor).

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Burke is excited that the vaccines are available for the educators. The area Superintendents discussed having trucks at the schools for the vaccinations. Mr. Burke thanked Dr. Klein for his guidance and said that the school had navigated well under his guidance along with guidance from the county Health department. Mr. Burke gave an update on combining cohorts where attendance was low. Warmer weather is coming and attendance may increase. He believes that cohorts can be combined but stresses that communication with parents is important. Mr. Burke believes that the school will be back to full time in September, but he needs information from families. The biggest hurdle still is having lunch. The Principals at each school are doing an incredible job, they want to bring the children back to school, but safely.

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, 156 South St., asked if combining cohorts was Middle School only or Elementary also. Mr. Burke replied that it was both and that some grades were already combined, based on attendance. Mr. Spelbrink’s daughter is in first grade and has had 4 teachers in 6 months. He felt strongly that Ms. Terzini should not have been made interim Assistant Principal and that it should have been planned better. Mr. Burke replied that he feels badly about the first grade class, but disagrees

regarding the planning. Unfortunately the long-term substitute contracted COVID, which was unforeseen.

TRUSTEE COMMENT

Trustee Cusick stated that certain classes may need to continue cohorts, how will that be handled? Mr. Burke stated that we are going room by room to keep the 6ft distance. May need to move students/spaces based on numbers and class size. The substitute teacher rate is improving so students do not need to be moved to the cafeteria or gym as often. Trustee Klein asked how we can bring students back without cohorts? Mr. Burke stated that lunch needs to be figured out, assuming we don't need social distancing. Trustee Klein hopes for normalcy and all students back for mental health reasons. She stated that enrollment is down approximately 80 students and asked where they are. Mr. Burke replied that families from other countries have not been able to move into town. Kindergarten enrollment is ok, but lower than normal.

President Villani reminded all Board members to complete their Financial Disclosure forms.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 8:25 p.m. on the motion of Trustee Klein, seconded by Trustee Moldt, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Delasandro

Dawn Delasandro
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

CONSENT AGENDA

Regular Meeting - March 8, 2021

PERSONNEL

1. Approval - Leave of absence request for Henry Surgent, Social Studies teacher, CHS, effective 04/20/2021, paid using available family illness days through 04/23/2021 then placed on unpaid leave of absence to bond with child, in accordance with NJFLA and FMLA, effective 04/24/2021 through 06/06/21
2. Approval - Appointment of Kayla Schneider, long term substitute teacher, MMS, \$265.50/diem, pending criminal history review and pre-employment verification, retroactively to 03/04/2021 through 06/22/2021
3. Approval - Social Worker internship of Krista Gentle, Ramapo College student, with Danielle Reiffe, EHB/MMS, 100 hours, for the duration of the 2020-2021 school year
4. Approval - Resignation of Chris Woodford, Head Coach Boys & Girls Cross Country Program, effective 02/22/2021
5. Approval - Salary agreement between Cresskill Board of Education and Dawn Delasandro, CPA, Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the 2020-2021 school year
6. Approval - Appointment of Joseph Parsons as volunteer coach for Baseball, CHS, in the 2020-2021 school year
7. Approval - Overage of one (1) period for Nicole Bodine, instruction for students at-risk, CHS, for 70 instructional days, \$55.56/day, effective 03/08/2021-06/22/2021, using Title I funds
8. Approval - Estimated maternity leave request of Catherine Cannon Kostelnik, Special Education teacher, EHB, effective 05/21/2021, the expected date of delivery, then paid using twenty (20) sick days from 05/24/2021 through 06/21/2021, then placed on unpaid leave of absence in accordance with NJFLA and FMLA, effective 06/22/2021, and continue the unpaid leave in the beginning of 2021-2022 school year for twelve (12) weeks, with the start date and end date determined when the new school year calendar is approved.

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

1. Approval - Conferences/Workshops/Travel
2. Approval - District Calendar for 2021-2022
3. Approval - Commission for the Blind & Visually impaired service contract, \$2,100, 09/01/20 - 06/30/21, student #2395386875
4. Approval - Commission for the Blind & Visually impaired service contract, \$2,100, 09/01/20 - 06/30/21, student #2529758090
5. Approval - Psychological evaluation, one (1) session, \$320 and educational evaluation, one (1) session, \$320, with service provider of Region V, in March 2021, student #4793581259
6. Approval - In-state approved private school, Holmstead School, start date of 03/02/2021, 70 days, \$328.10/day, totaling \$22,967, for the 2020-2021 school year, student #5529261958

FINANCE

1. Approval - Sylvan Learning Center tutoring contract (\$30,000), funded by Title I, ESSA Federal grant
2. Approval - Chiller replacement at Cresskill High School
3. Approval - Kelisa Wing, Diversity Training, \$7,200
4. Approval - Addendum to Insight Workforce Solutions Agreement to provide Substitute Teacher Temporary Wage Increase

PERSONNEL:

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the leave of absence request for **Henry Surgent**, Social Studies teacher, Cresskill High School, effective April 20, 2021, paid using available family illness days through April 23, 2021 then placed on unpaid leave of absence to bond with child, in accordance with NJFLA and FMLA, effective April 24, 2021 through June 6, 2021.
2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of **Kayla Schneider**, long term substitute teacher, Merritt Memorial School, \$265.50/diem, pending criminal history review and pre-employment verification, retroactively to March 4, 2021 through June 22, 2021.
3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Social Worker internship of **Krista Gentle**, Ramapo College student, with Danielle Reiffe, Edward H. Bryan School/Merritt Memorial School, 100 hours, for the duration of the 2020-2021 school year.
4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of **Chris Woodford**, Head Coach of Boys and Girls Cross Country program, effective February 22, 2021.
5. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the salary agreement between **Cresskill Board of Education** and **Dawn Delasandro**, CPA, Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the 2020-2021 school year.
6. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of **Joseph Parsons** as volunteer coach for Baseball, Cresskill High School, in the 2020-2021 school year.
7. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve an overage of one (1) period for **Nicole Bodine**, instruction for students at-risk, Cresskill High School, for 70 instructional days, \$55.56/day, effective March 8, 2021 through June 22, 2021, using Title I funds.
8. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the estimated maternity leave request of **Catherine Cannon Kostelnik**, Special Education teacher, Edward H. Bryan School, effective on the expected date of delivery May 21, 2021 in accordance with doctor's note, then paid using twenty (20) sick days from May 24, 2021 through June 21, 2021, then placed on unpaid leave of absence in accordance with NJFLA and FMLA, effective June 22, 2021, and continue the unpaid leave in the beginning of 2021-2022 school year for twelve (12) weeks, with the start date and end date determined when the new school year calendar is approved.

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: Melissa Cavins
Date(s): March 12, 2021
Conference: “Personal, Professional and Social Justice: Responding to Bias, Prejudice and Racism” workshop via Zoom
Registration Fee: \$100

Name: Tom Schillaci
Date(s): April 12, 2021
Conference: Virtual webinar “Covid-19 Awareness, Silica Exposure, Stop it, Stop Mold”
Registration Fee: \$25

2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the **District Calendar** for the **2021-2022 school year**.
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 #2395386875**, Commission for the Blind & Visually impaired service contract, \$2,100, effective September 1, 2020 - June 30, 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 #2529758090**, Commission for the Blind & Visually impaired service contract, \$2,100, effective September 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021.
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 services for **student #4793581259**, psychological evaluation, one (1) session, \$320 and educational evaluation, one (1) session, \$320, with service provider of Region V, in March 2021.
6. **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**, In-state approved private school tuition, **Holmstead School**, 70 days, \$328.10/day, totaling \$22,967, with a start date of March 2, 2021, for the 2020-2021 school year.

FINANCE:

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the contract with Sylvan Learning Center of Teaneck to provide college preparation educational services (tutoring) at a rate of \$59 per hour for 3:1 tutoring, and at a rate of \$79 per hour for 1:1 tutoring, not to exceed \$30,000, for the period February 2021 through June 2021. Contract will be funded by Title I of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) federal grant award.
2. **Whereas**, The Board of Education of Cresskill in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the "Board"), desires to proceed with a school facilities project, to be budgeted in the 2021/2022 school year, consisting generally of:

CHILLER REPLACEMENT AT CRESSKILL HIGH 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 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. This project is designated "Other Capital" and the Board is not seeking state funding.

Section 2. The Board hereby authorizes the amendment to its Long-Range Facilities Plan in order to reflect the proposed Project.

Section 3. 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. Including the submission of Information to the New Jersey Department of Education as applicable to the proposed Project.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the agreement with Kelisa Wing for seven sessions of Diversity & Inclusion professional development from March 2021 through August 2021 at a total cost of \$7,200.
4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Addendum to the Agreement dated October 1, 2018 with Insight Workforce Solutions (Kelly Services) 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 from March 9, 2021 to June 30, 2021 and incorporates the temporary increase in pay rate for Substitute Teachers.