

**CRESSKILL BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting, April 12, 2021**  
Merritt Memorial School Gymnasium, 7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Cresskill Board of Education was held on Monday April 12, 2021 in the gymnasium of Merritt Memorial School. 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 Amy Cusick  
Trustee Eugene Gorfin  
Trustee Dionna Griffin  
Trustee Mary Klein  
Vice President Stephen Moldt  
Trustee Raffi Odabashian  
President Denise Villani

**ABSENT:** Trustee Sally Cummings  
Trustee Michael DePalo

**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**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**April 26** - CBOE Regular Meeting/Public Budget Hearing, MMS Gymnasium, 7:00 PM  
**May 10** - CBOE Regular Meeting, MMS Gymnasium, 7:00 PM  
**May 26** - CBOE Regular Meeting, MMS Gymnasium, 7:00 PM  
**May 31** - Memorial Day, 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.

CBOE April 12, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda MINUTES

Personnel: 1 THROUGH 7  
 Educational Planning: 1 THROUGH 1  
 Finance: 1 THROUGH 8

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

Trustee Klein asked about Personnel #1, to which Mr. Burke replied that Ms. Terzini has been doing a great job, she will return to the classroom in September.

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

	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 recommended attending the upcoming Financial Aid Night which is a great resource of information.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Burke stated that regarding the “Letter to Community”, dated April 9, 2021, that we need to stand up for what we believe in, not just denounce what we don’t accept. Mr. Burke is very proud of the five seniors accepted to Ivy League schools.

**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, 156 South St. asked about the attendance level after break. Mr. Burke replied that overall attendance levels are very good. Attendance is very strong in the elementary schools and it is growing in the Middle School. High School attendance is still a challenge, having to quarantine is still a challenge. Mr. Spelbrink asked about serving lunch. Mr. Burke replied that the Elementary school is a different challenge than the MS/HS. The Elementary schools will need multiple lunch periods to accommodate students. At the MS/HS, considering letting the high schoolers leave. There are approximately 430 middle school students to keep in and feed. We are using the cafeteria for classroom space, where other schools have the space they need. Mr. Spelbrink asked about SAT rankings. Mr. Burke would like to improve Cresskill’s ranking. However, he is happy where Cresskill stands especially given this year’s challenges. Mr. Spelbrink asked for an update regarding the St. Therese situation. Mr. Burke stated that one is coming soon.

Daniel Park, 4<sup>th</sup> street, thanked Mr. Burke for the “Letter to the Community”. He wanted to make clear that the fear is very palpable. He attended a virtual church service on Good Friday that was Zoom bombed. It was racially motivated and horrific. He was thankful for the letter and voices of support.

**TRUSTEE COMMENT**

Trustee Gorfín asked if we would be back to full time in September 2021. Mr. Burke replied that is the plan, probably not all at the same time, students with compromised immune systems can still stay home. Mr. Burke stated there has been a decrease of colds/flu from previous years but worries if they return, combined with COVID, there may be issues. Mr. Burke would like to do without cohorts, but can’t say for sure. He feels that masks are essential. Trustee Klein asked for an update on state testing. There is no state testing this spring, but student assessments will need to be made. He recognized Dr. Amato, Sean Conlon, and Erik Roth for completing the Learning Loss Grant and noted that we were not awarded the grant. Trustee Klein asked about vaccines for children. Mr. Burke replied that there is a lot of concern for giving students vaccinations. He stated that student vaccination should be encouraged but not mandated. Trustee Gorfín commented on private schools mandating the vaccine, possibly gaining more students.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned to a Closed Session at 7:27 p.m. on the motion of Trustee Klein, seconded by Vice President Moldt, and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present.

The Cresskill Board of Education is adjourning to Closed Session for purposes of: Contract Discussion. Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, the Cresskill Board of Education is required to notify the public when the minutes of the closed session will be available. When the need for confidentiality no longer exists, the minutes will be available to the public.

**MOTION TO RE-ENTER PUBLIC SESSION**

On the motion of Vice President Moldt, seconded by Trustee Klein, and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present, the Board re-entered the Regular Meeting at 8:53 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Hearing no further business, the Regular meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m. on the motion of Vice President Moldt, seconded by Trustee Klein, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dawn Delasandro*

Dawn Delasandro  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Regular Meeting - April 12, 2021

**PERSONNEL**

1. Approval - Extend and approve the appointment of Kacey Terzini, Interim Elementary Assistant Principal, EHB/MMS, through June 22, 2021
2. Approval - Appointment of Samuel Suhotliv, leave replacement teacher, Social Studies, CMS/CHS, for Henry Surgent, \$265.50/diem, pending pre-employment verification, effective 04/14/2021 for the duration of leave of absence request in the 2020-2021 school year
3. Approval - Leave of absence of Carmela Fusco, Special Education teacher, CMS, using available sick days, for the period of 03/29/2021 - 05/07/2021
4. Approval - Compensation to the following teachers for an overage for Carmela Fusco, CMS, in the 2020-2021 school year  
Megan Fichter - 1 period/day, 24 instructional days, 3/29 - 5/07, \$1,333.44  
Vanessa Potenzzone - 1 period/day, 24 instructional days, 3/29 - 5/07, \$1,333.44  
Joseph Sussman - 1 period/day, 24 instructional days, 3/29 - 5/07, \$1,333.44  
Michelle Taliento - 1 period/day, 24 instructional days, 3/29 - 5/07, \$1,333.44  
Maryanna Laferriere - 1 period/day, 22 instructional days, 3/31 - 5/07, \$1,089.66
5. Approval - Compensation to the following staff for the Extended Day/homework club, using Title I funds, in the 2020-2021 school year  
Laura Germano - 8 hrs/week (Mon-Thurs), 43 instructional days, 3/31 - 6/22, \$50/hour  
Kathleen Wilkin - 8 hrs/week (Mon-Thurs), 43 instructional days, 3/31 - 6/22, \$50/hour
6. Approval - Compensation to the following staff, using Title I funds, in the 2020-2021 school year  
Yunah Baek - 3 sessions/week, 4/12 - 5/27, \$75/hour, (extra help, 9th grade Math)  
Joseph Sussman - 3 sessions/week, 4/12 - 5/27, \$75/hour, (extra help, 9th grade English)
7. Approval - Extend and approve the appointment of Sue Welzer, long term substitute, for Kacey Terzini, \$265.50/diem, Elementary teacher, MMS, retroactive to 04/01/2021-06/22/2021

**EDUCATIONAL PLANNING**

1. Approval - Camp Tikvah - JCC on the Palisades, two (2) weeks in Summer 2021, \$867.00, student #9399808746

**FINANCE**

1. Approval - Board Secretary's Report for February 2021
2. Approval - Monthly Reconciliation for February 2021
3. Approval - Revised Transfer Report for February 2021

*CBOE April 12, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda MINUTES*

4. Approval - Participation in Region V Council for Special Education Joint Purchasing Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year
5. Approval - Renewal of Altice Lightpath Service Agreement
6. Approval - Donation of a Track and Field Record board from Mr. David Kelchner
7. Approval - Valley Transportation, 2021-2022 Student Transportation Contract Renewal-School Related activities
8. Approval - Schindler Elevator for 2021-2022 elevator maintenance at Edward H. Bryan School

**PERSONNEL:**

CBOE April 12, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda MINUTES

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, extend and approve the appointment of **Kacey Terzini**, Interim Elementary Assistant Principal, Edward H. Bryan School and Merritt Memorial School, through June 22, 2021.
2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of **Samuel Suhotliv**, leave replacement teacher, Social Studies, CMS/CHS, for Henry Surgent, \$265.50/diem, pending pre-employment verification, effective April 14, 2021 through the duration of the leave of absence request, in the 2020-2021 school year.
3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the leave of absence of **Carmela Fusco**, Special Education teacher, Cresskill Middle School, using available sick days, for the period of March 29, 2021 through May 7, 2021.
4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve compensation to the following teachers for an overage for Carmela Fusco, Cresskill Middle School, in the 2020-2021 school year.
  - Megan Fichter** - 1 period/day, 24 instructional days, 3/29 - 5/07, \$1,333.44
  - Vanessa Potenzzone** - 1 period/day, 24 instructional days, 3/29 - 5/07, \$1,333.44
  - Joseph Sussman** - 1 period/day, 24 instructional days, 3/29 - 5/07, \$1,333.44
  - Michelle Taliento** - 1 period/day, 24 instructional days, 3/29 - 5/07, \$1,333.44
  - Maryanna Laferriere** -1 period/day, 22 instructional days, 3/31 - 5/07, \$1,089.66
5. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve compensation to the following teachers for the Extended Day/homework club, using Title I funds, in the 2020-2021 school year.
  - Laura Germano** - 8 hrs/week (Mon-Thurs), 43 instructional days, 3/31 - 6/22, \$50/hour
  - Kathleen Wilkin** - 8 hrs/week (Mon-Thurs), 43 instructional days, 3/31 - 6/22, \$50/hour
6. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve compensation to the following staff, using Title I funds, in the 2020-2021 school year.
  - Yunah Baek** - 3 sessions/week, 4/12 - 5/27, \$75/hour, (extra help, 9th grade Math)
  - Joseph Sussman** - 3 sessions/week, 4/12 - 5/27, \$75/hour, (extra help, 9th grade, English)
7. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, extend and approve the appointment of **Sue Welzer**, long term substitute, for Kacey Terzini, \$265.50/diem, Elementary teacher, Merritt Memorial School, retroactive to April 1, 2021 through June 22, 2021.

**EDUCATIONAL PLANNING:**

1. **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 #9399808746**, Camp Tikvah - JCC on the Palisades, two (2) weeks in Summer 2021, \$867.00.

**FINANCE:**

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Board Secretary’s Report for the month ending February, 2021 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)
2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Monthly Reconciliation Report for the month ending February, 2021. (Attachment F-3)
3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised budget transfers for the month of February, 2021. (Attachment Revised F-4)
4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education desires to enter into a Joint Purchasing Agreement and will participate as a full member of the Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education for the 2021-2022 school year; does hereby accept, adopt and agree to comply with the Region V Bylaws; designates Michael Burke, Superintendent, as its representative to Region V; and empowers him to cast all votes and take all other actions necessary to represent its interests in Region V. The Board further approves the joint bidding and transportation agreements for all (district) students who are transported through Region V; The Board further approves the joint bidding and/or shared services agreement; including but not limited to student evaluations, student therapies and other student support services; The Board further approves the joint bidding and/or shared services for nonpublic school services; and The Board further approves the joint bidding and/or shared services for other services as requested to be provided by Region V component districts on as needed basis.
5. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the renewal of the Altice Lightpath Service Agreement (E-Rate eligible) for 1GB private fiber network service to each of Cresskill MS/HS, Edward H. Bryan School and Merritt School for a service term of three years at a combined cost of \$2,724 per month.
6. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the donation from Mr. David Kelchner, Class of 1972, of a Track and Field Record board to be displayed in the Cresskill High School gymnasium.
7. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent award to **Valley Transportation** the 2021-2022 Student Transportation Contract Renewal –School Related Activities Contract SRA-1 at a rate increase of 1.69% (CPI):

Destination	Per Hour Cost	Increase/Decrease Adjustment Cost	Per Aide Cost If applicable
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CBOE April 12, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda MINUTES

Various Athletic Trips	\$65.14	\$24.45 per quarter hour	\$41.00 per two hours
Co-Curricular Trips	\$65.14	\$24.45 per quarter hour	\$41.00 per two hours

8. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the preventive maintenance service contract with Schindler Elevator Corporation for 2021/2022 for the south elevator at Edward H. Bryan School, at a cost of \$420 per month.