

CRESSKILL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
**Regular Meeting, September 27, 2021**

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

The Regular Meeting of the Cresskill Board of Education was held on Monday September 27, 2021 via Zoom video. 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 arr. 7:30pm  
Trustee Mary Klein  
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."*

**PRESENTATION**

Middle/High School Restoration Update

Jim Mandeville, Project Manager of First Onsite (Cresskill's hired disaster recovery company) provided a brief explanation of the status of the building as it was affected by Category 3 water which has permeated into all HVAC units and duct work.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**September 30** - CMS Virtual Back to School Night

**October 5** - HSA Parent Speaker (zoom program) - "Insights for the College Application Process" presented by CollegeWise Bergen County, college admissions counseling experts, 7:00 PM

**October 7** - CHS Virtual Back to School Night

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**October 11** - Columbus Day, Professional Development Day for Staff ONLY

**October 14** - HSA Parent Speaker (zoom program) - "Managing the Unknown: Resources to Stay Resilient with Change", part 1 of a 3-part Mental Health & Wellness Series presented by the Graf Center for Integrative Medicine, a wellness center in Bergen County, 7:00 PM

**November 4 & 5** - NJEA Convention - School Closed

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

**November 10, 11 & 12** - Minimum Days for Elementary Schools ONLY for Parent Teacher Conferences

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

**November 24** - Minimum Day, Thanksgiving Recess

**November 25 & 25** - Thanksgiving Recess

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Motion to Introduce Consent Agenda

On a motion by Vice President Moldt, seconded by Trustee Klein and carried, the Board introduced the Consent Agenda.

Minutes:	1
Personnel:	1 THROUGH 9
Educational Planning:	1 THROUGH 8
Finance:	1 THROUGH 13

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

Trustee Klein asked about the resignation of Luisa Arbelo. Mr. Burke stated that she had an opportunity for another position that better suited her large family. Trustee Klein asked if the vacancy would be addressed immediately. Mr. Burke replied that at a recent Superintendent's meeting, the shortage of staff - teachers, aides, nurses, etc. was a big topic of discussion. Trustee Gorfin asked how Cresskill High School Option II is being handled. Mr. Burke replied that it is a contractual obligation and that there is still a physical education requirement. Trustee Gorfin asked if overages were necessary before Ida. Mr. Burke replied yes. Trustee Gorfin asked if DeSesa's work on the Chiller Replacement was ongoing to which Ms. Delasandro replied yes, still moving forward. Trustee Gorfin asked where the \$2 million to pay Insurance Restoration Services would come from. Ms. Delasandro replied primarily from insurance proceeds. Trustee Cummings asked about the sports resignations. Mr. Burke stated that he is looking for replacements primarily among our current staff. Trustee Klein asked if class trips will still happen. Mr. Burke wants as much normalcy as possible. He does not believe the district is ready for overnight trips given the Delta variant. President Villani agreed that the Demarest Farms Middle School trip was something to look forward to. She again thanked the Cresskill Cougars soccer organization for their generous donation.

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

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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

	<b>ROLL CALL VOTE</b>			
	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 thanked Mr. Burke for all that he is doing during this crisis including the community letter that was distributed. President Villani attended Girls Senior Night and encouraged the Board and the community to come out and support the athletes. She toured Cresskill High School with First Lady Murphy, which Judge Dressler helped coordinate. She hopes for a faster turnaround of funds from FEMA and is happy that field trips have started up again.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Burke understands that everyone is frustrated at this point regarding the situation at the Middle/High school. Mr. Burke had extensive meetings on Friday, the results of which were communicated in the community letter distributed earlier today. Mr. Burke wants the children back in school full time. The district is moving forward with using the St. Therese elementary school building. However, there are different regulations for public versus parochial schools. The Crestron building would be difficult to approve. An elementary school would be easier to move than the middle/high school because of teachers who teach more than one grade level. Mr. Burke is receiving donations of desks. Mr. Whitney is working on the wi-fi at St. Therese. 6th and 7th grade may attend St. Therese or possibly 6,7,8,9 grades. Trailers are a tremendous expense. The possibility exists that students could be back in the high school in November with emergency heating. Mr. Burke appreciated the First Lady's visit and offers of help. He understands that the community wants answers but school has only been back in session 13 days. Along the C-wing is a trailer for the administrative staff, the district would need 24 trailers for the students. Mr. Burke has called 4 bus companies for possible transportation options and none of them have buses or drivers to spare. Mr. Burke thanked the teachers for all they do and he thanked St. Therese.

**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.

M. Weissy asked if a 3rd party mechanical engineer was being brought in to evaluate the HVAC system and if boiler rentals were considered. Ms. Delasandro replied that the school architect would be providing an evaluation. Mr. Burke replied that the existing boilers still need to be cleaned, financing is an obstacle, and many parts are on back order. Ms. Fisher asked for more detail on the trailers. Mr. Burke replied that the trailers are not practical for the long term. Ms. Fisher suggested hiring an aggressive attorney to help attain emergency status, bypass the bidding process and speed up the process. Ms. Delasandro replied that the district cannot sign purchase orders without appropriations. Mr. Barkan commented that his solution was workable as a stand-alone heating system without linking to the current HVAC system. Mr. Burke is supportive of Mr. Barkan's solution if it can get approved. Ms. Costa asked how to prevent this from happening again. Mr. Burke replied that some things can be done, including flood gates. Ms. Migardos asked what type of schedule a 6th grader would have at St. Therese. Mr. Burke replied that he wants a full day, but will have to cycle to have as many students getting some in-person instruction as possible. Mr. Semenoro asked if there would be effort put into making the boiler room water-tight. Trustee Moldt replied that the boiler room is designed to be sunken to contain the water if a boiler erupts, this protects the school. Mr. Nusspickel thanked Mr. Burke for all of his work on this disaster. He asked for clarification as to why the boiler purchase was not an emergency. Mr. Burke said that progress has been made to appeal that decision. Mr. Rubinstein asked if textbooks could be brought back to make remote learning more like in person learning and address the lack of challenge students have felt over the last 18 months. Mr. Burke stated that he is in the process of doing so. Mr. Barkan asked if the students could be brought back in while the weather is still mild. Mr. Burke replied that outside temperatures need to be between 68 and 72 degrees. Trustee Moldt added that students cannot be in the building without mechanical ventilation. Ms. Shick asked about the boilers to which Mr. Burke replied that the boilers need to be

taken apart to determine if they could be repaired and used again. Ms. Shick asked who from FEMA came to the school. Mr. Burke replied that the district has not yet been assigned the FEMA representative. Ms. David asked if community fundraising and donations would be helpful to speed up the process. Mr. Burke replied that there is a great opportunity for fundraising. He stated that Mrs. Chin's fundraising with the Cougars Soccer organization was astounding. Mr. Merin asked if heated/cooled tents were considered. Trustee Moldt replied that heating, cooling and toilets are an issue for tents. Trustee Gorfin asked about guidance for juniors and seniors. Mr. Burke stated that interviews for a new Director were ongoing. Ms. Shick asked to whom should we send an SOS? Mr. Burke replied to call our county and state congressmen and representatives.

**TRUSTEE COMMENT**

Trustee Cusick stated that there is a digital version of a letter that can be sent to our congressman. Ms. Delasandro replied that she will get back to Trustee Cusick with the Congressman's information. Trustee Klein reviewed upcoming parent speaker events including college applications and the first of a three part series on mental health. Trustee Klein asked President Villani to advise who can officially speak on behalf of the Board. President Villani stated herself, Mr. Burke and Ms. Delasandro as it relates to financial issues. Trustee Klein stated that on Wednesday the county Board of Education meeting was being held at the Clinton Inn both in-person and virtually, please attend. Trustee Moldt thanked Mr. Burke, Ms. Delasandro and Mr. Roth for all of their work. He is working with other districts but on a smaller scale than Cresskill's issues. Materials are difficult to come by. This process takes time. President Villani concluded by stating that the meeting had 124 participants.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Hearing no further business, the Regular meeting adjourned at 8:44 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**

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**MINUTES**

1. Approval - August 23, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

**PERSONNEL**

1. Approval - Mandated positions for 2021-2022
2. Approval - Additional compensation to Nicholas Calandrino, Michael Doto, and Catherine Durakis \$3,333 each for CHS Option II
3. Approval - Co-curricular and Athletic stipends for 2021-2022
4. Approval - Resignation of John Lisella, Freshman Boys Basketball coach
5. Approval - Resignation of Chris Woodford, Spring Track Coordinator
6. Approval - Special Education Department teacher overages paid by Title I funds for Jamie Baricevic, Megan Fichter, David Fried, Katie Gerber, Mike Mirkovic, Jessica Otiniano, Devorah Springer and Joseph Sussman
7. Approval - Special Education Department teacher overage paid by Title I funds for Nicole Bodine
8. Approval - Resignation of Luisa Arbelo, World Language teacher, CHS, effective 11/21/21
9. Approval - Dawn Delasandro, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, contract for 2021-2022

**EDUCATIONAL PLANNING**

1. Approval - Conferences/workshops/travel
2. Approval - In-state approved private school, Holmstead School, 180 days, \$327.00/day, totaling \$58,860.00, for the 2021-2022 school year
3. Approval - Out of district public school, Pascack Valley Regional High School District, 180 days, \$206.68/day, totaling \$37,202.00, for the 2021-2022 school year
4. Approval - Out of district public school, Pascack Valley Regional High School District, ESY 2021, \$3,500
5. Approval - Educational services at St. Clare's Hospital/Children's Crisis Intervention Services, for student #8352823248
6. Approval - Speech/Language bilingual services, Elizabeth Harriman, student #0238
7. Approval - Field Trips for 2021-2022
8. Approval - Words of Literacy consultants for literacy staff development for grades 3 to 8 for 28 days total, \$1,800/day, totaling \$50,400, to be funded by Federal grants

**FINANCE**

1. Approval - Bills for September 2021
2. Approval - Additional Bills for August 2021
3. Approval - Board Secretary's Report for July 2021
4. Approval - Monthly Reconciliation for July 2021
5. Approval - Transfers for August 2021
6. Approval - Payment of bills for October 2021

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7. Approval - Accept donation from Cresskill Cougars United Soccer Club
8. Approval - Payment Request #1 from DeSesa Engineering, \$25,480
9. Approval - Contract with YWCA
10. Approval - Revised Dependent Care and Medical Expense Savings accounts
11. Approval - Accept donation of the rental of a copier from Atlantic Tomorrow
12. Approval - Insurance Restoration Services for \$2,000,000 for emergency disaster recovery Clean-up
13. Approval - Automated Logic for \$39,952 to evaluate all HVAC mechanical units

**MINUTES:**

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1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the minutes of:

August 23, 2021 - Regular Meeting Minutes

**PERSONNEL:**

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following mandated positions for the 2021-2022 school year:

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>EMPLOYEE</b>
Substance Awareness Coordinator	Catherine White
Homeless Liaison	Catherine White
DYFS Liaison	Catherine White
Anti-bullying Coordinator	Catherine White
Indoor Air Quality Designee	Tom Schillaci
Integrated Pest Management Coordinator	Tom Schillaci
Right To Know Officer	Tom Schillaci
Chemical Hygiene Officer	Alexis Peck
AHERA Coordinator	Tom Schillaci
Asbestos Manager & PEOSA Officer	Tom Schillaci
School Safety Specialist	Lemma Taha
Data Coordinator	Julie Keating
ADA Officer	Tom Schillaci
Title IX Coordinator	Beth Del Vecchio
Issuing Officer for Working Papers	Lynda Nienstedt

2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the compensation of \$3,333 each for **Nicholas Calandrino, Michael Doto and Catherine Durakis** for overage in relation to Cresskill High School Option II, for the 2021-2022 school year.
3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the attached list of **Co-curricular and Athletic** stipends for the 2021-2022 school year.
4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the resignation of **John Lisella**, Freshman Boys Basketball Coach, effective September 16, 2021.
5. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the resignation of **Chris Woodford**, Spring Track Coordinator, effective September 17, 2021.
6. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve one (1) class overage each for the following Special Education teachers, effective September 1, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year.  
**Jamie Baricevic** - full year overage, \$10,000, paid by Title I funds (Math)  
**Megan Fichter** - full year overage, \$10,000, paid by Title I funds (English)  
**David Fried** - full year overage, \$10,000, paid by Title I funds (History)  
**Katie Gerber** - full year overage, \$10,000, Life Skills program  
**Mike Mirkovic** - full year overage, \$10,000, paid by Title I funds (Math)  
**Jessica Otiniano** - full year overage, \$10,000, paid by Title I funds (English)  
**Devorah Springer** - full year overage, \$10,000, Life Skills program  
**Joseph Sussman** - full year overage, \$10,000, paid by Title I funds (History)
7. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the overage of one (1) period for **Nicole Bodine**, Cresskill High School, at a rate of \$5,000 paid by Title I funds (English) for the period February 1, 2022 through June 22, 2022.
8. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of **Luisa Arbelo**, World Language teacher, Cresskill High School, effective November 21, 2021 or a date mutually agreed upon.
9. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment contract for **Dawn Delasandro**, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

#### **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:** Sean Conlon

**Date(s):** July 12 - 15, 2021  
**Conference:** Reimagining Education  
 Teachers College, Columbia University  
**Registration Fee:** \$550  
**Name:** Rachel Cohen  
**Date(s):** October 5, 2021  
**Conference:** Counselor Connect at Temple University  
**Registration Fee:** \$0

2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, in accordance with the student's IEP for the 2021-2022 school year, approve the tuition contract with **Holmstead School**, an in-state approved private school, for **student #2788241732**, 180 days, \$327.00/day, totaling \$58,860.00, effective September 1, 2021 through June, 2022, and any extraordinary services as per IEP as invoiced.
3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, in accordance with the student's IEP for the 2021-2022 school year, approve the tuition contract with **Pascack Valley Regional High School District**, an in-state approved public school, for **student #1468360737**, 180 days, \$206.68/day, totaling \$37,202.00, effective September 1, 2021 through June, 2022, and any extraordinary services as per IEP as invoiced.
4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, in accordance with the student's IEP for the 2021-2022 school year, approve the tuition contract with **Pascack Valley Regional High School District**, an in-state approved public school, for **student #1468360737**, extended school year program, totaling \$3,500 effective July 6, 2021 through July 30, 2021, and any extraordinary services as per IEP as invoiced.
5. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, in accordance with the student's IEP for the 2021-2022 school year, approve educational services at St. Clare's Hospital/Children's Crisis Intervention Services, for **student #8352823248**, up to 4 hours total at \$55/hour, effective September 10, 2021 through September 17, 2021.
6. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, in accordance with the student's IEP for the 2021-2022 school year, approve speech/language bilingual service with Elizabeth Harriman, for **student #0238**, one visit, \$450 on July 24, 2021.
7. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the **Field Trips** for the 2021-2022 school year.
8. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the contracts from **Words of Advice Literacy Consultants (WOA)** with Holly Chopak and Melanie Brown to provide Cresskill School District with literacy staff development during the 2021-2022 school year at a cost of \$1,800 per day, for a total of \$50,400, funded by the following federal grants:

Grant	Amount
ESSER II	\$27,000
ESSER III	\$1,870

Title II under ESEA	\$21,530
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**FINANCE:**

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

Fund 10	General Fund	\$ 748,121.50
Fund 20	Special Revenue	\$ 64,961.59
Fund 30	Capital Projects	\$ 0.00
Fund 40	Debt Service	\$ 0.00
Fund 60	Cafeteria Account	\$ 0.00
Total		\$ 813,083.90
Void Checks		\$ 0.00

- 2. Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Additional Bill August 2021. (Attachment F-1B).

Fund 10	General Fund	\$ 871,922.50
Fund 20	Special Revenue	\$ 284.00
Fund 30	Capital Projects	\$ 0.00
Fund 40	Debt Service	\$ 0.00
Fund 60	Cafeteria Account	\$ 325.00
Total		\$ 872,531.50
Void Checks		\$ 0.00

- 3. Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Board Secretary’s Report for the month ending July, 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)
- 4. Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Monthly Reconciliation Report for the month ending July, 2021. (Attachment July F-3)

5. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the budget transfers for the month of August, 2021. (Attachment F-4)
6. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Business Administrator to pay October, 2021 bills.
7. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the donation of \$22,100 from the **Cresskill Cougars United Soccer Club** for Hurricane Ida storm damage repairs.
8. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and district architect, Di Cara Rubino Architects, approve **Payment of Request #1** from **DeSesa Engineering Co., Inc.** in the amount of **\$25,480.00** for work completed to date on Project 3773- Chiller Replacement at Cresskill Middle/High School.
9. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the facility usage contract with the **YWCA** to provide before and after care at Edward H. Bryan School and Merritt Memorial School at an annual fee of \$10,000 (\$1,000 per month) for the use of the district's facilities.
10. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and as a result of the American Rescue Plan and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, the increase in allowable dependent care flexible spending contributions to \$10,500 for the plan year 09/01/21 through 08/31/22 and the rollover of unused flexible spending contributions not to exceed \$550 for unreimbursed medical costs from the 09/01/20 to 08/31/21 plan year to the current plan year in an effort to provide some relief to participants of the flexible spending plan offered in district.
11. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the donation of the rental of a multifunctional copier machine from Atlantic Tomorrows Office to be used by Cresskill staff in the modular trailer at Cresskill High School during the remediation and repair of the building damaged by flood.
12. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, ratify contract awarded to **Insurance Restoration Services** through ESCNJ Co-op Bid # 17/18-34 for \$2,000,000 for the emergency disaster recovery clean-up due to Tropical Storm Ida, invoiced and paid as per co-op contract prices.
13. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approved the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, following Tropical Storm Ida and the resulting devastating damage caused thereby, the Cresskill Board of Education (“Board”) required the immediate services of a vendor to evaluate all of the HVAC mechanical units and associated electronic control components to determine the damage of the equipment and whether it was safe to continue to use the equipment (the “services”); and

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**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37, the Board may award a contract to a vendor without publicly advertising for bids when the amount of the contract is less than the Board's bid threshold; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board's bid threshold is \$44,000; and

**WHEREAS**, Automated Logic, Clifton, New Jersey, agreed to perform the needed services for \$39,952; and

**WHEREAS**, given the need to perform the services immediately as a result of the emergency caused by Tropical Storm Ida, it was not practicable to receive other quotations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board hereby awards a contract for the services to Automated Logic, Clifton, New Jersey in the amount of \$39,952.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board authorizes the Administration to take any and all steps necessary in connection with this contract award.

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