

CRESSKILL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting, September 13, 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 13, 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. 7:15pm
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.”

INFORMATION ITEMS

September 16 - Yom Kippur - School Closed

The Cresskill Fall Festival (Cresskill Marketplace) planned for September 26 has been **Cancelled**

September 21 - MMS Virtual Back to School Night

September 23 - EHB Virtual Back to School Night

September 27 - CBOE Regular Meeting MMS, Gymnasium, 7:00 PM

September 30 - CMS Virtual Back to School Night

October 7 - CHS Virtual Back to School Night

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.

Personnel: 1 THROUGH 13
 Educational Planning: 1 THROUGH 4
 Finance: 1 THROUGH 5

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

Trustee Klein asked if students were set-up in the BYU program. Mr. Burke replied yes, and will continue to register.

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

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Trustee Cummings	✓			
Trustee Cusick	✓			
Trustee DePalo	✓			
Trustee Gorfin	✓			
Trustee Griffin				✓
Trustee Klein	✓			

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Vice President Moldt	✓			
Trustee Odabashian	✓			
President Villani	✓			

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Villani recognized the 20th anniversary of 9/11/2001. The Board of Education has started a Facebook page and Trustee Cusick is the host. President Villani thanked all the staff who stepped up regarding the devastating flooding, including the town mayor, DPW and Fire Department. She attended the football game on Friday night and the sense of community was heartwarming. She highlighted the marching band and pointed to Mr. Joe Verderese’s hard work in getting them ready for the game. President Villani attended Saturday’s soccer game and the Backpack event. She has lived here her whole life and feels a huge sense of community.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Burke stated that this is a trying time and that everyone has come together and that we need to stay together. Some community members have been aggressive to Board staff, which is not acceptable. He arrived at 5:30am the morning after the Hurricane and was shocked. Luckily, the school recently added flood insurance, at maximum levels. The cleanup crew is making progress. He expects the auditorium and media center to take a year to be repaired. Floor tiles have asbestos, and a second concern is mold. Mr. Burke thanked Judge Dresler, who brought out the county sheriff. The key to getting back into the school is the boiler room - if the boilers are repairable, we may be back in the building by November; if not, the students cannot be in the building. The challenge to moving grades to different locations is that the teachers teach across multiple grade levels. St. Therese is a possibility; the County Business Administrator visited today and said there was some work to do to the building. St. Therese can fit all 6 displaced grades. The vacant Crestron building was suggested, but can’t just move students in. Mr. Burke wants to keep all of the students in Cresskill. There is testing required for mold and asbestos. Mr. Burke said that Friday was a special night at the football game. The marching band played a Beatles show. He anticipates athletics back in a week and the gym should be accessible shortly. Mr. Burke stated that Cresskill is a very special town to him. He loves the town, and he loves the people and that this was devastation.

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 described how Nancy Chin had turned the town’s soccer program opening day into a huge fundraiser - there were 40 baskets raffled, 400 people attended, and all funds are being given to the BOE. Over \$26,000 was raised and he thanked the community and Nancy Chin for her organizing

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efforts. Superintendent Burke thanked Mr. Spelbrink, Ms. Chin and the soccer program, stating that he can't comprehend such a large donation.

A resident asked "what can we do?" To which Mr. Burke replied - pray the boilers work. How do we prevent this in the future? Mr. Burke replied with sump pumps, drainage. The administration is working with the school auditors, HVAC and remediation companies. President Villani commented that the gym is on higher ground, which is why it can be used sooner. A few residents asked when specific grades (6th and 10th) would return to school, to which Mr. Burke replied that the return will most likely be a hybrid, half day schedule, he wants all students back. Ms. Schiik suggested adding comments from Facebook to the school website, not all parents have Facebook. Mr. Burke replied that all information is cross posted. A resident asked if this was avoidable. Mr. Burke replied that in 55 years the building rarely got any water. 5 years ago flood insurance was added. He never thought this would happen. Residents want their children back in school and want an exact time line. Mr. Burke stated that status reports are sent every Monday, while we are working on temporary locations and the status of the boilers. He recommended community members see David Spelbrink for fundraising. Mr. Minolo asked if testing is being conducted due to mud? Mr. Burke replied yes, all part of the cleanup. M. Rubenstein asked about trailers for classrooms. Mr. Burke replied that they are very expensive - \$400,000 to \$500,000 and hold about 30 students. If we are out of the building for a longer time, we will revisit. A resident asked about senior students having access to the Guidance department. Mr. Burke replied that he is looking for space, currently have an interim Head of Guidance, and will begin interviews. Ms. Schiik suggested moving the elementary students since the teacher stays in one class, and moving the MS/HS to EHB. Mr. Burke said that was considered but it is polarizing. Mr. Burke stated that the district is eligible for FEMA, which will cover 75%. Resident Tanado asked if anything can be done about the creek. Mr. Burke replied that the school has petitioned but it will cost millions of dollars. Trustee Moldt added that under the silt is hazardous materials, it would need to be dredged in all 7 towns that the creek runs through. Resident Davidoff asked if we can't open in November, will we ask neighboring towns to take our students. Mr. Burke replied that we are not in a financial position to pay tuition for all of those students. Resident Fawcett asked if split the school, what happens to extra/co-curricular activities. Mr. Burke replied that he wants to do all activities which is why St. Therese is leased and can be used for the school musical. Resident Fawcett asked about an equipment plan. Mr. Burke replied that the restoration company is taking inventory and identifies what can be kept. The band uniforms are safe. Resident at 37 Buckingham asked about mobile boilers. Mr. Burke replied that they may not be big enough. Trustee Moldt added that portable generators are easier. Resident B. Yua asked about state/federal funding opportunities and money to outfit the spaces. Mr. Burke replied that he is working with the town and that we will rely on donations to outfit spaces. Resident Corona asked about elevating the school? Mr. Burke replied probably not possible. Resident Taha asked what is happening for the mental health of the students. Mr. Burke replied that this is critical and that he is working with Region V. Resident Martin stated that we should buy the Crestron property so that the MS/HS can be rebuilt. Mr. Burke replied that the architects stated that the foundation of the current MS/HS is solid and does not need to be rebuilt. Resident asked what would have been done if virtual did not exist? Mr. Burke replied that the County did not want to allow virtual and he does not know the answer. Resident asked about the situation at the town field involving students. Mr. Burke replied that it was outside school, but reminded students of acceptable behavior. Resident asked about a replacement for Ms. Blanco. Mr. Burke replied that Tom Krenn is the interim who should be communicating. He has experience in Northern Valley. Resident Haddas asked about purchasing table and chairs for alternative buildings. Mr. Burke replied that other schools

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have offered donations and loans of furnishings. Resident Damaras asked about word from Gov. Murphy. Mr. Burke replied that he is working to meet with him but nothing is set up yet. Resident Miraldi asked about using the rec center. Mr. Burke replied yes, it will be used. The PSAT is a paper/pencil test and he anticipates that it will be given at the rec center or St. Therese. Residents asked if we lost Chromebooks. Mr. replied yes, anything below 2 feet, including desks in the media center. Resident asked about athletic programs. The MS Soccer team does not have a coach. Mr. Burke replied that the staff has been doing extra classes beyond their regular day. That requirement does not apply to extracurricular activities. The school has advertised for a soccer coach to no avail. The coach needs to be certified and fingerprinted. Ms. Salano asked if letters should be sent to the Governor. Mr. Burke said yes, any help and connections should be used. President Villani expressed her concern for many of the town residents dealing with flooding issues.

TRUSTEE COMMENT

President Villani received an email from the NJ School Boards holding their meeting at the Clinton Inn, please register. Trustee Klein spoke with the recreation program about the soccer program. President Villani stated that communication is key and she thanked everyone.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Hearing no further business, the Regular meeting adjourned at 8:32 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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PERSONNEL

1. Approval - Resignation of Anna Kebabjian, elementary aide, EHB, effective 08/26/2021
2. Approval - Occupational Therapist Fieldwork Placement of Kaitlin Curley with Jenny Shatzel, District, Fall 2021
3. Approval - Overage for Yunah Shumayeva, Math, CHS (Kristen DePeri's class period)
4. Approval - Stipend to Kevin Quinn, Dean of Students (.6) for 2021-2022
5. Approval - Overages for Luisa Arbelo, Tracey Cabo, Adam Friedberg & Dana Valencia, World Language, CMS (for Karen Galan's classes)
6. Approval - Volunteers Dr. Bruce Buckman and Dr. Alexander Smith, from Spine and Health Center, with Anthony Demarco, Athletic Trainer, CHS
7. Approval - Amend the maternity leave request of Sarah (Bazaz) Laurita, Step by Step Aide, EHB
8. Approval - Amend the maternity leave request of Nicole Bodine, Special Education teacher, CHS
9. Approval - Overages for Kate Rovito, Michelle Taliento, Izabella Sandoval, Patty Chiavello, English/Special Education (for Nicole Bodine), CMS/CHS
10. Approval - Overage for Maryanna Laferriere, Special Education (for Nicole Bodine), CHS
11. Approval - Overage for Esther Canela, Special Education, Special Education (for Nicole Bodine), CHS
12. Approval - Amend the maternity leave request of Atalia Palummieri, Elementary teacher, EHB
13. Approval - Compensation for Albert McLaughlin, for Genesis reporting, \$75/hour, effective 09/13/2021

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

1. Approval - Conferences/workshops/travel
2. Approval - Agreement between Region II and CBOE for required parent training service, for 2021-2022 school year
3. Approval - Agreement, terms and pricing between Cresskill School District and BYU Independent Study High School Suite, for required Business Department online educational courses for the 2021-2022 school year
4. Approval - Initial/Renewal Application for One Temporary Instructional Space 2021-2022 school year

FINANCE

1. Approval - Continued participation in the vision plan with National Vision Administrators
2. Approval - Business Administrator to make purchases/repairs related to IDA storm damage at CHS as per LFN 2021-15
3. Approval - Disposal of District owned items
4. Approval - Revised Cafeteria price list for the 2021-2022 school year
5. Approval - Emergency lease of 220 Jefferson Ave

PERSONNEL:

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the resignation of **Anna Kebabjian**, elementary aide, Edward H. Bryan School, effective August 26, 2021.
2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Occupational Therapist Fieldwork Placement of **Kaitlin Curley** with Jenny Shatzel, District, Fall 2021
3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following teacher overage of one (1) period for Kristen DePeri, Cresskill High School, for **Yunah Shumayeva**, at a rate of \$2,000 for the period effective September 9, 2021 through October 29, 2021.
4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the stipend for **Kevin Quinn**, Dean of Students (.6), \$10,000/year, for the 2021-2022 school year.
5. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following teacher overages of one (1) period each for Karen Galan, Cresskill Middle School, at a rate of \$4,000 per person for the period September 9, 2021 through December 23, 2021.
 - Luisa Arbelo**, Spanish 7
 - Tracey Cabo**, Spanish 7
 - Adam Friedberg**, Spanish 7
 - Dana Valencia**, Spanish cycle 6
6. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve **Dr. Bruce Buckman** and **Dr. Alexander Smith**, from Spine and Health Center, as volunteers with Anthony Demarco, Athletic Trainer, Cresskill High School, for three hours/week, pending criminal history clearance, for the 2021-2022 school year.
7. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the maternity leave request of **Sarah (Bazaz) Laurita**, Step by Step Aide, Edward H. Bryan School, using available sick days and then placed on unpaid leave effective September 22, 2021 through January 2, 2022.
8. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised paid maternity leave request of **Nicole Bodine**, Special Education teacher, Cresskill High School, effective September 2, 2021 through September 24, 2021 followed by an unpaid leave of absence from September 25, 2021 through December 17, 2021, in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA, immediately followed by an unpaid personal leave of absence through January 31, 2022.
9. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following teacher overages of one (1) period each for Nicole Bodine, Cresskill High School, at a rate of \$5,000 per person for the period September 9, 2021 through January 31, 2022.
 - Kate Rovito**
 - Michelle Taliento**
 - Izabella Sandoval**
 - Patty Chiaviello**

10. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following teacher overage to **Maryanna Laferriere**, of one (1) period, for Nicole Bodine, Cresskill High School, at a rate of \$4,530 for the period September 9, 2021 through January 31, 2021.
11. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following teacher overage to **Esther Canela**, of one (1) period, for Nicole, Cresskill High School, at a rate of \$30 per class for the period September 9, 2021 through January 31, 2021.
12. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised maternity leave request of **Atalia Palummieri**, Elementary teacher, Edward H. Bryan School, effective September 2, 2021 through November 28, 2021 in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA, followed by an unpaid personal leave of absence from November 29, 2021 through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.
13. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve compensation for **Albert McLaughlin**, for Genesis reporting, \$75/hour, effective September 13, 2021 until further notice.

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: Thomas Rose
Date(s): August 9 - 12, 2021
Conference: Remote AP Summer Institute, Molloy College
Advanced Placement Computer Science
Registration Fee: \$850

Name: Dawn Delasandro
Date(s): September 21, 2021
Conference: Facility & Capital projects & Financing Options
Westin, Mt. Laurel, NJ
Registration Fee: \$100

2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the agreement between Cresskill Board of Education and Pascack Valley Council for Special Education (Region II), for mandated parent training services effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the agreement, terms and pricing between Cresskill School District and **BYU Independent**

Study High School Suite, for required Financial Literacy courses for the 2021-2022 school year, at a rate of \$75 per student.

4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the initial temporary instructional space application for the 2021-2022 school year. The district is requesting emergency usage of 220 Jefferson Avenue, Cresskill, formerly known as Academy of St. Therese, non-public school.

FINANCE:

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the District's continued participation with **National Vision Administrators**, LLC for vision benefits for employees, at no cost to the Cresskill Board of Education, for the 2021/2022 school year.
2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, recognizes that the Cresskill Middle/High School suffered extensive damages caused by Tropical Storm Ida on September 1 - 2, 2021 and authorizes the Business Administrator to make purchases or approve contracts for emergency response, repair and restoration, as per Local Finance Notice 2021-15.
3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the **disposal of the following district owned items**:

EHB	10,000 library books
EHB	11 Chromebook charging carts
EHB	Piano
EHB	Ricoh Copy Machine
MMS	Nonfiction library books published prior to 2000
MMS	Media Center circulation desk and built in benches
4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised cafeteria price list for the 2021-2022 school year.
5. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the emergency temporary lease of 220 Jefferson Ave., Cresskill (formerly known as Academy of St. Therese of Lisieux, at a rate of \$25,000 per month, and authorizes the Board Secretary and Board President to execute said lease.

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