

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

The Regular Meeting of the Cresskill Board of Education was held on Monday November 8, 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 Sally Cummings
Trustee Amy Cusick
Trustee Michael DePalo
Trustee Eugene Gorfin
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 in the 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.”

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

November 10 - HSA Parent Speaker: Stress Management, part 2 of a 3-part Mental Health and Wellness Series with The Graf Center for Integrative Medicine, 7:00 PM

November 18 - HSA Parent Speaker: Insights into the College Admissions with CollegeWise of Bergen County, 7:00 PM

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

November 24 - Minimum Day, Thanksgiving Recess

November 25 & 26 - Thanksgiving Recess

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Motion to Introduce Consent Agenda

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

Personnel:	1 THROUGH 6
Educational Planning:	1 THROUGH 7
Finance:	1 THROUGH 12

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

Trustee Cusick asked about EP#2 and EP#6. Mr. Burke explained that the county monitors all aspects of the school district and that the school district has a safety plan with the police, protocols were added designating St. Therese as CHS “annex”. Trustee Cummings asked about DRTRS. Ms. Delasandro explained that it documents the cost of all transported students. Trustee Klein asked about Laura Bishop and her experience. Mr. Burke explained that Laura Bishop is a Public Relations Firm with expertise in communicating to the public and assisting with the website. Vice President Moldt asked about Laura Bishop’s scope of work for the district. Mr. Burke replied that meetings are this week to establish scope of work. President Villani added that most school districts subcontract their websites. Trustee Gorfin asked about the long term plans for the website. Mr. Burke replied that a position to manage the website will be created and someone will be hired or a stipend position will be created. Mr. Burke replied to Trustee Gorfin that the safety/fire plan will be updated at St. Therese upon a full day student schedule. President Villani publicly thanked Broadwaters for donations. Trustee Gorfin asked how Laura Bishop was being paid. Ms. Delasandro replied from the operating budget, reimbursed by FEMA. Trustee Gorfin asked if the total number of students attending the Bergen Academies/Technical schools was increasing. Mr. Burke replied yes, it is trending up. Trustee Klein stated that at county meetings, there is push back for money back from Bergen Academies. Trustee Gorfin asked how the Northern Valley Regional program was doing. Mr. Burke replied that it was doing well, but in talking to the NVRHS superintendent, the key was having the space.

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 was no comment 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	✓		#7 Finance	
Trustee Odabashian	✓			
President Villani	✓			

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Villani stated that the live feed of the Boys Soccer game was lost and that she hoped they won. She attended the Town Council Meeting with Trustee Cusick. Cresskill residents are having issues with flooding and were told to contact their legislators. President Villani appreciates the current letter writing campaign as it seems no one realizes that the school flooding is an emergency except for the people of Cresskill. She has asked the Mayor to work together. President Villani’s house was flooded during Ida also. She stated that we need to work together but that the town council and the Board of Education are still two separate entities. She congratulated Barbara Costa, Daniel Ricardo and Sally Cummings on their elections to the board, based on the unofficial results.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Burke stated that he has some answers to many of the questions from the last meeting. Regarding the Referendum, 75% of the funding will be received back from the State. A series of events need to occur before the district gets any money. Mr. Burke will be meeting with Mr. Pascrell tomorrow and will ask what we can do to bypass the current purchasing laws. The district received a donation of twelve 75” televisions from LG. LG has another donation that he will find out about tomorrow. The 11th and 12th graders had the first half day of classes in person at St. Therese today. What the district needs now is the actual money to make purchases. Please continue contacting our legislators. The school

still has no boilers more than two months after the flood. Mr. Burke expressed gratitude to the staff for all of their efforts. He especially thanked John Massaro and Lemma Taha for getting the scheduling working at St. Therese. He stressed the need for Cresskill residents to push their elected officials. Mr. Burke was very happy to have gotten into St. Therese today. Mr. Burke explained we had a walkthrough of the middle/high school building last Friday with the town officials. They commented that we no longer “have a school since it was destroyed”. Mr. Burke provided the names of attendees at the Friday meeting; it seems hard to achieve based on the building’s current state, but he is still evaluating opening one wing of the high school for in person attendance.

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.

Ms. Park was at the council meeting and asked about the use of the Recreation Center. Mr. Burke replied that he will be having a joint use meeting. Mr. Spelbrink, Mr. Burke and Ms. Delasandro explained financing options - short term versus long term versus donations. A Resident asked about plans for a second location. Mr. Burke replied that they are looking at a newer building that is more updated than St. Therese. He hopes to have the second location available as of December 1. Temple Emanu-el is being considered plus a 3rd location. A Resident asked why temporary heating was needed at the high school. Ms. Delasandro replied that there is water in the pipes and we can't risk frozen pipes. Mr. Barkan stated that CHS may not be open until spring. What is holding up Temple Emanu-el and getting into the high school wing? Temple Emanu-el has never done anything like this before, Mr. Burke is meeting with them tomorrow. Ms. Delasandro explained what's needed to open the wing. Mr. Burke was not comfortable giving a date for the possible opening of a wing of the high school. Mr. Pierce asked about transportation to Temple Emanu-el. Ms. Barrs called the county DOE who said nothing could be done at the county level, only the state can do something. Questions were asked about the referendum to which Ms. Delasandro replied that nothing was finalized yet. Vice President Moldt commented about the supply chain issues causing delays. A Resident asked if there was any chance that the school would not open in September and if temporary locations be available. Mr. Burke believed that the temporary locations would still be available in September. Trustee Odabashian asked if we rebuild, but only have \$2 million in insurance and stay on wetlands, what then? Mr. Burke stated the goal is to safeguard the most important rooms like the boiler room. A Resident asked if the boilers are donated, do we need FEMA? A Resident asked if we can harness the power of the brook to produce bitcoin. Vice President Moldt replied that the town is not allowed in the brook, the 7 towns that the brook runs through need to be coordinated. Mr. Ricardo asked about enrollment loss. Mr. Burke replied about 50 students but he will get the figure. A Resident asked if the school can get a credit card, Ms. Delasandro replied no, not allowed, but that short term notes are essentially credit. Trustee Klein asked if NJSBA can be used as a lobbying group. She appreciates the letter writing campaign but needs a unified message in the letter. Trustee Gorfin asked John Massaro, Principal, to speak. Mr. Massaro thanked everyone and stated that today was a triumph in getting the children back in person. Many plans had been put together since September. He thanked Lemma Taha. This is a unique school spanning 7 grades. When the internet is complete, hybrid learning will start. Mr. Massaro reminded the residents that drop off needs to be done on the northbound side of Jefferson Avenue only. Mr. Massaro participated in a question/answer period with the residents. Trustee Gorfin asked how virtual and asynchronous learning is progressing and what is being done for the students' mental health. Mr. Massaro replied that once the internet is fully operational, asynchronous classes will not be necessary. The Guidance department is at the town library, we need to keep working on the mental health program.

TRUSTEE COMMENT

There were no comments from the Trustees.

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned to a Closed Session at 9:13 p.m. on the motion of Vice President Moldt, seconded by Trustee DePalo, and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present.

The Cresskill Board of Education is adjourning to Closed Session for purposes of: Contracts. 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 Trustee Klein, seconded by Vice President Moldt, and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present, the Board re-entered the Regular Meeting at 9:50 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Hearing no further business, the Regular meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m. on the motion of Trustee Klein, seconded by Vice President Moldt, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Delasandro

Dawn Delasandro
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

CONSENT AGENDA

Regular Meeting - November 8, 2021

PERSONNEL

1. Approval - Appointment of Daniel Apice, Freshman Boys Basketball Coach, 2021-2022
2. Approval - Appointment of Josh Weiss, Middle School Boys Basketball Coach, 2021-2022
3. Approval - Estimated maternity leave of absence for Cassandra Morrone, School Psychologist, District, effective December 24, 2021
4. Approval - Provisional Teacher Program Mentoring compensation to Megan Bliss, \$550, for Esther Canela, EHB
5. Approval - Deduction in compensation for Jessica Paige Lippe, Child Study Team, one (1) day
6. Approval - Appointment of Cory Leeds, Middle School Girls Basketball Coach, 2021-2022

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

1. Approval - Conferences/workshops/travel
2. Approval - New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) District Performance Review (DPR) for the 2021-2022 school year
3. Approval - Affirm interventions implemented for the reported incidents for 2021-2022
4. Approval - Laura Germano, tutoring service 2x/week, for student #4920519137
5. Approval - ABA Parent Training workshop with Region II, student #'s 9064639525 & 2307960868
6. Approval - School Safety and Security Plan Annual Review Statement of Assurance for 2021-2022
7. Approve - Cresskill's Emergency Remote Plan for the 2021-2022 school year

FINANCE

1. Approval - Payment of bills for November 2021
2. Approval - 2021-2022 tuition payment to Bergen County Technical Schools, \$422,217
3. Approval - New lease agreement for copy/print/scan machine with Atlantic Tomorrows Office
4. Approval - Accept grant award from Whole Kids Foundation
5. Approval - Submission of the District Report of Transported Resident Students (DRTRS)
6. Approval - New Jersey Center for Teaching & Learning Services for Chemistry instruction, 11/29/201 - 02/25/2022
7. Approval - Payment Request #2 for Project 3773-High School Chiller Replacement
8. Approval - Public Relations services from Laura Bishop Communications
9. Approval - Actions in connection with school facilities projects of Cresskill Middle/High School
10. Approval - Professional services of DiCara Rubino Architects
11. Approval - Health and Safety Facilities Checklists
12. Approval - Accept donation from Mr. and Mrs. Broadwater for Hurricane Ida damage repairs

PERSONNEL:

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of **Daniel Apice**, Freshman Boys Basketball Coach, Year 1, Step 3, \$4,696, for the 2021-2022 school year.
2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of **Josh Weiss**, Middle School Boys Basketball Coach, Year 1, Step 1, \$2,423, pending criminal history clearance and pre-employment verification, for the 2021-2022 school year.
3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the estimated maternity leave of absence for **Cassandra Morrone**, School Psychologist, District, effective December 24, 2021, in accordance with FMLA and NJFLA, ending on or about May 27, 2022, followed by an unpaid personal leave of absence through June 22, 2022.
4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the NJDOE regulation compensation to **Megan Bliss**, as mentor for provisional teacher Esther Canela, Edward H. Bryan School, \$550 for the 2021-2022 school year.
5. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the deduction in compensation for **Jessica Paige Lippe**, Child Study Team, District, one (1) day, \$352.58, for November 3, 2021.
6. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of **Cory Leeds**, Middle School Girls Basketball Coach, Year 1, Step 4, \$2,525, 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:	Lemma Taha
Date(s):	November 30, 2021
Conference:	NJPSA Legal One HIB Law Update (online)
Registration Fee:	\$125

2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the **New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) District Performance Review (DPR)** for the 2021-2022 school year.

3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the interventions implemented for the reported incident(s) for the 2021-2022 school year.
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 tutoring service for **student #4920519137**, with **Laura Germano**, 2x/week, 45 minutes/session, \$20/hour, effective October 28, 2021 through June 23, 2022.
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 ABA Parent Training workshop with Region II, for **student #'s 9064639525** and **2307960868**, \$225 on October 26, 2021 and October 28, 2021.
6. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the **School Safety and Security Plan Annual Review Statement of Assurance** for the 2021-2022 school year.
7. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve **Cresskill's Emergency Remote Plan** for the **2021-2022 school year**.

FINANCE:

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Business Administrator to pay December, 2021 bills.
2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2021-2022 tuition payment to **Bergen County Technical Schools** in the total amount of **\$422,217.00** (\$42,221.70 paid on a monthly basis, over 10 months), for the following:

Grade of Student	BCAcademies-Hackensack	Applied Tech	Teterboro	Northern Valley	Total # of Students
9th	8	-	2	-	10
10th	9	2	-	1	12
11th	6	-	3	-	9
12th	9	-	3	-	12
Total # of Students:	32	2	8	1	43
Tuition Rate:	\$9,819	\$9,819	\$9,819	\$9,819	
Total Cost:	\$314,208	\$19,638	\$78,552	\$9,819	\$422,217

3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the agreement with **Atlantic, Tomorrow's Office** (State Contract #40467) for the 60-month lease of 1 additional digital copiers/printers/scanners at a monthly lease rate of \$169.00 plus \$0.0035 per copy for service and supplies at St Therese school building.
4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the **grant award of \$3,000 from Whole Kids Foundation** for the Edward H. Bryan student garden.
5. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the submission of the **District Report of Transported Resident Students (DRTRS)**.
6. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Memorandum of Agreement with **New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning**, for a certified chemistry instructor leave replacement at Cresskill High School for 67 students, **\$29,938**, effective November 29, 2021 through February 25, 2022.
7. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and district architect, Di Cara Rubino Architects, approve **Payment of Request #2** from **DeSesa Engineering Co., Inc.** in the amount of **\$105,544.00** for work completed to date on Project 3773-Chiller Replacement at Cresskill Middle/High School.
8. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the agreement with **Laura Bishop Communications**, for public relations services at a cost not to exceed **\$20,000**, effective November 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022, for 20 hours per month.
9. **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF CRESSKILL IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED SCHOOL FACILITIES PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of the Borough of Cresskill in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the "Board" when referring to the governing body and the "School District" when referring to the territorial boundaries governed thereby), seeks to submit to the voters school facilities projects (the "Projects");

WHEREAS, the School District will seek Debt Service Aid with respect to the Projects; and

WHEREAS, the Board now seeks to take the initial steps in order to proceed with the planning and authorization of: (i) the Projects; and (ii) a School District special election at which time a bond referendum authorizing the Projects shall be presented to the voters of the School District.

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

Section 1. In accordance with the requirements of Section 6A:26-5.1 through 6A:26-5.3 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, the Board hereby authorizes and/or ratifies the

preparation of Schematic Plans and Educational Specifications, if required, by DiCara & Rubino ("DICARA") in connection with the Projects and the Board further authorizes and directs DICARA to submit the same to the New Jersey Department of Education and to the Bergen County Superintendent of Schools for review and approval. The Board further authorizes and directs the submission of the Schematic Plans to the planning board for its review, to the extent required by law.

Section 2. In accordance with the requirements of Section 6A:26-2.3 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, the Board hereby ratifies any amendments to the Long Range Facilities Plan, as necessary, to reflect the Projects and approves the submission of any such amendment to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Section 3. In accordance with the requirements of Section 6A:26-3.2 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, the Board hereby authorizes and/or ratifies the submission of the Projects Applications and its decision seeking debt service aid for the Projects.

Section 4. With respect to the Projects, the Board hereby authorizes and directs the Board President, the Superintendent and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, as applicable, to execute the schematic plans and educational specifications, the amendment to the Long Range Facilities Plan, the Projects cost estimate sheets and all related Projects documents allowing submission of same to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Section 5. The Board hereby authorizes and directs the Board President, the Superintendent, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, DICARA, and Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., as Bond Counsel, as applicable, to take all action required to preserve the opportunity to present the Projects to the voters via a bond referendum at School District special election to be held on January 25, 2022 or such other date as may be available to the Board.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

10. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve **Di Cara | Rubino Architects**, Architect of Record, for Professional Services for pre- and post-referendum services for the Cresskill Board of Education to address emergent repairs and renovations at Cresskill Middle / High School (D|R Project #3936) in the amount of **\$10,000** for pre-referendum services and a percentage of total project costs for post-referendum services, plus reimbursable costs.
11. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve and submit to the County Department of Education the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklists for the Cresskill School District.
12. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the donation of \$500 from Dale and Charlene Broadwater to be used for necessary repairs at the Middle/High School resulting from damages from Hurricane Ida.