

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**MARCH 15, 2023**

**PART I – PERSONNEL**

**A. RETIREMENTS**

I recommend acceptance of the following retirement notices, with regret:

Kevin Dunwoodie, Assistant Head Custodian at Franklin School, after 35 years of service to Kearny Public Schools, effective July 1, 2023.

William LeVan, Head Custodian at Roosevelt School, after 35 years of service to Kearny Public Schools, effective July 1, 2023.

**B. RESIGNATIONS**

1. I recommend acceptance of the following resignation, effective 60 days from the notice dated March 9, 2023, or sooner if a replacement is appointed:

Jacqueline Gilker – School Nurse at Garfield School

2. I recommend acceptance of the following resignation, effective June 30, 2023:

Amanda Staub – World Language Teacher at Kearny High School

**C. APPOINTMENTS**

**I. Professional Staff**

I recommend the appointment of the following new teaching staff for the 2023/2024 school year, pending criminal history review, background checks as required by law, and ability to obtain appropriate New Jersey certification:

NAME	POSITION	LOCATION	STEP	CERT	SALARY	REPLACE/ NEW	EFF. DATE
Dos Santos, Clarissa	School Nurse	Franklin	I	BA	\$55,155 + \$2,737 stipend = \$57,892	Berko, Margaret	9-1-23
Fisher, Cristina	Special Education Mathematics	LMS	2	MA	\$61,255	NEW	9-1-23

**2. Long-Term Substitute Assignment**

I recommend the following Long-Term Substitute assignment:

NAME	SCHOOL/POSITION	REPLACE	EFF. DATE	SALARY
Millar, Barbara	Garfield / School Nurse	Gilker, Jacqueline	3-20-23	\$275.78/diem for duration of assignment

**3. Executive Secretary to the Interim Assistant Superintendent**

I recommend the appointment of Diane Rodrigues to the position of Executive Secretary to the Interim Assistant Superintendent, effective March 16, 2023, at the base salary of \$72,500 (prorated), plus \$800 longevity, \$550 education stipend, for a total annual salary of \$73,850.

**4. Spanish Language and Cultural Awareness Class Guest Facilitator**

I recommend approval of the following staff member for the Spanish Language and Cultural Awareness Class (guest facilitator). Remuneration will be in accordance with the 2022/2023 KEA Agreement at \$42.00 per hour. This program is funded through Title III:

Carratura, Joseph

**5. Elementary Title I Family Engagement Coordinator**

I recommend approval of (10) additional hours compensation for the following staff member for the Elementary Title I Family Engagement Program. Remuneration will be in accordance with the 2022/2023 KEA Agreement at \$42.00 per hour. The program is funded by Title IA funds:

Katsios, Roseann

**6. Elementary Title I Family Engagement Facilitators**

I recommend approval of (10) additional hours compensation for the following staff members for the Elementary Title I Family Engagement Program. Remuneration will be in accordance with the 2022/2023 KEA Agreement at \$42.00 per hour. The program is funded by Title IA funds:

Alfaro, Katherine

Seely, Kimberly

**7. Head Teacher – Extended School Year Program for Students with Disabilities**

I recommend the appointment of Scott Fuchs as the Head Teacher for the Extended School Year Program for Students with Disabilities for the 2023/2024 school year at the remuneration of \$7,655 in accordance with the 2022/2023 K.E.A. Agreement.

**8. Home Instructor**

I recommend the following staff member to be approved as a Home Instructor for the 2022/2023 school year; remuneration in accordance with the KEA Agreement at \$42.00 per hour:

Hatfield, Ruthann

**9. Fourth Prep Assignment - Revision**

I recommend approval to revise the Fourth Prep Assignment compensation for Kearny High School staff member Lourdes Villacis. The revised effective dates are February 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023 at the remuneration of \$1,512.

**10. SAT/ACT Coordinator**

I recommend approval to appoint John Policano as the SAT/ACT Coordinator effective immediately. Remuneration is provided through College Board and is contingent upon enrollment.

**11. Custodial Appointments:**

1. I recommend approval to appoint John Fearon as Senior Maintenance Supervisor at a stipend of \$2,247 for a total annual salary of \$87,183 (prorated) effective March 16, 2023.
2. I recommend approval to appoint Christopher Pastino as a full time Custodian, STEP 0 of the 2022/2023 K.S.E.A. Salary Guide, at a salary of \$48,735, (prorated), effective March 16, 2023.

**D. LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

I recommend approval of the following leaves of absence requests/revisions:

NAME	LOCATION	FAMILY LEAVE	LEAVE OF ABSENCE	RETURN TO WORK
Bradow, Jennifer	Central Office	*3-8-23 to 6-30-23 *Intermittent Leave		7-1-23
Gargiulo, Edward	KHS	2-7-23 to 3-17-23		3-20-23
O'Neil, Michael	KHS	4-24-23 to 4-28-23		5-1-23

\*Revised dates

**E. SUBSTITUTES****I. Appointments Pending Criminal History Review**

The individuals listed below will be substituting in the Kearny Public Schools this year, pending criminal history review. These are in addition to those listed in previous Board reports:

Costello, Ian	Penherrera, Herbert
Firestone, Adria	Pineda, David
Gilker, Jacqueline (School Nurse)	Rocha, Erica
Machado, Nicholas	Velazquez, Alexi
Oliveira, Emanuely	

**F. AIDES****I. Appointments Pending Criminal History Review**

The following to be appointed as an Aide pending criminal history review:

Davila, Janet	Silpoch, Johanna
Demian, Josian	Spears, Asata
Gongora, Mikaela	Tapia, Susana
Hernandez, Grechen	Woody, Kayla
Irizarry, Melanie	

**2. Resignation**

The following Aide has resigned:

Salinas, Fabiana- effective 2-23-23

**G. EQUIVALENCY**

The Equivalency Board of Review has recommended granting the following equivalencies:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Equivalency</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Salary</u></b>	<b><u>Effective Date</u></b>
Grimm, Victoria	MA	\$2,200	\$65,855	February 1, 2023
Pabst, Catherine	BA+16	\$1,800	\$70,055	February 1, 2023

## **PART II – NON-PERSONNEL**

### **A. NEW COURSE PROPOSALS FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR**

#### **Kearny High School:**

##### **1. Academic Mathematics Intervention**

Academic Mathematics Intervention will provide support to high school Algebra I students in the NJ Student Learning Standards in Mathematics, as well as remediation in prerequisite and unlearned skills which are necessary to be successful in understanding Algebra I concepts. In these introductory sections of the course, the focus will be on students who are on the cusp of passing the NJSLA for Algebra I. The course goal is to assist students in developing and retaining an understanding of the essential Algebra I concepts and to provide them a foundation for success in the Geometry and Algebra II courses. The McGraw Hill ALEKS online program will be used as a curricular supplement to provide individualized, adaptive mathematical instruction, benchmark assessments, and student growth data to support student mastery of concepts. Total cost to the Board: \$4,782.20 (Year 1); \$621.00/year (Subsequent Years)

##### **2. Senior English: The Nonfiction Novel**

The Nonfiction Novel is designed to expose students to the evolving genre of literary nonfiction. Students will explore the evolution of nonfiction as narrative and view their corresponding films to evaluate similarities and differences in plot, character, setting, and tone during writing and discussion. Students will be encouraged to compare in writing, class discussion, and debate their own understandings and values to those expressed in the readings. Regular reading and writing assignments are a crucial element of this course. All students will complete a Critical Research Paper in preparation for more extensive research, which will be conducted both independently and collaboratively. The primary goal of The Nonfiction Novel is to serve as a crucial bridge that will help students prepare for the rigors of academic work in college. Total Cost to the Board: \$1,760.00

##### **3. Senior English: Literature and the Cinema**

Literature and the Cinema is designed to expose students to a variety of genres, including realistic fiction, historical fiction, creative nonfiction, and biography. Students will explore the evolution of nonfiction as narrative and view their corresponding films to evaluate similarities and differences in plot, character, setting, and tone during writing and discussion. Students will be encouraged to compare in writing, class discussion, and debate their own understandings and values to those expressed in the readings. Regular reading and writing assignments are a crucial element of this course. All students will complete a Critical Research Paper in preparation for more extensive research, which will be conducted both

independently and collaboratively. The primary goal of Literature and the Cinema is to serve as a crucial bridge that will help students prepare for the rigors of academic work in college. Total Cost to the Board: \$1,760.00

**4. The Art of TV and Film**

The semester elective The Art of TV and Film encourages students to explore the meaning of and methods used to create compelling visual media works. Course work will include screening of short and feature-length films as well as anthology and serialized series. Students will respond to these screenings with written and hands-on analysis of meanings, motifs, and film technique. Projects include scene recreation projects, development of unique original endings to existing media, and planning, writing, and recording podcasts in alignment with students' opinions on the consumed media. These exercises will serve as practical applications of the students' ability to reflect on overarching principles and themes. The cultural impact of these films and series can be traced throughout the history of media. Students will develop a connection between historical events and the zeitgeist of the period while viewing through a modern lens. Total cost to the Board: \$1,260.00

**5. Ceramics 2**

The semester elective Ceramics 2 will afford students who have completed the Ceramics I course the opportunity to extend their skills in working with this medium. Instruction will build on the basic skills and knowledge from the prerequisite course Ceramics I. Students will use a variety of different clay bodies and understand the difference between them. Students will learn advanced hand building and wheel crafting techniques, among other skills including glazing. Students will create a final portfolio consisting of at least ten completed works by the end of the school year. Total cost to the Board: \$1,300.95

**Lincoln Middle School:**

**6. Digital Literacy and Communication**

In Digital Literacy and Communication, students will explore the creative potential of digital communication forms. This course develops students' abilities in creative thinking and expression as they are challenged to develop original works, share information with others, and apply knowledge in the use of various digital communication technologies. Students will apply principles to evaluate and interpret creative works and reflect on and analyze the creative process orally and in writing. Students will understand the relationship between communication and content, the author, intention, audience reception, information validity, bias, and medium. This course encourages students to understand their digital identity while creating and exploring different forms of contemporary media. Total cost to the Board: \$1,760.00

**7. i-Explore**

The i-Explore course follows the principles behind the “passion project” movement, which allows students to examine their own interests and encourages creativity in the classroom. With guidance from their teachers, students will have the opportunity to investigate a topic of their choosing, with inquiry guided by an essential question. Students will create independent projects, learn at a self-directed pace, and develop or enhance intrinsic motivation to learn. Once students have selected their topic, time is spent researching information, learning by doing, collaborating with experts, and designing a product that will be shared with an audience during a culminating showcase. By applying this newfound knowledge, students will begin to make real world connections, consider career possibilities, and understand the capacity for learning beyond the four walls of the classroom. i-Explore affords students the opportunity to pursue something that is meaningful to them. Total cost to the Board: \$1,760.00

**8. Chorus**

The Chorus elective will afford students the opportunity to develop their vocal musical skills in collaboration with peers and in preparation for culminating performances. Singing fosters intellectual engagement with music. This includes an understanding of musical structure, phrasing, the development of musical memory, tone, as well as other musical building blocks such as pitch, rhythm, and volume. This course ultimately aims to channel those students who love music to grow musically, creatively, and expand their skills while performing and continuing in high school. Total cost to the Board: \$1,260.00

**B. 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

I recommend approval of the proposed 2023-2024 school calendar.

**C. PENN RELAYS**

I recommend approval for the Kearny High School Track Team to attend the Penn Relays, April 27 - April 29, 2023. There is no cost to the Board and all policies and Covid protocols will be met.

**D. CREW PARENTS ROW**

I recommend approval for the Crew parents to participate in USRowing's Learn to Row Activity, “A Day in the Water”. Date to be determined. All participants will sign a Release of Liability waiver. There is no cost to the Board and all policies and Covid protocols will be met.

**E. FALL SPORTS PRESEASON TRYOUTS**

I recommend approval to start the Fall sports preseason tryouts on August 14, 2023, which is one week earlier than the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association's official start date.



**F. PROFESSIONAL DAYS**

I recommend approval of the enclosed list of Professional Days, as well as reimbursement for travel and related expenses, where such travel and related expenses have been previously reviewed by the building principal/supervisor and the Chief School Administrator.

**G. FIELD TRIPS**

I recommend approval of the enclosed list of field trips for students and appropriate staff that are aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and promote the delivery of instruction.

**H. HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, BULLYING REPORT**

I recommend acceptance of the enclosed HIB Report as prepared by the Student Assistance Coordinator for the month of March, 2023 in accordance with NJSA 18A:37-15 and Board Policy 5512.

### **PART III – INFORMATION**

#### **A. PAYROLLS FOR SUBSTITUTES AND AIDES**

The Substitute and Aide payrolls for the month of February, 2023 are the following:

Substitutes	\$98,301.00
Aides	\$176,978.44

#### **B. OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS**

The out-of-school suspension list for the month of March, 2023 is attached for your review.

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### **PART IV – EXECUTIVE SESSION**

I recommend that the Board enter into Closed Session for executive discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

I RECOMMEND THAT THE ASPECTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT PRESENTED TO THE BOARD IN WRITING NOT DISCUSSED AT THE PUBLIC MEETING BE MADE AN OFFICIAL PART OF THE MINUTES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE REGISTRATION REPORT AND TRUANCY REPORT.