

CRESSKILL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting, April 13, 2020
Cresskill Borough Hall, 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Cresskill Board of Education was held on Monday, April 13, 2020 at Cresskill Borough Hall. 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 (via Zoom)
Trustee Amy Cusick (via Zoom)
Trustee Michael DePalo (via Zoom)
Trustee Eugene Gorfin (via Zoom)
Trustee Dionna Griffin (via Zoom) (arrived 7:13pm)
Trustee Mary Klein (via Zoom)
Vice President Stephen Moldt (via Zoom)
Trustee Raffi Odabashian (via Zoom)
President Denise Villani

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Burke, Superintendent of Schools (via Zoom)
Dawn Delasandro, Business Administrator/Board Secretary (via Zoom)

READING OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT:

"The New Jersey Open Public meetings Law was enacted to ensure 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 the provisions of the act, The Cresskill Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting taking place in the Cresskill Borough Hall 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

April 27 - CBOE Regular Meeting, Cresskill Borough Hall, 7:00 PM

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Motion to Introduce Consent Agenda

On a motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee DePalo and carried, the Board approved the Consent Agenda.

Personnel: 1 - 4
Finance: 1 - 3

CBOE April 13, 2020 Regular Meeting MINUTES

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

Trustee Klein asked about the revised maternity leaves and if the teachers will be working with students after they give birth. Ms. Delasandro explained that one would work after the birth and the other would work until delivery. Trustee Klein also asked about Finance #3 and if we could customize the resolution for Cresskill. President Villani explained the purpose of the standard resolution is the volume the state representatives receive and customization is not necessary.

Trustee Klein asked about the contract for 192/193 services. Ms. Delasandro explained the contract is for services to Cresskill residents that attend St. Therese school.

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.

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	✓			
Vice President Moldt	✓			
Trustee Odabashian	✓			
President Villani	✓			

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Villani deferred her report his evening for Mr. Burke to discuss the continued remote learning, She wished everyone good health.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Burke discussed the virtual learning and that it continues to go very well. The elementary teachers are doing great. We need to increase live virtual instruction to a minimum of two times per week. Trustee Cummings asked about "zoom-bombing" and if teachers are using a uniform software platform. Mr. Burke explained the staff are permitted to use whatever they are most comfortable with, however, they all need to continuously improve as this is going to continue for a while. Trustee Klein asked what is suggested for schedules and times, and if high school students should follow their normal daily schedule. Trustee Cusick commented she spoke with parents and it seems teachers are not coordinating times with each other. Mr. Burke explained he has created a schedule with Mr. Massaro and Ms. Cavins where we will have certain subjects on certain days, so there is focus and no overlap. Mr. Burke spoke about the results of the parent survey, which were overall positive, but most asked for more interactive instruction. This applies to all subjects including physical ed and art. The board continued to discuss the virtual learning including challenges and students who are struggling to learn in this environment. We proceed while waiting on guidance from the Governor and County Department of Education, especially in regards to the 180-day requirement and alternatives for graduation and prom.

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.

There were no comments from the public.

TRUSTEE COMMENT

The board discussed the budget. Mr. Burke stated that 1.2% tax levy is the lowest we can responsibly reduce the taxes. He reviewed options available including using the remaining referendum money to pay debt service and withdrawing the same funds from capital reserve so we can continue with the basement renovation at EHB. We could also reduce the tax levy to various levels, each with their own budget cuts. Trustee Cummings commented that she is still in support of the 2% increase, noting the town is increasing 2.2% and decreasing the levy equates to less than \$7 per month which is not worth it. Trustee Griffin agreed with Trustee Cummings adding she is not comfortable with withdrawing the money from Capital Reserve. Trustee Gorfin commented he would like to use the money saved from this year's budget to make purchases planned in next year's budget. Trustee Cummings commented we could be impacted in future years if we don't increase the levy to 2% now and the savings are momentary. There is a lot of unknown in the world at the moment with the COVID virus epidemic. Mr. Burke relayed a message he received from resident Chad Barrs stating the teachers are doing great and suggesting we raise the levy to 2%. Trustee Gorfin noted that the compounded cost over 10 years is \$55,000 on saving \$250,000 now. The board began discussing stipends for staff with the cancellation of spring sports. Many were not in favor of paying the stipends if no work is being done, Mr. Burke said he will wait for further guidance and a decision on school closure for the remainder of the year. Trustee

CBOE April 13, 2020 Regular Meeting MINUTES

Gorfin asked about grades and class finals. The board discussed the topic. Trustee Gorfin asked about the plan for the old pre-school rooms at CHS. Mr. Burke explained that we will be moving 2 self-contained special education classes into these rooms and freeing those rooms up for general education classes. Trustee Gorfin asked if block scheduling is still an option for September. Mr. Burke replied that it is not possible for September, as we will need 8 additional teachers to accomplish that. Trustee Klein asked about the basement renovation. Mr. Burke answered the renovation would bring the classes up to code. Trustee Gorfin asked about time and a half payment for custodians. Mr. Burke explained it is per their collective bargaining agreement and only paid when they are present.

CLOSED SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

The Cresskill Board of Education is adjourning to Closed Session. The session may include a discussion of negotiations, contractual matters, litigation and personnel. 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.

There was no closed session this evening.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 9:06 PM on the motion of Trustee Klein, seconded by Vice President Moldt and approved by unanimous voice vote of those present.

Respectfully submitted,



Dawn Delasandro
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

CRESSKILL BOARD OF EDUCATION
CRESSKILL, NEW JERSEY

CONSENT AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
April 13, 2020

PERSONNEL

1. Approval - Amend the maternity related disability leave of absence of Kerri Allison, Science teacher, CHS, to continue with virtual education while school remains closed, before and after the expected birth of her child on 04/22/2020, in accordance with her Doctor's note and subject to her and her child's health and well being
2. Approval - Amend the maternity related disability leave of absence of Amanda McCarthy, Science teacher, CHS, to continue with virtual education while school remains closed, until the expected birth of her child on 04/21/2020, in accordance with her Doctor's note and subject to her and her child's health and well being, and remain with originally approved paid leave of absence (FMLA) after the birth of the baby
3. Approval - Appointment of Joseph Oettinger, as remote learning maternity leave replacement teacher for Amanda McCarthy, Science Department, CHS, \$290 per diem, pending criminal history and pre-employment verification, effective on or about 04/21/2020 for thirty (30) school days.
4. Approval - Amend the unpaid leave of absence (NJFLA) of Kaitlin McBain, Step by Step Aide, EHB, effective 02/17/2020 through 05/17/2020 to a revised return date of 04/14/2020

FINANCE

1. Approval - Membership for the 2020-2021 school year of the **New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association**
2. Approval - Contract for **Chapter 192-193 services** to the Non-Public Schools with Bergen County for the 2020-2021 school year
3. Approval - Opposing delay in transmission of quarterly property tax revenue to school districts (**A-3902**)

PERSONNEL:

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the maternity related disability leave of **Kerri Allison**, Science teacher, Cresskill High School, to continue with virtual education while school remains closed, before and after the expected birth of her child on April 22, 2020, in accordance with her Doctor's note and subject to her and her child's health and well being.
2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the maternity related disability leave of absence of **Amanda McCarthy**, Science teacher, Cresskill High School, to continue with virtual education while school remains closed, until the expected birth of her child on April 21, 2020, in accordance with her Doctor's note and subject to her and her child's health and well being, and remain with originally approved paid leave of absence (FMLA) after the birth of the baby.
3. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of **Joseph Oettinger**, as remote learning maternity leave replacement teacher for Amanda McCarthy, Science Department, Cresskill High School, \$290 per diem, pending criminal history and pre-employment verification, effective on or about April 21, 2020 for 30 school days.
4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the unpaid leave of absence (NJFLA) of **Kaitlin McBain**, Step by Step Aide, Edward H. Bryan School, effective February 17, 2020 through May 17, 2020 to a revised date of return to April 14, 2020.

FINANCE:

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Cresskill High School's membership for the 2020-2021 school year in the **New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association** to participate in the approved interschool athletic program sponsored by the NJSIAA. Annual membership dues are \$2,500.
2. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the contract for **Chapter 192-193 services to the Non-Public Schools for the 2020-2021** school year between the Cresskill Board of Education and the Bergen County Special Services School District.
3. **Opposing Delay in Transmission of Quarterly Property Tax Revenue to School Districts**

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 3902, currently pending in the State Legislature, would authorize the Department of Community Affairs to permit municipalities to delay the quarterly transmission of property tax revenues to school districts during gubernatorial-declared emergencies; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's public schools are highly dependent on property tax revenue to support education programs; and

WHEREAS, on average, local property taxes constitute close to 60% of public school revenue, with the percentage even greater in a significant number of districts; and

CBOE April 13, 2020 Regular Meeting MINUTES

WHEREAS, a delay in payments from municipalities would result in a financial crisis for school districts, seriously disrupting the educational process—and bringing it to a halt; and

WHEREAS, although public school buildings are closed during the current health emergency, the education of our students is taking place through remote learning and home instruction; and

WHEREAS, continued timely transmission of school property taxes is critical for the education process to continue without interruption; and

WHEREAS, even though municipalities are designated as the authorities to collect property taxes, these taxes are levied for specific purposes—e.g., municipal, school, county, fire district—and these obligations must continue to be met; and

WHEREAS, as currently written, A-3902, which is intended to ease a financial burden on municipalities, would place a severe strain on school districts and the students and families that they serve; and

WHEREAS, the Cresskill Board of Education recognizes the impact of the current public health emergency on the state and local governments, as well as local school districts, but believes this legislation would worsen the situation for our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cresskill Board of Education urges the State Senate and the Governor to oppose A-3902; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Phil Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; and the Cresskill Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey School Boards Association.