

CRESSKILL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting, March 30, 2020
Cresskill Borough Hall, 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Cresskill Board of Education was held on Monday, March 30, 2020 at Cresskill Borough Hall. The meeting was called to order by President Villani at 7:04 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) (arrived 7:17pm)
Trustee Michael DePalo (via Zoom)
Trustee Eugene Gorfin (via Zoom)
Trustee Dionna Griffin (via Zoom)
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

March 30 - April 17 - Mandated School Closure
April 6 - 9 - Spring Recess, School Closed
April 10 - Good Friday, School Closed
April 13 - 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.

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

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

Trustee Klein asked about Ms. Surovich's revised maternity leave. Mr. Burke explained she is going to continue with virtual learning as permitted by her doctor.

Trustee Cummings asked about Finance #8 and #9. Ms. Delasandro explained Finance #8 is for approval of Parent Training through Region II, as Region V cannot provide the services at the current time. She noted that with the school closures, we will not be utilizing the services, but we are approving the agreement should we reopen schools and have a need for ABA Parent Training. Ms. Delasandro explained Finance #9 is approving our current Bond Counsel, whose business name has changed. It is the same attorney we used for the referendum bond issuance.

Trustee Gorfin asked about the school calendar and skipping spring break. Mr. Burke replied that of the districts he polled, 20 were not changing or cancelling spring break. Allendale (K-8) was cancelling the break, but giving the next 5 Fridays off. Mr. Burke noted we're also "returning" an unused snow day on April 13th and have 2 more we must schedule. We would need CEA approval to cancel these. Trustee Klein asked about the possibility of shortening the school year. Mr. Burke noted that would be tricky right now and parents hope to find a way to still have prom, graduation and sports seasons. We will address this if Governor Murphy makes an announcement about the 180-day requirement.

Trustee Klein asked about the transportation agreement with Region V (Finance #7) which was tabled at the last meeting. The full board discussed the agreement noting they feel like the bus companies are almost extorting the boards for payment, wondered if we can withdraw from Region V and asking for a rebate next year. President Villani asked Ms. Delasandro to contact South Bergen Jointure. Mr. Burke said he would relay the board's thoughts to the Superintendent Council of Region V.

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 public comment.

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	✓			
Trustee Odabashian	✓			
President Villani	✓			

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Villani stated she appreciates all the hard work of the staff and wishes everyone to stay safe and healthy.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Burke said he is meeting with administration virtually every other day. We are brainstorming ways to improve the virtual education but he has been hearing great things from the community. Delivery of virtual education to our special education population has been difficult. The County Superintendent understands this difficulty and has said the possibility for summer services exists.

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 was no public comment.

TRUSTEE COMMENT

Trustee Cusick commented there are differences in the virtual education between MMS and EHB.

Trustee Klein said her son has been slammed with self-learning work at the high school.

Trustee Gorfin said he hasn't seen any live instruction for his high school level child. Rather it's been self-learning and home work. He suggested requiring the staff to do some live instruction. The board continued to discuss the virtual learning.

Trustee Klein asked about sports seasons. Mr. Burke commented the NJSIAA is lagging behind. They will only cancel if Governor Murphy cancels school for the rest of the year, but could possibly have summer sports.

Trustee Klein asked about the educational impact of reducing the tax levy to 0% versus keeping at 2%, or keeping at 2% with a return of the remaining referendum funds. Mr. Burke explained at 0%, all cuts are on the table, as well as having higher class sizes and removing the budgeted purchase of 300 Chromebooks. With returning the remaining excess referendum funds, we could either use capital reserve funds or if we do not complete the basement renovation at EHB at all, we would need to have OT/PT in the new hallway and keep the dividers in the media center.

Trustee Gorfin commented the budget doesn't need to be either 0% or 2%. It could be somewhere in between. He commented we could freeze some of the movements for next year including the Director of Curriculum position. We could delay the renovation of EHB basement and return the referendum money. We could have potential savings this year because some teachers aren't teaching, spring coaches aren't coaching and administrators are not doing their full-time jobs. Trustee Moldt commented the best place to put district funds is into the buildings, as they are the district's biggest assets. The board continued to discuss budget options and also mentioned concern about Bill 3902 where the town could delay current year tax levy payments. The board would like to see what the budget would look like at various tax levy percentages. Mr. Burke and Ms. Delasandro will work to create this information and send it to the board.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Hearing no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 10:15 p.m. on the motion of Vice President Moldt, seconded by Trustee Griffin and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Delasandro

Dawn Delasandro
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

CRESSKILL BOARD OF EDUCATION
CRESSKILL, NEW JERSEY

CONSENT AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
March 30, 2020

MINUTES

1. Approval - February 10, 2020 Regular Meeting and Closed Session
February 20, 2020 Regular Meeting and Closed Session
February 24, 2020 Regular Meeting and Closed Session

PERSONNEL

1. Approval - Amend the maternity related disability of Colleen Surovich, Speech/Language Specialist, MMS, to continue with virtual education while school remains closed, after the expected birth of her child on April 7, 2020, in accordance with her Doctor's note and subject to her and her child's health and well being

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

1. Approval - Revised District Calendar for 2019-2020

FINANCE

1. Approval - Bills for March 2020
2. Approval - Additional Bills for February 2020
3. Approval - Board Secretary's Report for February 2020
4. Approval - Monthly Reconciliation for February 2020
5. Approval - Transfer Report for February 2020
6. Approval - Payment of bills for April 2020
7. Approval - Payment for Transportation to Region V during COVID-19 Shutdown
8. Approval - ABA Parent Training Agreement with Region II for the 2019-2020 school year
9. Approval - JP Cappizzi LLC as Bond Counsel

MINUTES:

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the minutes of:
February 10, 2020 - Regular Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes
February 20, 2020 - Regular Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes
February 24, 2020 - Regular Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes

PERSONNEL:

1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, amend the maternity related disability leave of **Colleen Surovich**, Speech/Language Specialist, Merritt Memorial School, to continue with virtual education while school remains closed, after the expected birth of her child on April 7, 2020, in accordance with her Doctor's note and subject to her and her child's health and well-being.

4. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Monthly Reconciliation Report for the month ending February 2020. (Attachment F-3)
5. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the budget transfers for the month of February 2020. (Attachment F-4)
6. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Business Administrator to pay April 2020 bills.
7. **Approval of Payment for Transportation to Region V during COVID-19 Shutdown**

WHEREAS, the Cresskill Board of Education (“the Board”) and Region V Council for Special Education (“Contractor”) are parties to a transportation agreement (“Agreement”); and **WHEREAS**, the Agreement provides that the Contractor shall be paid for transportation services performed; and

WHEREAS, due to COVID-19, the Cresskill Public School District has remained closed as of March 16, 2020, and

WHEREAS, as a result, transportation services have discontinued; and

WHEREAS, in consideration for not terminating the Agreement with the Contractor since transportation services will no longer be necessary while schools are closed, the Board will agree to continue payment to the Contractor through the duration of the term of Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Board’s payment obligation shall be contingent upon the Contractor furnishing, on a monthly basis, copies of certified payroll records for each driver who was assigned to a route for the Board as of March 13, 2020, the last day student transportation services were provided prior to schools officially closing, establishing that the driver’s salary was paid by the Contractor;

WHEREAS, the parties have amended the terms of the Agreement to memorialize and clarify the respective responsibilities and obligations of the parties as set forth above.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the Addendum reflecting the parties obligations above, which is attached hereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute the attached Addendum to the Agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

8. **Resolved**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Parent Training Agreement with Region II for the 2019 - 2020 school year.

9. **Approval of Bond Counsel**

WHEREAS, the law firm of JP Capizzi LLC has the expertise and experience to provide professional services to the Cresskill Board of Education;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Cresskill Board of Education appoints the law firm of JP Capizzi LLC, as the Bond Counsel for the 2019-2020 school year at the following rates:

CBOE March 30, 2020 Regular Meeting MINUTES

- A. For services rendered in connection with the preparation or review of each: bond referendum and the compiling of a certified record of proceedings in connection therewith, a fee based on the hourly rates set forth in paragraph 3(H);

resolution, a fee of \$400.

- B. For services rendered in connection with each bond sale, a fee equal to the greater of (i) \$15,000 or (ii) \$1.00 per thousand dollars of bonds issued for the first \$15,000,000 and \$0.90 per thousand dollars of any bonds issued in excess of \$15,000,000. If there is more than one series of bonds issued, an additional charge of \$1,000 for each additional series issued.
- C. For services rendered in connection with each note sale, a fee equal to the greater of (i) \$5,000 or (ii) \$0.60 per thousand dollars of notes issued for the first \$15,000,000 and \$0.50 per thousand dollars of any notes issued in excess of \$15,000,000. If there is more than one series of notes issued, an additional charge of \$500 for each additional series issued.
- D. In the event that a letter of credit, bond insurance, or similar credit enhancement facility is used in connection with either a bond or note issue, an additional charge of \$1,000.
- E. For services rendered in connection with the issuance of refunding bonds providing for the payment of a prior issue of bonds, an additional charge of \$5,000 for each prior issue of bonds refunded.
- F. For services rendered in connection with the preparation and filing of the IRS Form 8038-G or IRS Form 8038-GC related to each tax exempt bond or note issue, an additional charge of \$600.
- G. For Special Tax Counsel services, the Firm will submit a fee proposal for the Board's approval prior to the commencement of the matter.
- H. Services rendered on an hourly basis, including attendance at meetings, arbitrage compliance and tax analysis, attention to any litigation, and the preparation or review of any: application to the Local Finance Board or the State Department of Education, preliminary and final official statement or other offering or disclosure document, secondary market disclosure undertaking, guaranty agreement, loan agreement, lease agreement, escrow deposit agreement, or any other legal instrument required in order for a financing to close, will be charged at the blended hourly rate of \$200 per hour for attorney time and \$90 per hour for legal assistant time. Administrative work and services performed by secretarial staff will not be charged to the Board.