

**Board of Education
Upper Saddle River, New Jersey
Regular Session
Monday, December 9, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

Minutes

This Regular Session of the Upper Saddle River Board of Education was held in the Media Center of Cavallini Middle School of the Upper Saddle River Schools beginning at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Gandara opened the meeting and stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with PL 1975, Chapter 232 and appropriate notice had been provided to the designated newspapers, the Borough Clerk and all interested parties requesting such notification.

Members present: Mrs. Gandara, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Ginsberg, Mr. Mehegan, Mr. Quagliani, Dr. Verducci, Mrs. Wenberg

Members absent: None

Also present: Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Imbasciani, Miss Batla

REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Quagliani made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wenberg to convene into Regular Session at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING STATEMENT:

Mrs. Gandara

Mrs. Gandara welcomed the public to the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Schoen

Mr. Kaplan reported the following on behalf of Dr. Schoen:

- The following students received awards for their entries in the Women's Club of Upper Saddle River 2024 Poetry & Essay Contest. Their entries will be on display at the Upper Saddle River Library for several weeks and their names will be engraved on the School Contest Plaques.
 - First Place Winners:
 - Grades 1 & 2 Essay - Arjun Rajagopal
 - Grades 1 & 2 Poem - Victoria Yannotta
 - Grades 3 & 4 Essay - Leah Ford
 - Grades 5 & 6 Essay - Lucy Kamen
 - Grades 5 & 6 Poem - Anshi Sachdev
 - Grades 7 & 8 Essay (Tie) - Jackson Dario and Vihann Chaturvedi
 - Grades 7 & 8 Poem (Tie) - George Kordalis and Tyler Stepp
 - Honorable Mention:
 - Grades 5 & 6 Essay - Michelle Glinzman

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mrs.

Imbasciani

Mrs. Imbasciani reminded the board members that the Reorganization Meeting and the January Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, January 6th, at 7:00pm, in the Cavallini Media Center.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None

Mrs.

Gandara

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Miss Batla

Miss Batla reported the following school updates:

- Reynolds:

- Many Thanksgiving-themed events were held in Reynolds in November
- Week of December 9th - Hour of Coding (introduction to the world of coding)
- Star students are announced each week
- **Bogert:**
 - December Pawsitivity Assembly - 183 positive acts, 4 students awarded Bobcat of the Month
 - Auditions for Mary Poppins are taking place now
 - December 18 - Bogert Chorus will be performing at Borough Hall Christmas tree and menorah lighting ceremony
 - Two Continental Math League meetings have taken place so far
 - ½ of the student body is participating
 - Congratulations to 5th graders Nero Pavlov and Michael Antonelli and 3rd grader Ninaad Gaube for perfect scores.
- **Cavallini:**
 - November 27 - First pep rally of the year - Honored fall teams and coaches
 - Clubs and musical practice have started
 - Winter sport tryouts were earlier this month
 - 8th grade gown fitting took place in preparation for graduation
 - DC Trip Zoom meeting for parents was held last week

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Education Committee:** None **Mr. Quagliani**
- **Finance/Negotiations Committee:** **Mrs. Wenberg**
 - The committee will be meeting with the USREA in January to begin negotiations.
- **Infrastructure Committee:** **Mr. Mehegan**
 - The Bogert roof and septic projects are complete. Still waiting for a few documents in order to officially close each project.
- **Personnel Committee** **Dr. Verducci**
 - The committee is currently working on statistical studies in an effort to assist with teacher selection and evaluations.
- **Policy Committee:** None **Mrs. Ginsberg**
- **School Board Liaison** **Dr. Verducci**
 - December 11 - Webcast on the structure of reorganization meetings
 - January 30 - Roundtable on "hot topics"

USREF Report: None

Mrs. Tedd

USRPTO REPORT:

Mrs. McGovern

Mrs. McGovern reported the following highlights:

- December 9-12 - Holiday Shoppe
 - Thank you to Blair Gordon (fundraising board member), Mr. Kirsch (head custodian) for having everything ready, and the entire IT department for the iPad setup.
- December 18 - Holiday Brunch
- General Meeting is cancelled this month
- January - Theatre Week for Reynolds and Bogert (3rd grade only)

PRESENTATION:**2024/25 District Goals Update**

Mr. Kaplan and Mrs. Malloy presented on the 2024/25 district goals: increasing student achievement in ELA, increasing student achievement in math, and developing social emotional learning (S.E.L.) skills in students that support success in school. They detailed progress made to date and next steps that are expected to occur though the rest of the school year.

Mrs. Gandara thanked all of the administrators for the work they have done with the goals so far this year. She then asked if the special education programs are part of this work or are they addressed separately?

Mr. Kaplan explained that the special education teachers are working with members from their own department as well as staff from general education.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None**ADMINISTRATION:****Dr. Schoen**

A motion was made by Mrs. Wenberg and seconded by Dr. Verducci to approve Administration Consent Agenda Item A and was approved by all in attendance.

- A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board affirms the Superintendent's decision that investigation #272163***11062024 is not an incident as defined under HIB Policy #5512. The Superintendent shall notify the parents and/or guardians of the Board's decision in writing in accordance with Board Policy and N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(e).

PERSONNEL:

A motion was made by Mrs. Gray and seconded by Mrs. Ginsberg to approve Personnel Consent Agenda Items A through D and was approved by all in attendance.

A. Resignations

1. Accept the resignation of Emily Cooper, Behaviorist, effective January 1, 2025.
2. Accept the resignation of Donna Reilly from Cavallini Hall Duty, effective December 2, 2024.
3. Accept the resignation of Melissa Ruffilo, Registered Nurse, effective June 20, 2025.

B. Appointments

1. Appoint Thomas Farrell to the position of Paraprofessional at Bogert School, effective January 2, 2025, Step 5, prorated.
2. Appoint Nicole Wallack to the position of ABA Paraprofessional at Reynold School, effective January 2, 2025, Step 6, prorated, plus ABA Stipend, prorated.
3. The following staff members are recommended for the positions listed below for the 2024/25 school year:

ADVISORS		STIPEND
LEO Cubs Club Co-Advisors (Level A)	Kerry Anne Murphy	\$825.00
“ (Split)	Leigh Ann Weil	\$825.00

4. The following staff members are recommended for the position listed below for the 2024/25 school year:

Hall Duty		
Reynolds (Effective January 2, 2025)	Kimberly Darquea	\$5.72 per diem
Cavallini (Effective December 2, 2024)	Kristin Martinez	\$1,030.00 prorated
Lunch Duty		
Bogert	Alexandra McCreight	\$22/day
Bogert	Nathan Bischoff	\$22/day

5. Rescind the following motion which was approved on November 18, 2024:

Hall Duty		
Reynolds	Danielle Hoffman (50%)	\$515.00
“ (Split)	Carol Krebs (50%)	\$515.00

6. Approve the following staff members for the positions listed below for the 2024/25 school year:

Hall Duty		
Reynolds (Effective February 1, 2025)	Danielle Hoffman (50%)	\$515.00
Reynolds	Carol Krebs (100%)	\$1,030.00

7. Approve Cynthia Haas to provide Instrumental Music teaching support for Cavallini Middle School's participation in both the County Band and Region Band, outside of contractual hours, not to exceed four (4) days. 50% of per diem rate
8. Appoint Samantha Liggio to the position of ACE Team Member for the 2024/25 school year. \$22.00/hour
9. Approve Sarah Maginnis, 1st Grade Classroom teacher, as an administrative intern in Reynolds School for the 2024/25 school year.
10. Appoint Alexandra McCreight as a Chorus Aide to assist at Bogert's After School Chorus, one day per week, effective January 2, 2025. Hourly Rate
11. Appoint Jennifer Ranges as a Chorus Aide to assist at Bogert's After School Chorus, one day per week, effective January 2, 2025. Hourly Rate
12. Approve Maximus Tripodi to provide Vocal Music teaching support for Cavallini Middle School's participation in the New Jersey honors choir and Bergen County Middle School Choir, outside of contractual hours, not to exceed four (4) days. 50% of per diem rate

C. Change In Assignment:

1. Approve the transfer of Alana Capogrosso from K-8 Intervention Teacher to Instructional Coach, effective January 1, 2025.

D. Substitutes/Volunteers

1. Approve high school student, Emma Cazes, to work as a volunteer with the Bogert School Musical for the 2024/25 school year. *
2. Approve Thomas Farrell as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2024/25 school year. Mr. Farrell holds a NJ Elementary School K-6 Teaching Certificate.
3. Approve accompanist, Carolyn Greenberg, to work as a volunteer with the Bogert School Winter Concert for the 2024/25 school year.
4. Approve Ava Lorusso as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2024/25 school year, subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law. Ms. Lorusso holds a NJ Substitute Teaching Certificate.
5. Approve Katie Maphis as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2024/25 school year. Ms. Maphis holds a NJ Substitute Teaching Certificate. *
6. Approve Kristine Mollema as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2024/25 school year. Ms. Mollema holds a NJ Elementary School K-6 Teaching Certificate and Students with Disabilities Certificate.
7. Approve Mackenna Olsen as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2024/25 school year, subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law. Ms. Olsen's NJ Substitute Teaching Certificate is pending. *
8. Approve Stefanie Siegel as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2024/25 school year subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law. Ms. Siegel holds a NJ Substitute Teaching Certificate.

*Related to staff member

FINANCE

Mrs. Imbasciani

A motion was made by Mrs. Gray and seconded by Mr. Mehegan to approve Finance Consent Agenda Items A through J and was approved by all in attendance except for Dr. Verducci and Mrs. Wenberg who abstained from Motion B.

- A. Approve the Minutes of Board Meetings:

November 18, 2024

- B. Approve the Bills List for November 2024 as follows:

10	General Current Expense	\$85,221.18
11	General Current Expense	\$2,494,949.01
12	Capital Outlay	\$157,175.65
20	Special Revenue Funds	\$28,998.84
60	Enterprise Fund	\$31,378.61
	Total	\$2,797,723.29

- C. Approve the Transfers for November 2024.
- D. Approve the the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Reports dated November 2024 and to certify that after review of these reports and upon consultation with appropriate district officials, as to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23-2.11 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the year.
- E. Approve Application for Payment #5, for Laumar Roofing Co. Inc, in the amount of \$97,852.02.

- F. Approve the cancellation of the Payroll Account Checks as follows:

Date	Check Number	Amount
4/30/2022	112535	\$93.89
6/15/2022	113353	\$503.46
7/31/2022	113815	\$54.17
2/28/2023	117516	\$89.45
10/15/2023	118061	\$88.19
10/30/2023	118110	\$68.68
11/30/2023	118197	\$29.40
3/15/2024	118553	\$117.54
4/30/2024	118665	\$58.77
5/15/2024	118698	\$88.16

- G. Approve Weatherproofing Technologies Inc. to provide extensive roof maintenance at Cavallini Middle School at a total cost of \$16,449.72. (Pricing as per WTI/ESCNJ Project #5060267)
- H. Accept the donation of \$2,000.00 from the USR PTO to Reynolds School to purchase indoor recess equipment.
- I. Accept the donation of \$3,000.00 from the USR PTO to Bogert School to purchase indoor recess equipment.
- J. Approve the following Travel Expenses:

Program Name	Date	Employee	Registration Fee	Travel Cost
Conquer Math Pompton Plains, NJ	December 10, 2024	Amy D'Ambola	\$190.00	\$0.00
NJASA Techspo '25 Atlantic City, NJ	January 30, 2025	Dan Cazes	\$365.00	\$177.18

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Gandara

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Mehegan and seconded by Mrs. Gray at 7:35 p.m.

Dana Imbasciani, Board Secretary