

**Board of Education  
Upper Saddle River, New Jersey  
Regular Session  
Monday, January 6, 2025, 7:08 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 7:08 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: Dr. Schoen, Mrs. Imbasciani, Miss Batla

**REGULAR SESSION**

Mrs. Wenberg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Ginsberg to convene into Regular Session at 7:08 p.m.

**OPENING STATEMENT:**

**Mrs. Gandara**

Mrs. Gandara welcomed the public to the meeting.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

**Dr. Schoen**

Dr. Schoen wished everyone a Happy New Year. She recognized that the Administrators, Staff and Students have been nothing short of amazing and looks forward to working with everyone for the remainder of this school year.

**BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT: None**

**Mrs. Imbasciani**

**BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

**Mrs. Gandara**

Mrs. Gandara thanked the Board for electing her to another term as President. She said she is honored to on this Board and is looking forward to a successful 2025.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

**Miss Batla**

Miss Batla reported the following school updates:

- Reynolds:
  - Kindergarten Registration - January 6-10
  - Theatre Week for 1st and 2nd graders - January 27 - 31
  - Toys for Tots - Thank you to everyone who participated
- Bogert:
  - Bobcat Buddies are helping to support the Cami Cares Mission
  - Theatre Week for 3rd graders - January 6-10
  - Spelling Bees
    - Classroom - January 27
    - Whole School - January 31
    - National Spelling Bee at Bergen Community College - March 11
  - Discovery Day - Inventions/Inventors - April 4
- Cavallini:
  - Northern Highlands music program performed for Cavallini students on December 18

- Winter Band/Chorus/Orchestra Concert - January 22 & 23
- PTO Book Fair - January 31
- Planning for 7th Grade Family Night

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: None**

**USREF Report:**

**Mrs. Tedd**

Mrs. Tedd presented the Annual Award for Excellence, on behalf of the USREF, to Angelica Degenars.

**USRPTO REPORT:**

**Mrs. McGovern**

Mrs. McGovern wished everyone a Happy New Year and reported on the following PTO sponsored events:

- December 18 - Teacher Lunch
- School spirit wear arrived before the December break and in time for the holidays
- December 9-13 - Holiday Shoppe
- January 6-10 - Bogert Theatre Week (3rd graders)
- Big reveal for Bogert on January 7 will report details at next meeting
- January 16 - Family Fun Night (7th graders)
- January 27-31 - Reynolds Theatre Week (1st and 2nd graders)
- January 31 - Cavallini Book Fair

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**PERSONNEL:**

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

**A. Job Descriptions**

1. School Physician (New)

**B. Resignations**

1. Accept the resignation of Scott Kirsch, Head Custodian at Reynolds and Bogert Schools, effective February 1, 2025.
2. Accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Helen Rockwell, Art Teacher at Reynolds School, effective July 1, 2025.
3. Accept the resignation of Joseph Spero, long term English Teacher leave replacement at Cavallini Middle School, effective February 3, 2025.

**C. Leaves**

1. Approve an extended unpaid medical leave of absence for Employee #0755, effective January 8, 2025 through March 4, 2025.
2. Approve a paid disability leave, unpaid Family and Medical Leave, and Contractual Leave for Employee #1321, effective on or about March 10, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

## D. Appointments

1. Appoint James D'Arecca to the position of per diem Physical Education/Health leave replacement teacher at Cavallini Middle School, effective on or about January 17, 2025 through approximately March 28, 2025, subject to the receipt of the required NJDOE teaching certificate.
2. Extend the appointment of Kimberly Darquea to the position of long term, per diem Paraprofessional leave replacement at Reynolds School, effective on January 8, 2025 through approximately March 4, 2025.
3. Appoint Daniel Loesner to the position of Custodian at Reynolds and Bogert Schools, Step 7, prorated, plus maintenance and grounds keeper stipends, prorated, effective on or about February 1, 2025, subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law.
4. *Rescind the following appointment approved at the September 16, 2024 Board of Education Meeting:*  
Appoint Ashley Schumacher to the position of long term 5th Grade Classroom Teacher, MA, Step 1, effective September 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law.
5. Appoint Ashley Schumacher to the position of long term 5th Grade Classroom Teacher, MA, Step 1, prorated, effective September 1, 2024 through January 6, 2025.
6. Appoint Ashley Schumacher to the position of 5th Grade Classroom Teacher, MA, Step 1, prorated, effective January 7, 2025.
7. Approve the following staff member for the positions listed below for the 2024/25 school year, effective February 1, 2025:

HEAD CUSTODIAN		STIPEND
<b>Reynolds</b>	Eric Smith	\$3,600.00 (prorated)
<b>Bogert</b>	Eric Smith	\$3,600.00 (prorated)

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

COACHES		STIPEND
<b>Cavallini Fitness Program</b>	Julia Thomas	\$3,000.00
<b>Cavallini Fitness Program</b>	James D'Arecca	\$1,500.00
<b>“ (Split) ”</b>	Brian Walis	\$1,500.00
ADVISORS		STIPEND
<b>CTV Morning Advisor (Level A)</b>	Kristen Nicholas	\$825.00
<b>“ (Split) ”</b>	Erica Stearns	\$825.00
<b>Cavallini Assistant Musical Director</b>	Suzanne Mohan	\$1,500.00

Lunch Duty		
Cavallini	Elizabeth McGuire	\$22/per day

E. Substitutes/Consultants/Volunteers

1. Approve Angela Manrique 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. Manrique holds a NJ School Counselor certificate.
2. Approve Suzanne Mohan as substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2024/25 school year, subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law. Ms. Mohan's NJ Substitute Teaching certificate is pending.

**FINANCE**

**Mrs. Imbasciani**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Gray and seconded by Mr. Quagliani to approve Finance Consent Agenda Items A through E and was approved by all in attendance.**

A. Approve the Minutes of Board Meetings:

December 9, 2024, December 16, 2024 and December 20, 2024

B. Approve the Bills List for December 2024 as follows:

10	General Current Expense	\$84,394.63
11	General Current Expense	\$2,547,117.60
20	Special Revenue Funds	\$27,988.34
30	Capital Projects Funds	\$97,852.02
60	Enterprise Fund	\$23,829.29
	Total	\$2,781,181.88

C. Approve the Transfers for December 2024.

- D. Approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Reports dated December 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 obligation for the remainder of the year.

E. Approve the following Travel Expenses:

Program Name	Date	Employee	Registration Fee	Travel Cost
Conquer Math Workshop Pompton Plains, NJ	January 31, 2025	Samantha Chajkowsky	\$190.00	\$0.00
NJMEA Convention Atlantic City, NJ	February 20-21, 2025	Maximus Tripodi	\$200.00	\$0.00
Hot Issues in Artificial Intelligence, Schools, and the Law: 2024-2025 Virtual Workshop	February 6, 2025	Daniel Cazes	\$125.00	\$0.00

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- **Mrs. Gandara gave a heartfelt thank you to the Board of Education members and to Vice President MaryAnn Gray for being such an amazing group of people to work with.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Gandara

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Verducci and seconded by Mr. Mehegan at 7:25 p.m.

Dana Imbasciani, Board Secretary