

**Board of Education  
Upper Saddle River, New Jersey  
Public Hearing and Regular Session  
Monday, May 1, 2023, 8:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

This Public Hearing and Regular Session of the Upper Saddle River Board of Education was held in the Cavallini Middle School Auditorium of the Upper Saddle River Schools beginning at 8:00 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, Dr. Verducci, Mrs. Wenberg

Members absent: Mr. Quagliani

Also present: Dr. Siegel, Mrs. Imbasciani

**REGULAR SESSION**

Mr. Mehegan made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wenberg to convene into Regular Session at 8:00 p.m.

**OPENING STATEMENT:**

**Mrs. Gandara**

Mrs. Gandara welcomed the public.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2023/24 BUDGET**

**Mrs. Imbasciani**

Mrs. Imbasciani presented the 2023/24 budget to the public. Highlights included:

- Budget timeline
- Goals for developing a responsible budget
- Look at State Aid through the years to Upper Saddle River
- Revenues and Expenditures
- 3.3% tax levy increase, 0.2% tax rate increase. This translates into a \$16 increase over last year for an average assessed home (\$766,951) in Upper Saddle River

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (Pertaining to Public Hearing): None**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gray and seconded by Dr. Verducci to approve the 2023/24 Budget and was approved by all in attendance.

A. Approve the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, the Upper Saddle River Board of Education adopted a tentative budget on March 13, 2023, and submitted it to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval; and

**WHEREAS**, the tentative budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on April 3, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the tentative budget was advertised in the legal section of The Record on April 14, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the final budget was presented to the public during a hearing in the Auditorium of the Cavallini Middle School, 392 West Saddle River Road, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey on May 1, 2023;

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Debt Service	TOTAL
<b>2022-2023</b>				
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$28,724,568	\$461,584	\$290,407	\$29,476,559
<b>Less:</b>				
<b>Anticipated Revenues</b>	\$4,118,887	\$461,584	\$69,856	\$4,650,327
<b>Taxes to be Raised</b>	\$24,605,681	-0-	\$220,551	\$24,826,232

**WHEREAS**, the Upper Saddle River Board of Education approves the use of adjustment for increase in health care costs permitting the tax levy to increase above 2% in the amount of \$316,568. The adjustment will be used to support the rising cost of health benefits for eligible district staff.

**WHEREAS**, the Upper Saddle River Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of those expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Upper Saddle River Board of Education established \$29,100 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$9,356.77 as of this date;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Upper Saddle River Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$35,600 for the 2023/2024 school year.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

**Dr. Siegel**

Dr. Siegel shared information on current happenings in the district:

- The Bogert Musical, *Willie Wonka Jr.*, was performed on April 25 through April 29. It was a tremendous show with an impressive display of talent.
- USR PTO Family Fun Day is on Thursday, May 4
- Today is National Principals Day. Mrs. Devin Severs was recognized this year. The district's Principals are always working hard and are dedicated to providing the best education and learning experiences for their students.
- Next week (week of May 8) is Staff Appreciation Week.

**BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT: None**

**Mrs. Imbasciani**

**BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None**

**Mrs. Gandara**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**School Boards Liaison**

**Dr. Verducci**

- Dr. Verducci reminded the Board to register if they are planning on going to the NJ School Boards Convention.

**Policy Committee**

**Mrs. Ginsberg**

- Mrs. Ginsberg reported that the Policy Committee met with Administrators and teachers to discuss new and revised policies.



**PTO REPORT: None**

**Mrs. DeFrino/Mrs. McGovern**

**USREF Report: None**

**Mrs. Tedd**

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**ADMINISTRATION:**

**Dr. Siegel**

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

A. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board affirms the Superintendent's decision that investigation #244256\*\*\*03062023 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).

B. Second Reading and Adoption of the following Policies and Regulations:

Policy 2330	Homework (Revised)
Policy 3126	District Mentoring Program (Revised)
Policy 5200	Attendance (M) Revised
Policy 5500	Expectations for Student Conduct (M) Revised
Policy 5600	Student Discipline/Code of Conduct (M) Revised
Policy 7510	Use of School Facilities (M) Revised
Policy 9150	School Visitors (Revised)
Policy 9700	Special Interest Groups (Revised)
Regulation 5200	Attendance (M) Revised
Regulation 5600	Student Discipline/Code of Conduct (M) Revised

C. First Reading of the following Policy:

Policy 0143.2 Middle School Student Representative to the Board of Education (New)

**PERSONNEL:**

**Dr. Siegel**

**A motion was made by Mr. Mehegan and seconded by Mrs. Gray to approve Personnel Consent Agenda Items A through G and was approved by all in attendance.**

A. Create/Abolish, effective July 1, 2023

1. Abolish one Aftercare Experience Program Director stipend position
2. Abolish one Aftercare Experience Assistant Director stipend position
3. Create one Aftercare Experience Coordinator of Services stipend position
4. Create one Aftercare Experience Assistant Coordinator of Services stipend position

B. Job Descriptions, effective July 1, 2023

1. After Care Experience Coordinator of Services
2. After Care Experience Assistant Coordinator of Services

C. Resignations

1. Accept the resignation of Lucia Cardona, Music Teacher at Cavallini, effective July 1, 2023.

2. Accept the resignation of Allison Iodice, English/Language Arts Teacher at Cavallini, effective July 1, 2023.

D. Leaves

1. Approve the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, on or about April 27, 2023, employee ID #2188 of the Upper Saddle River Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"), was notified by the Superintendent of Schools that said employee was placed on administrative leave with pay.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board shall continue the administrative leave of the employee with pay through June 30, 2023.

E. Appointments

1. Approve the reappointment of non-tenured contractual Bargaining Unit certificated staff for the 2023/24 school year, as per attached.
2. Approve the reappointment of tenured contractual Bargaining Unit certificated staff for the 2023/24 school year.
3. Appoint Nathan Bischoff to the position of Music Teacher at Bogert School, BA, Step 2, effective September 1, 2023, subject to the subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law and the required NJDOE Music Teaching Certificate.
4. Appoint Anthony Farinacci to the position of long-term leave replacement Child Study Team Case Manager, MA + 30, Step 20, effective September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
5. Appoint Shaelynn Guilfoyle to the position of long-term leave replacement Special Education Teacher at Bogert School, MA, Step 2, effective September 1, 2023 through June 30 2024.
6. Appoint Melvin Phillips to the position of PE/Health Teacher at Cavallini, BA, Step 10-11, Step 10-11, effective September 1, 2023, subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law.
7. Appoint Tara Reilly to the position of K-2 Special Education Teacher, MA, Step 2, effective September 1, 2023, subject to the subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law.
8. Appoint Peter Petrow to the position of substitute ACE Team Member for the 2022/23 school year. \$30.00/hr
9. Appoint Maureen Van Blarcom to the position of ACE Team Member for the 2022/23 school year. \$27.50/hr
10. Approve the following staff for 2023 ESY:

Integrated Paraprofessionals \$21/hour:		
Michaela Dolak	Maya Durden	Laura Fox
Joan Pilkington	Julia Rogers	Patricia Shortway
Sabaudin Skenderi		
ABA Paraprofessionals \$25/hour:		
Michaela Dolak	Maya Durden	Christa Rauch
Patricia Shortway	Sabaudin Skenderi	



<b>Certified School Nurse</b>	<b>\$75.00/hour</b>	
Ailish Fillis		
<b>OT</b>	<b>\$50/30 minute session</b>	<b>(\$100/hour)</b>
Elana Rosenbaum		
<b>School Nurse</b>	<b>\$75/hour</b>	
Robyn Ranges		
<b>Special Education Teacher</b>	<b>\$50/hour</b>	
Madalyn Lawlor	Courtney Ross	

F. Change in Assignment (not applicable)

G. Substitutes/Consultants/Volunteers (not applicable)

1. Approve Melania DeFies as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2022/23 school year, subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law. Ms. DeFies's NJ Substitute Teaching Certificate is pending.
2. Approve Katrina Fletcher as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2022/23 school year, subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law. Ms. Fletcher holds a NJ Substitute Teaching Certificate.

**FINANCE :**

**Mrs. Imbasciani**

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

A. Approve the Minutes of Board Meetings:

April 17, 2023

B. Approve the Bills List for April 2023 as follows:

10	General Current Expense	\$83,209.79
11	General Current Expense	\$2,230,201.57
12	Capital Outlay	\$39,800.00
20	Special Revenue Funds	\$61,593.34
50	Milk	\$193.74
60	Enterprise Fund	\$23,550.48
Total		\$2,438,548.92

C. Approve the Transfers for April 2023.

D. Approve the placement of one student, whose name is on file in the Board Office, at 1st Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey in accordance with their Individual Education Plan from May 16 through June 30, 2023.

E. Approve the following Travel Expenses:

Program Name	Date	Employee	Registration Fee	Travel Cost
Tri-State Visit: Proficiency Based Language Instruction Ridgefield, CT	May 3-5, 2023	Suzanne Cook	\$0.00	\$0.00
Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds Hackensack, NJ	May 18, 2023	Ailish Fillis	\$0.00	\$0.00

Using Decodable Texts, Especially TCRWP's Newly Published Jump Rope Readers Series, to Support Early Readers (Online)	July 10-12, 2023	Marci Titunick	\$700.00	\$0.00
Tri-State Training Princeton, NJ	August 8-9, 2023	David Kaplan	\$0.00	\$93.44

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Mehegan and seconded by Mrs. Wenberg at 8:34 p.m.

Dana Imbasciani, Board Secretary

## Contractual Appointments

May 1, 2023

Last Name	First Name	Tenured	Category
Alberta	Alexandra	N	Teacher
Aragona	Angelina	N	Teacher
Balsamo	Nadia	N	Teacher
Blumenfeld	Erika	N	Teacher
Brovender	Ilene	N	Teacher
Bunting	Mara	N	Teacher
Chiellini	Chelsea	N	Teacher
Cirone	Paul	N	Teacher
D'Anna	Philip	N	Teacher
Dariento	Shea	N	Teacher
Fallon	Julie	N	Teacher
Fennell	Nicole	N	Teacher
Fillis	Ailish	N	Teacher
Garcia	Alexis	N	Teacher
Gervasio	Caitlin	N	Teacher
Gonzales	Catherine	N	Teacher
Ho	Linda	N	Teacher
Kaldawi	Katherine	N	Teacher
Kruter	Jennifer	N	Teacher
LaRosa	Angela	N	Teacher
Malloy	Rosemarie	N	Teacher
Massaro	Anamarie	N	Teacher
Menendez	Jillian	N	Teacher
Parelhoff	Kerri	N	Teacher
Piazza	Emma	N	Teacher
Pike	Jessica	N	Teacher
Shea	Julia	N	Teacher
Squicciarri	Rachel	N	Teacher
Telfer	Maura	N	Teacher
Travers	Kristen	N	Teacher
Weil	Leigh	N	Teacher
Welch	Lindsey	N	Teacher
Yotka	Alexis	N	Teacher
Zakrzewski	Allison	N	Teacher

Last Name	First Name	Tenured	Category
Cipollini	Christine	N	Administrator