

SECAUCUS BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD MEETING REGULAR MINUTES
DATED: FEBRUARY 26, 2015

President Riebesell called the meeting to order at 4:15PM and roll call taken as follows:

PRESENT: Messrs: Anderson, Bartletta, Gerbasio, Lewis, McStowe, and Riebesell as well as Ms. O'Connell, Ms. Pantoliano

LATE ARRIVALS: Mrs. D'Addetta at 4:20 and Mr. Bartletta at 5:30 pm

President Riebesell declared a quorum present

Also present: Robert Presuto, CSA
Kristin Kosky, BA/BS
Francelis De Oca Montes
Stephen Fogarty, Esq.

Vice President Lewis, asked everyone to rise and join in the salute to the flag. In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act, Vice President Lewis, announced that the Board Secretary had forwarded notice of this meeting for advertising by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Secaucus Town Hall, on the bulletin board in the hallway of the Board of Education Administration Building, as well as being provided to the Secaucus Home News, Jersey Journal, and the Bergen Record.

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. McStowe

SECONDED BY: Mr. Lewis

WHEREAS, it shall be necessary for the Secaucus Board of Education to discuss subjects concerning personnel matters;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the aforesaid subject will be discussed in closed Executive Session pursuant to the provisions of P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, and that such deliberations thereto will be made available to the public as soon as the reasons for non-disclosure no longer exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education went into Executive Session at 4:08PM in order to discuss personnel.

Board Members present unanimously adopted the foregoing Resolution.

Motion by Mr. McStowe, seconded by Mr. Lewis, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to adjourn Executive Session and resume Regular Meeting at 7:05PM.

Motion by Mr. Gerbasio, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and unanimously adopted by board members present to accept and approve the January 22, 2015 board meeting minutes, with Mr. Lewis abstaining.

Organization Reports:

Building Principals reported on activities, charitable/fundraising programs, and preparation for PARCC testing.

Mr. Viggiani also congratulated Mrs. Montone on her years of service and wished her a happy retirement.

Both Mr. Viggiani and Mrs. Wilhelm reported on recent visits from author, Allison Formento, to each of the elementary schools. In addition, "Read Across America" is Friday (February 27th), and both invited the board members to participate.

Maria Galente reported on the success of JSA's trip to Washington DC and their experience. In fact four bills were presented to mock Senate and House of Representatives and all passed! Next event ...Spring States.

Superintendent Report:

Recommended action on resolutions and motions to be presented under Committee Reports. Mr. Presuto presented the Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying (HIB) findings as reported for the period November 20th through December 17, 2014.

Motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Gerbasio, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to accept the HIB report for the period January 23, 2015 through February 25, 2015, and are available at the Administrative Offices for review.

Motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Lewis, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to accept the Report of Violence & Vandalism and are available at the Administrative Offices for review.

Motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to accept District Summary Report of HIB Investigations, Training and Programs and are available at the Administrative Offices for review.

Mr. Presuto reported on the various district events which took place which included the Blood Drive, and Founders' Day for both elementary schools PTA's. Mr. Presuto also informed those in attendance of the impact of PARCC over the next three years, and pending legislation concerning parent's "opting out". He reassured the board that those students "opting out" will be provided assignments, and will not be able to any access to personal devices and/or school computers.

Mr. Presuto also reported on a recent visit to Montville High School for a presentation on Safe Schools. He announced that we are in many instances ahead of schedule in providing a safe environment for students and staff. However, he will be setting up an independent evaluation of our security measures and where we can improve.

Business Administrator/Board Secretary Report:

Mrs. Kosky reported on the outcome of February 24, 2015 bids for construction of the Middle/High School renovation/addition project, and that seven bids were received, and all exceeded the budgeted amount. A second bid will be going out for mid-March. If this too is over the budgeted amount, our professionals and administration can proceed to negotiate the best price for the project.

The business office continues to work on the 2015-2016 budget incorporating the recently released State released aid figures. Mrs. Kosky informed those in attendance, that we maintained the level of State aid from last year. The district did, however, benefited from debt service aid that exceeded our budget expectations. The budget is expected to be released to the County Superintendent by March 20th, with the public hearing scheduled for April 30, 2015.

In addition there were several recent donations which will be accepted under the Finance Committee Report.

Recommended action on resolutions and motions to be presented under Committee Reports.

Public Agenda Comments:

Committee Reports and New Business

1. School Government

R1.1

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Anderson

SECONDED BY: Mr. Lewis

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Secaucus Board of Education does hereby appoint the following teacher as recommended by the Superintendent, for the 2014-2015 school year.

Kerry Goldsack Elementary Basic Skills Teacher, Clarendon School (Susan Montone replacement).
Account # 11-230-100-101-000-12
Effective Date: April 27, 2015
Compensation: MA Step 1, \$61,179

Colleen Orlando 6th Grade Leave Replacement Teacher, Clarendon (Danielle Giunta replacement)
Account # 11-130-100-101-000-12
Effective Date: March 23, 2015
Compensation: BA Step 1, \$57,484

Julia Dombrowski Basic Skills English Teacher Title I Grant Funded position, M.S. /H.S. (Janine Andreu replacement)
Account # 20-231-100-101-000-14 50% & #20-231-100-101-000-15 50 %
Effective Date: February 19, 2015
Compensation: BA, Step 1 \$57,484

Frank Capalbo MS Special Education Mathematics/Language Arts Teacher (Danielle Cartaxo replacement)
Account # 11-213-100-101-015-17
Effective Date: April 27, 2015
Compensation: BA, Step 1, \$57,484

R1.2

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Anderson

SECONDED BY: Mr. Lewis

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Secaucus Board of Education does hereby approves to appoint as recommended by the Superintendent, the following Substitute Teachers for the 2014-2015 school year:

Name	Position	Certification	Rate
Pia Kasabian	Substitute Teacher	CEAS Teacher of English	\$80/per day
Dorothy Dobkowski	Substitute Teacher	Standard Certificate Teacher of English	\$80/per day
Dayna Gallagher	Substitute Teacher	Sub Certification	\$75/per day
Melanie Samayoa-	Substitute Teacher	CEAS- K-6, Teacher of Disabilities	\$80/per day
Kerrienne Schillari	Substitute Teacher	Standard Certificate, K-6, Teacher of the Handicapped	\$80/per day
Nina M. Robinson	Substitute Teacher	Standard Certificate K-6	\$80/per day
Taylor Dreiss	Substitute Teacher	Sub Certification	\$75/per day
Anita Sharma	Substitute Teacher	Sub Certification	\$75/per day

Motion by Mr. McStowe, seconded by Mrs. D’Addetta, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to table resolution R1.3

R1.4

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Anderson

SECONDED BY: Mr. Lewis

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves Fury Baker to provide one (1) hour of extra help for MS Special Education Mathematic students, with a compensation of \$35/hour retroactive to January 22, 2015.

R1.5

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Anderson

SECONDED BY: Mr. Lewis

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Secaucus Board of Education does here by appoint as recommended by the Superintendent, the following individuals to co-curricular positions for the 2014-2015 school year.

Name	Co-Curricular Curricular	Activity Location	Stipend
Melissa Pablos	TRACK & FIELD – ASST. COACH	High School	\$3,140
Zachary Schlemm	BASEBALL-ASST. COACH VOLUNTEER	High School	Pro-bono

R1.6

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Anderson

SECONDED BY: Mr. Lewis

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education, as recommended by the Superintendent, approves to appoint the following faculty to a Title I Funded program “Teachers for CCSS Parent Night” on February 4th and 25th:

Teacher	Grade	Subj.	Prep	Prep Total	Presentation	Pres. Total	Total
Amanda Wassong	3	ELA & Math	2 @ \$200/prep	\$400	4 hrs @ \$100/hr	\$400	\$800
Michelle Primavera	4	ELA & Math	2 @ \$200/prep	\$400	4 hrs @ \$100/hr	\$400	\$800
William Millevoi	5	ELA & Math	2 @ \$200/prep	\$400	4 hrs @ \$100/hr	\$400	\$800
Josephine Amato-Lewis	6	ELA	1 @ \$200/prep	\$200	2 hr @ \$100/hr	\$400	\$600
Kristin Backiel 2	6	Math	1 @ \$200 prep	\$200	2 hr @ \$100/hr	\$200	\$400
Sean Powers1	6	Math	1 @ \$200/prep	\$200	2 hr @ \$100/hr	\$400	\$600
Pasquale Coccuci2	7 & 8	Math	1 @ \$200/prep	\$200	2 hr @ \$100/hr	\$200	\$400
Allison Cunniff	7 & 8	ELA	2 @ \$200/prep	\$400	4 hrs @ \$100/hr	\$400	\$400
Fury Baker	7 & 8	Math	1 @ \$200/prep	\$200	2 hr @ \$100/hr	\$400	\$600
ToniAnn Palmisano	7 & 8	Math	1 @ \$200/prep	\$200	2 hr @ \$100/hr	\$400	\$600

1 Worked only on 2/4/15

2 Worked only on 2/24/15

R1.7

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Anderson

SECONDED BY: Mr. Lewis

WHEREAS, Zahava Pianko, School Psychologist, was approved for medical leave by the Secaucus Board of Education for the period January 5, 2015 through February 18, 2015; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves fifteen (15) additional hours for the following staff to provide Student Evaluation/IEP Writing at a rate of \$45/hour retroactive to January 13, 2015:

Jeanne Gannon
Nancy Jaber
Kara Parham
Kristie Hanley
Sandra Rosenblum

R1.8

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Anderson

SECONDED BY: Mr. Lewis

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves the following extracurricular positions for the school year 204-2015 pro-rated:

Name	Position	Effective Date	Rate
Connie Boruch	Building Mentoring Coordinator	3/2/15	\$750/ prorated
Michelle Primavera	Wee Deliver	3/2/15	\$1,150/ prorated

R1.9

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Anderson

SECONDED BY: Mr. Lewis

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby accepts, with regret, letter of retirement from Janice Bartoszek, Art Teacher Middle/High Schools, effective June 30, 2015.

R1.10

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Anderson

SECONDED BY: Mr. Lewis

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby accepts letters of resignation for the following:

Sean Powers, Math Coach at Huber Street, effective March 27, 2015
Adam Estruch, District IT Technician, effective April 3, 2015

R1.11

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Anderson

SECONDED BY: Mr. Lewis

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves, retroactively, unpaid leave request for Zahava Pianko, School Psychologist for the period January 5, 2015 through February 18, 2015.

R1.12

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Anderson

SECONDED BY: Mr. Lewis

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby accepts and approves, Tiffany Meyer, Physical Education Teacher Middle/High School, Maternity/Bonding leave request as follows:

Maternity Leave	September 1, 2015 – September 11, 2015
Bonding Leave	September 14, 2015 – June 30, 2016
Return to Work	September 1, 2016

R1.13

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Anderson

SECONDED BY: Mr. Lewis

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves the HIB/Discipline/Safety Procedure Workshops for Lunch Aides for 1 hour provided by Connie Boruch at \$35/per hour as per SEA Contract

R1.14

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Anderson

SECONDED BY: Mr. Lewis

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby accepts, with regret, letter of retirement from Janet Fiume, Middle School Special Education, effective April 30, 2015.

Noted: Mrs. D’Addetta and Mrs. O’Connell firmly expressed their displeasure of receiving resume’s for candidates the night of the board meeting at the executive session.

M1.1 Motion to post for:

- Middle/High School Art Teacher (Janice Bartoszek)
- Huber Street Elementary Math Coach (Sean Powers, retroactive 2/25/15 (preapproved by Board)
- IT Technician (Adam Estruch)

The foregoing resolutions and motions were adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Robert Anderson	X			
Lance Bartletta	X			
Kelli D’Addetta	X			
John Gerbasio	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O’Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			
Gary Riebesell, President	X			

2. Curriculum

R2.1

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Robert Anderson

SECONDED BY: Joseph Lewis

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves the annexed Field Trips.

R2.2

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Robert Anderson

SECONDED BY: Joseph Lewis

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves the following 2015-2016 Cycle Classes for grades 7 and 8:

- 7th Grade: STEM, Spanish Culture, Italian Culture, Art, Civics/Ethics, Public Speaking, Sign Language.
- 8th Grade: STEM, Spanish Language, Italian Language, Media, Music, Drama, Sewing

Noted: Mrs. O’Connell reminded teachers to be diligent in limiting the number of field trips/year (2)

The foregoing resolutions were adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Robert Anderson	X			
Lance Bartletta	X			
Kelli D’Addetta	X			
John Gerbasio	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O’Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			
Gary Riebesell, President	X			

3. Finance

R3.1

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Joseph Lewis

SECONDED BY: John Gerbasio

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approve the check register, as submitted by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to pay bills and claims in the amount of \$3,713,990.43.

R3.2

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Joseph Lewis

SECONDED BY: John Gerbasio

BE IT RESOLVED: the Report of Transfers submitted by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the month of January within the various appropriations for the 2014-2015 school year as shown on the annexed report.

R3.3

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Joseph Lewis

SECONDED BY: John Gerbasio

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(e), we certify that the Financial Reports of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies, as presented by the School Business Administrator for the month(s) of December be placed on file. The Reports are in agreement. The Board of Education, after review of the Secretary’s Financial Reports (Appropriations Section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, hereby certifies to the best of our knowledge, no major account or funds have been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.23(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

R3.4

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Joseph Lewis

SECONDED BY: John Gerbasio

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education approve, as recommended by Superintendent the annexed out of district travel as of February 26, 2015.

Employee Name	Date(s) of Event	Title of Event	Location	Registration Fee	Estimated Tolls	Total Cost
S.Smahl	3/20/2015	Facing The Future	New Brunswick	\$140.00	Mileage = \$20.58 Tolls=\$13	\$173.58
M.Rodriguez	2/27/2015	Foreign Language	New Brunswick	\$115.00	Mileage = 20.46 Tolls = \$13	\$148.46
L.Garofalo	3/20/2015	Facing The Future	New Brunswick	\$140.00	Mileage = 20.58 Tolls= \$13	\$173.58
R. Presuto	2/27/2015	Putting Data to Work	Monroe Twsp	\$120.00	Mileage = 25.11 Tolls 14.50	\$159.61
K. Hanley	3/20/2015	Key to Effective Behavior	Parsippany	\$130.00	Mileage = 17.98 Tolls \$2.70	\$150.28
J.Gannon	3/20/2015	Key to Effective Behavior	Parsippany	\$130.00	Mileage = 17.98 Tolls \$2.70	\$150.28

R3.5

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Joseph Lewis

SECONDED BY: John Gerbasio

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves the final submission of the IDEA Grant Amendment for school year 2015.

R3.6

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Joseph Lewis

SECONDED BY: John Gerbasio

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby accepts, with gratitude and appreciation a \$1000 donation from the Secaucus Policy Benevolent Association for art supplies, \$250 per school.

R3.7

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Joseph Lewis

SECONDED BY: John Gerbasio

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby accepts, with gratitude and appreciation a \$200 donation from Musical Potpourri for Secaucus High School Drama Club

R3.8

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Joseph Lewis

SECONDED BY: John Gerbasio

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby accepts, with gratitude and appreciation a \$97,168.59 donation by XHANGE @ Secaucus Junction for the purchase of a 54 passenger bus

R3.9

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Joseph Lewis

SECONDED BY: John Gerbasio

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves the contract with Bergen County Special Services School District, Educational Enterprises Division, for the provision of LDTC Workshop, Dyslexia, professional development to be held on March 9, 2015 (Professional Development) at a rate not to exceed \$635

R3.10

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Joseph Lewis

SECONDED BY: John Gerbasio

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves the SEMI (Special Education Medicaid Initiative) Action Plan for 2013-2014 and NJ Certified Public Expenditure for 2012-2013.

R3.11

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Joseph Lewis

SECONDED BY: John Gerbasio

WHEREAS, the Secaucus Board of Education (“the Board”) advertised for bids for the Building Additions and Interior Renovations at Secaucus Middle School Project (“the Project”); and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2015, the Board received seven bids for the Project, as reflected on the attached bid tabulation sheet prepared by Di Cara Rubino Architects; and

WHEREAS, the bids are excessive as to price, as they substantially exceed the cost estimate of \$22,314,135 prepared by the Architect for this Project and, as such, are unreasonable as to price; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby rejects the bids received for the Building Additions and Interior Renovations at Secaucus Middle/High School Project pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22(a)*, as the bids substantially exceed the cost estimates and, as such, are unreasonable as to price on the basis of the cost estimates prepared on behalf of the Board.

The foregoing resolutions were adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Robert Anderson	X			
Lance Bartletta	X			
Kelli D'Addetta	X			
John Gerbasio	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O'Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			
Gary Riebesell, President	X			

4. Safety, Security Buildings & Grounds

Mr. McStowe apologized to Mr. Vogel for inadvertently indicating there was a joint safety committee (with the town). However, Mr. Vogel is welcome to attend the board's internal committee. Mr. McStowe also reported on the workshop attended for Safe Schools stating we are in many instances ahead of most district, but that this is always room for improvement.

5. Technology – No Report

6. Policy

R6.1

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Kathy O'Connell

SECONDED BY: John Gerbasio

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves the first reading of the following policies:

- 5450 Athletic Awards
- 9150.1 School Visitors – After School Activities/Programs
- 2363 Student Use of Privately – Owned Technology (Bring your own Device)

Noted: Mr. Bartletta, in reference to policy 2363 inquired if the device(s) are lost or stolen, can it be shifted so that parents would be responsible and not the board. Mr. Fogarty responded that it can and we can do so at the next reading to incorporate a “responsibility clause”.

7. Athletic Liaison

As the fall sports wind down, Mrs. D'Addetta reported that spring tryouts/training would begin shortly. She also reported that the girls and boys basketball teams are in the first round(s) of the NJICSA tournaments, with the girls already achieving “county” championship status. Also the girls' swim team had scored the highest “times” in the NJICSA meets.

8. Shared Services – No Report

9. New Business - None

Public General Comments

Mr. Fred Vogel thanked Ms. Susan Smahl for inviting him to the Hudson County Consortium Meeting which focused on “bullying”. He also wanted to thank Casey Scheiner for his sensitivity during health class and for contacting him and his wife as to how they wanted Casey

to handle the situation. In closing Mr. Vogel stated that it is a sad situation in this day and age that Educators now have to teach children how to behave, rather than the parents.

Board Member Comments

Bobby Anderson – wished Rob Valente a Happy Birthday. He also extended good wishes to Adam, Sean and Janet. He remarked that a few months ago, this room was full of people complaining about the basketball coach, and here we are today with great success.

The remaining board members each expressed their good wishes to Adam, Sean, Janet Fiume and Janet Bartoszek; as well as the sports teams. They also thanked those making donations for their generosity.

Motion by Mr. Gerbasio, seconded by Mrs. O'Connell, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:25PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Kosky,
Board Secretary