

**SECAUCUS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
DATED: JANUARY 19, 2012**

President Manente called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and roll call taken as follows:

**PRESENT:** Messrs. McStowe, Manente, Lewis, Krajewski, Troyer, Ms. Marra, Mr. Riebesell, Mrs. Weiner and Mrs. Snedeker

**ABSENT:**

President Manente declared a quorum present.

**Also present:** Cynthia Randina, CSA  
H. Ronald Smith, Interim SBA/BS  
Vittoria LaPira

Vice President, McStowe, 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 McStowe, 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. Troyer

**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 4:12 PM in order to discuss personnel.

Motion by Mr. Manente, seconded by Mr. McStowe, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the Regular Meeting at 7:00 PM

**Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 2011**

**Motion by Mrs. Weiner, seconded by Mr. Troyer**

Board Member	Roll Call
Charles Krajewski	Yes
Joseph Lewis	Yes
Jack McStowe	Yes
Dora Marra	Yes
Gary Riebesell	Abstain
Lisa Snedeker	Yes
Tom Troyer	Yes
MaryAnn Weiner	Yes
Sal Manente, President	Yes

**S.G.O. Report**

SMS SGO Caitlyn O'Connell and Zachary Canonico discussed:

- Alex's Lemonade Stand fundraiser for Childhood Cancer. The SMS SGO read Alex's story to elementary students and a donation bottle is set up in the back of the multi-purpose room for any donations.
- Valentine's Day Dance

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SHS SGO Timothy Charles and Allison discussed:

- Blood Drive sponsored by the Key Club
- New Vending machines are a big hit
- Lunch as improved-they have received no specific complaints being heard.

**Superintendent's Report**

**Recommended action on Motions and Resolutions would be presented under Committee Reports and New Business.**

- HIB District Report

As per District Policy #5512, incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying for the time period of December 16, 2011 through January 19, 2012 are as follows:

<i>School</i>	<i>Total Reports</i>	<i>Confirmed HIB</i>	<i>Not HIB/ Other</i>
• Clarendon	0 report	0	0
• Huber Street	1 report	1	0
• Secaucus MS	4 reports	3	1
• Secaucus HS	1 report	1	0

A thorough and complete investigation was conducted for each report of an alleged incident of harassment, intimidation or bullying by the principal or the principal's designee within one school day of the verbal report of the incident.

Investigations were completed and the written findings submitted to the principal as soon as possible, but not later than 10 school days from the date of the written report of the alleged incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

The Building principal, in accordance with the code of student conduct, determined appropriate disciplinary action to be taken, based on the investigation findings.

- Anti-Bullying PSA Video

I'd like to take a minute to show the 2012 anti-bullying public service announcement produced by the High School Media class.

- Board Recognition Month

January is Board Member Recognition Month. To honor the occasion, I would like to distribute certificates in recognition of the time and effort that our Board trustees volunteer to advance our children's educational opportunities and the community of Secaucus.

- Mrs. Randina delivered the Superintendent's State of the District Report

Items touched upon were:

- District Vision
- Benchmark Development
- Curriculum revisions to align with new State standards
- Technology – wireless network, security –access control, fiber optic network...
- Social/Emotional Learning through technology
- New Early Learning Center
- Middle School cycle courses and Study Skills
- Modified rotate/block schedule at the High School

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**Report by the Secretary of the Board**

Business Administrator, Ron Smith commented on the accomplishments of his departments:

- Three new software programs have been instituted for Finance, Personnel, and Payroll.
- The district has gone through a facilities reorganization
- Phase one of the I.D. Swipe card system should be completed by the end of next week. The district is working on a new lease purchase program for the completion of the system including the rest of the doors and more cameras.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items**

Ms. Cali questioned:

- R1.7 – (Approval to accept job description for Administrative Assistant to the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds). “Has there ever been an Administrative Assistant to the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds in the past? Mr. Smith explained that this is not a new position it is a realignment within the Business office.
- R2.1-R2.6 - Are the programs listed being approved for the current school year or next year? Explanation was given that they are for next year.
- R3.6 Approval of the transfer of additional State Aid in regard to the salaries portion.

**Recommended action on Motions and Resolutions would be presented under Committee Reports and New Business.**

**1. School Government**

**Motion by Mr. Riebesell, seconded by Mr. Troyer, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions R1.1 through R1.16, as described below**

Recommended Board Action for the following:

- R1.1 Approval to appoint the following Substitute Teachers for the 2011-2012 school year:
- Yoniel Lopez*  
*Carolyn E. Fernandez*  
*Rafael Pastor, Jr.*
- R1.2 Approval to accept resignation from Dario Sforza, Science Teacher, Secaucus High School, effective February 23, 2012 (*60 Days or until suitable replacement*).
- R1.3 Approval to post:
- Science Teacher vacancy created by Dario Sforza at Secaucus High School who resigned.
- Internship Coordinator vacancy created by Dario Sforza at Secaucus High School who resigned.
- R1.4 Approval to change the job title for the K-12 Student Services Counselor to Crisis Intervention Counselor. (Pending Grant Funding)
- R1.5 Approval to accept and post Medical Leave of Absence for Luis Martinez, Science Teacher, Secaucus High School. effective January 31, 2012 through February 27, 2012 using (14) Illness days with pay.
- R1.6 Approval to change job title from Executive Secretary to Business Administrator to Administrative Assistant to Business Administrator.
- R1.7 Approval to accept job description for Administrative Assistant to the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds.

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- R1.8 Approval to revise job descriptions for the following positions:  
Administrative Assistant to Human Resource Specialist  
Administrative Assistant to Business Administrator
- R1.9 Approval to appoint Amanda Jones as Technology Club Advisor, effective January 20, 2012, stipend of \$1150(prorated).
- R1.10 Approval to appoint Stephanie Ramos (Substitute) as one-on-one aide for special needs student, retroactive October 26, 2011, rate of pay \$85/per day.
- R1.11 Approval to appoint Mary Ann Cavallo, Speech Therapist, replacing Beth Schudroff who begins Maternity Leave on January 24, 2012 through June 22, 2012. Compensation: \$75/hr x 6hrs/day x 3 days/wk.= \$1350 or as needed.
- R1.12 Approval to appoint Frank Falcone, Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant, replacing Kara K. Parham, LDTC, who begins Maternity leave Clarendon School, effective January 23, 2012 through April 30, 2011. Compensation: \$300/per case, \$2500 max. as needed.
- R1.13 Approval to appoint Carolyn Gallagher, as Behaviorist to provide consultative services for students with disabilities. Compensation \$125/hr as needed.
- R1.14 Approval to appoint Lori Garofalo-Adessa, to develop Biology Replacement Curriculum for Special Education students as per IEP mandate and State graduation requirement regulation. Compensation: 20 hrs x \$35/hrs = \$700/max.
- R1.15 Approval to appoint the following teachers to create benchmark assessments, to align with NJ Core Curriculum Standards, effective January 16 - 31, 2012 (Dates to be determined) for 20 hrs max. x \$35/hr = \$700: (Funded by EE4NJ Grant)

**Elementary K - 6 Teachers:**

Susan Montone  
Jeanette Rodriguez  
Patrice Phemsint  
Roxanne Hackel  
Lora Wegner  
Mayling Cardenas  
Maria Rodriquez  
Orietta Tringali  
Alyssa Grosso  
Kimberly Woeckener  
Mary Ann Pollio  
Patricia Smeyers  
Karen Barna  
Alan Bonin

**MS/HS Teachers:**

Amanda Jones  
Michael Gehm  
Michele Malcolm  
Rick Eisenberg  
Denise McKenna  
Cathy Ferguson  
Barbara Jo Bruning  
Allison Cunniff  
Kathy Kuchar  
Sharon Vitiello  
AnnaMarie Picariello  
Fatma Mohamed  
Janice Bartoszek  
Doug DePice

- R1.16 Approval to appoint Athletic Coaches for Spring Season 2012 as follows:

Keith Schneider	Head Baseball Coach	\$6380
Neal Czechowski	Asst Baseball Coach	\$3590
Tom Reynolds	Asst Baseball Coach	\$3590
Cherryl Bott	Head Softball Coach	\$6380
Amanda Jones	Asst Softball Coach	\$3590
Krystal Snarski	Asst Softball Coach	\$3590
Bayu Sutrisno	Head Track & Field Coach	\$5680
Michael Vitulano	Asst Track & Field Coach	\$3140
Janet Regensburg	Asst Track & Field Coach	\$3140
Christine Candela	Middle School Girls Track & Field	\$1350
Christina Calabrese	Middle School Girls Track & Field	\$1350
Charlie Auletto	Middle School Boy's Track & Field	\$2700
Mark Schroback	Head Boys Tennis Coach	\$5180
Ron Mroz	Asst Boys Tennis Coach	\$2890
Melissa Pablos	Asst Track & Field Coach	\$3140
Vincent DeFazio	Volunteer Asst Coach (Baseball)	No Stipend

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	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Charles Krajewski	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
Jack McStowe, <i>Vice President</i>	X			
Dora Marra	X			
Gary Riebesell	X			
Lisa Snedeker	X			
Tom Troyer	X			
MaryAnn Weiner	X			
Salvatore Manente, <i>President</i>	X			

**2. Curriculum:**

**Motion by Mr. Krajewski, seconded by Mr. Troyer, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions R2.1 through R2.7, as described below**

**Recommended Board Action for the following:**

- R2.1 **Approval of High School Program of Studies as revised:**
- Physical Education grade change to letter grade from pass/fail
  - High School Culinary Arts Course title change to *Culinary Arts/Hospitality*
  - High School Silk Screening Course title change to *Printmaking*
  - Horticulture and Greenhouse Management Course
  - Astronomy Course
  - Facing History and Ourselves Course
  - Art History II Course
- R2.2 **Approval of Middle School Reform Plan**
- R2.3 **Approval of Tomorrow's Teachers Curriculum**
- R2.4 **Approval of one service credit per year for participation in school based service related programs, Grades 7-12**
- R2.5 **Approval of implementation of Photography Club at High School**
- R2.6 **Approval to post Photography Club position at a stipend of \$500**
- R2.7 **TABLED Approval of permission for students to attend International Student Trip in summer or fall of 2012, pending attorney review.**

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Charles Krajewski	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
Jack McStowe, <i>Vice President</i>	X			
Dora Marra	X			
Gary Riebesell	X			
Lisa Snedeker	X			
Tom Troyer	X			
MaryAnn Weiner	X			
Salvatore Manente, <i>President</i>	X			

**R2.7 - TABLED**

**3. Finance**

**Motion by Ms. Marra, seconded by Mrs. Weiner, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions R3.1 through R3.7, as described below**

**Recommended Board Action for the following:**

- R3.1 **Approval of Bills List – January 2012**
- R3.2 **Approval of Budgetary Transfers – September 2011**
- R3.3 **Approval of Financial Reports – September 2011**
- R3.4 **Approval of Out of District Travel**
- R3.5 **Approval to authorize H. Ronald Smith as signatory for Capital One bank accounts.**

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**R3.6 Approval of transfer of additional State aid**

**Whereas**, the State of New Jersey Department of Education has made \$332,333 in additional state aid available to this district during the 2011-2012 school year and suggested several ways for local districts to apply, now therefore

**Be It Resolved**, the Board of Education approves the use of \$332,333 in additional state aid to increase the following appropriations in the 2011-2012 budget by amending the budget and filing the revisions with the State Department of Education.

\$113,881	Capital Outlay Transfer to Capital Projects	12-000-400-932-000-16
\$ 88,452	Salaries	11-000-219-104-000-17
\$130,000	Capital Outlay-Construction Services	12-000-400-450-721-14
<u>\$332,333</u>		

**R3.7 Approval to** have a blanket approval for the following staff to attend the meetings on the attached schedule when their participation is deemed necessary by the County Superintendent. No travel reimbursement is being requested:

Linda Diemer, Tom Tufaro, Charles Voorhees, Lucy Biegler, Claire Costello, Sean Powers, Rob Valente, Amanda Prieto, Christine Candela, Allison Cunniff, Sharon Cutola, and all physical education teachers.

*Hudson County Curriculum Consortium Work Sessions Schedule*

*English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum Writing Teams*

*Mathematics Curriculum Writing Teams*

*Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Curriculum Writing Teams*

*All Hudson County Curriculum Consortium Writing Team Work Sessions will be held at the Hudson County Schools of Technology, 2000 85<sup>th</sup> Street, North Bergen, NJ 07047 unless otherwise noted.*

*English Language Arts (ELA)*

**Grades 9-12**  
November 15, 16, & 17, 2011

**Grades 6-8**  
December 13, 14, & 15, 2011

**Grades K-5**  
January 10, 11 & 12, 2012 \*

\* **Note:** Work session to be held at New Jersey City University (NJCU) in Jersey City, NJ at a location to be determined.

*Mathematics*

**Grades 3-5**  
November 2, 3, & 4, 2011 \*

\* **Note:** Change of dates from dates set at the Hudson County Curriculum Consortium Core Member Meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2011.

**Grades 9-12**  
December 6, 7 & 8, 2011

**Grades 6-8**  
Dates to be determined (Implementation – September 2013)

*Comprehensive Health & Physical Education*

*Grades K-12*

*Introduction to the Comprehensive Health and Physical Education NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards Professional Learning Workshop*  
January 18, 2012 \*

\* **Note:** To be held at the Meadowlands Plaza Hotel, 40 Wood Avenue, Secaucus, NJ 07094

**Grades K-5**  
January 31, February 1 & 2, 2012

**Grades 6-8**  
February 28 & 29, and March 1, 2012

**Grades 9-12**  
February 14, 15, & 16, 2012

**Grades 9-12**  
February 14, 15, & 16, 2012

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Charles Krajewski	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
Jack McStowe, <i>Vice President</i>	X			
Dora Marra	X			
Gary Riebesell	X			
Lisa Snedeker	X			
Tom Troyer	X			
MaryAnn Weiner	X			
Salvatore Manente, <i>President</i>	X			

**4. Safety/Security/Buildings & Grounds**

Motion by Mr. McStowe, seconded by Mrs. Weiner, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motion R4.1, as described below  
Recommended Board Action for the following:

**R4.1 Approval of Field Trips**

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Charles Krajewski	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
Jack McStowe, <i>Vice President</i>	X			
Dora Marra	X			
Gary Riebesell	X			
Lisa Snedeker	X			
Tom Troyer	X			
MaryAnn Weiner	X			
Salvatore Manente, <i>President</i>	X			

**5. Technology Committee** - Mr. Lewis reported that there are 40 wireless antennas up and running. All I.D. cards will be completed shortly and distributed to staff. Also, video conferencing has been set up for distance learning .

**6. Policy Committee**

Motion by Mrs. Weiner, seconded by Mr. McStowe, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motion R6.1  
Recommended Board Action for the following:

**R6.1** Approval of second reading of the following policies:

- **Policy 0168** – Recording Board Meetings
- **Policy 5519** – **Mandatory Update** Dating Violence at School
- **Policy 6424** – Emergency Contracts
- **Policy 8505** – **Mandatory Update** School Nutrition
- **Policy 9180** – School Volunteers
- **Policy 9181** – Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Charles Krajewski	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
Jack McStowe, <i>Vice President</i>	X			
Dora Marra	X			
Gary Riebesell	X			
Lisa Snedeker	X			
Tom Troyer	X			
MaryAnn Weiner	X			
Salvatore Manente, <i>President</i>	X			

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**7. Athletic Liaison** - Mr. Riebesell reported that the Cheerleading squad ran a competition this weekend which was a success. And other winter sports are gearing up for both County & State competitions.

**8. Shared Services** - Meeting has been rescheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**9. Legislative Report** - No Report

**10. New Business** - No Report

**11. Resident's Forum General**

Mr. Anderson

- Commented that there have been great accomplishments by the school district due to the great teachers.
- As President of the SEA, I am the representative for teachers, clerks and custodians-in June of 2010 the SEA took its first Vote of No Confidence and the Board did not agree with them. In January of 2012 the SEA took its second Vote of No Confidence "because obviously nothing got better after first vote."
- The SEA is providing a list of grievances to the Board privately (an envelope was handed to Mr. Manente).
- Thank you to everyone for coming since this is my last Board Meeting as SEA President if the Board chooses to keep the election in April, I will be resigning from my duties and running for the Board of Education.

Mr. Dubiel

- Feels the Election should be kept in April. Would like to keep politics out of the vote. People who are dedicated to the schools vote in April, if the election is moved to November the ballot will only confuse people more.

Mr. Patterson

- What is the role of the Board of Education? How does the Board interact with the community? How does the Board receive input from the community? Asking on behalf of the church congregation.
- Questioned the EE4NJ pilot program. Who is in charge? Objective?

Mr. Conti

- Discussed details of a safety program he has proposed to save the district funds while adding security in the schools. Mr. Smith invited him in for a meeting to discuss in detail.

Dr. Defina

- Secaucus is a "Shining" district of the state.
- Department of Education is pleased with the assessment system at work. It is better to be in the process and be a leader, be a voice."
- Mrs. Randina is helpful in preparing NJCU Future Teachers, she is involved in Professional development of the Future Teacher Academy.
- Dr. DeFina presented Mrs. Randina with a Certificate of Appreciation for all of her efforts.
- Mrs. Randina Thanked Dr. DeFina

Mrs. Wilhelm

- Stated that with Mrs. Randina in the District we continue to grow in:
  - Staff advancement
  - Technology
  - Social/Emotional/Character Education of staff and students
- Mrs. Randina's dedication to the district should not be questioned
- Mrs. Randina is all about the students and student welfare.



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**12. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Krajewski expressed his concern that there is a lot of non-factual information out in the public. He feels like a lot of good has been done over the last three years he has been on the Board even with all of the hits that have been taken.

Mr. Troyer " I believe there is a choice you have to make in every decision that comes before you. Keeping in mind the choice you make, makes or breaks you. The choice Mr. Anderson and the SEA have chosen will have a significant domino effect on the Town and School system. This is the road they have chosen. So be it. I choose to support Superintendent Cynthia Randina and plan to detail why I am doing so during my campaign for re-election to the Board of Education."

Mr. Lewis expressed that what has been going on in the District needs to stop. Communication is needed to move forward. The grievances filed by Mr. Anderson need to be investigated and resolved.

Mrs. Snedeker agrees with Mr. Lewis. Feels that a lot of work has been done, more has to be done and we all need to work together.

Mr. Riebesell will look to resolve issues with the Union (SEA). Children are first in our District. Also spoke about damaged field, lights and snack bar damage from Hurricane Irene, repairs are in the process of being done.

Ms Marra spoke of the frustration with the SEA not wanting to meet or communicate with the Board to fix things. Also discussed the raises of SEA members from 2003-present as well as impact of the taxpayers.

Ms. Weiner- Thanked Mr. Conti for his information on security – "Every child and staff member deserves to be protected." Feels the "Tug of War" with the union needs to end.

Mr. McStowe asked that the audience donates to Alex's Lemonade Stand fundraiser by putting monetary donations in the jar by the exit. Has asked the SEA to sit down with the Board for the last two years but has a list of dates that have been cancelled. The Board cannot resolve grievances if we don't know about them. Encourage any SEA members to come and speak to us, you do not need permission from the SEA Board.

Mr. Manente spoke of a meeting a week ago with Mr. Anderson, where discussion regarding an issue was brought up regarding Mr. Anderson while he was a teacher.

Mr. Manente then went on to discuss:

- We are a Pro-active Board.
- Mayor Gonnelli did not agree with the SEA "vote of No Confidence"
- A statement will be emailed to the press.

Mrs. Randina discussed the process and procedures of Grievences that need to be followed.

**13. Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. McStowe seconded by Mr. Troyer, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

H. Ronald Smith  
Interim Board Secretary and Business Administrator