

**SECAUCUS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DATED: March 22, 2012**

President Manente called the meeting to order at 7:05 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
Vittorio 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. Riebesell

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 4:00 PM in order to discuss personnel.

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

**H. Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 2012
Motion by Ms. Marra, seconded by Mr. Troyer,**

<u>Board Member</u>	2-9-12 Special Meeting	2-16-12 Regular Meeting	2-29-12 Special Meeting
Charles Krajewski	X	X	X
Joseph Lewis	X	X	X
Jack McStowe	X	X	X
Dora Marra	X	X	X
Gary Riebesell	Absent	X	X
Lisa Snedeker	X	X	Absent
Tom Troyer	X	X	X
MaryAnn Weiner	X	X	X
Sal Manente, President	X	X	X

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Public Hearing – Budget for School Year 2012-2013

Correspondence – none

S.G.O. Report

Linda Wilhelm gave an update of Activities that took place at Huber Street School including Pink Ribbons in October, Wear Red in February, Jeans Day, Green for Autism, Patriot Pride day as well as Pennies for Patients and the annual Social Groovy:

Mr. Coccuci gave an update on the SGO happenings in Clarendon School including the 10 year Anniversary of 9/11, food drives, Toys for Tots, Crayon Recycling – Clarendon collected 1,765 pounds of crayons and was 1st place in Hudson County. Mr. Cocucci also discussed the candy sale for camp and the SGO social. Clarendon also participated in Math Madness and Pennies for Puppies and raised to help a black Lab named Nitro. Senior Citizens had a wonderful time with the Rock Band and the St. Jude's Marathon was 1st in NJ and 7th in the U.S. for fundraising. Two fifth grade students won Gold medals in the Science fair and the Character Education Poster project is in full swing.

Mr. Daniello reported that Kid Witness News won big honors in a Nationwide contest regarding environmental issues. They were the only Middle School chosen in the Top 10. If they are chosen for the Top 4 they win a trip to New York City and the Winners win a trip to London.

Dr. Berckes reported on Secaucus High School striving to be a Safe Haven for Learning. He also discussed the Wizard of Oz production and the Junior Prom. Dr. Berckes thanked the teachers of SHS for filling in at the front Security Desk .

Superintendent's Report

• *HIB District Report*

As per District Policy #5512, incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying for the time period of February 16, 2012 through March 21, 2012 are as follows:

<i>School</i>	<i>Total Reports</i>	<i>Confirmed HIB</i>	<i>Not HIB/ Other</i>
• Clarendon	1 report	0	1
• Huber Street	0 reports	0	0
• Secaucus MS	2 reports	0	2
• Secaucus HS	5 reports	3	2

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.

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Mrs. Randina took time to honor the following:

- Teacher of the Year Recognition

Clarendon School
Huber Street School
Secaucus Middle School
Secaucus High School &
District

Mary Ann Polio
Kerri Stamm
Janet Fiume

Mike Kelly (*unable to attend*)

- Certificates for Women's History Month Recognition

- Dora Marra
- Lisa Snedeker
- Mary Ann Weiner
- Joan Cali
- Kathy Kuchar(*unable to attend*)
- Secaucus Municipal Court Prosecutor Karen Boylan
Young(*unable to attend*)
- Deepa Ramchandani
- Pastor Nancy Ruchert, St. Matthew's Church (*unable to attend*)

- Certificate for National Athletic Training Month

- Tom Butler(*unable to attend*)

- New Hire for Security Desk at the High School

- Joseph Bienkowski (through Maschio's)

Susan Smahl thanked the Secaucus Public Education Foundation for funding two bullying prevention projects at the Clarendon School.

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

Report by the Secretary of the Board

Business Administrator, Ron Smith updated the meeting on the ongoing 2012/2013 budget process as well as the status of the gym floors at Clarendon and the High School and the Football field light poles.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Ms. Cali questioned:

- Bilingual Education in the budget.
- R6.1 - First reading of policies- would like them made available for review.

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. Lewis, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions R1.1 through R.10, as described below

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R1.1. Approval to appoint the following *Substitute Teachers* for the 2011-2012 school year:

Nadine M. Kureshi	Andrea Nolan
Kathleen Rodriguez	Marlon Segovia
Kyle Schlemm	Veronica Wolf

R1.2. Approval to accept resignation from the following staff member:
Anthony Qutawna, Custodian, Secaucus High School, effective, March 1, 2012.

Approval for *Anthony Qutawna* to receive separation pay as per SEA Contract; Article XVIII:(non-certified employee) (10 years of service)

39 illness Days x \$50/day = \$1300

10 personal days x \$55/day = \$550

Total: \$1850

R1.3. Approval to accept retirement letter from the following staff member:
Felice Wilson, Business Education Teacher/Coordinator, Secaucus High School, effective June 30, 2012. (34 years of service)

R1.4. Approval to accept Maternity/Child Rearing for *Alexis Leppin*, 2nd Grade Teacher, Huber Street School, effective April 9, 2012 through June 30, 2012 using 50 illness days, with pay.

R1.5. Approval to *post*:
2nd Grade Teacher position, Huber Street School, effective April 9, 2012 through June 30, 2012, replacing Alexis Leppin, Maternity Leave of Absence.

R1.6. Approval to appoint *Lori Garofalo*, the development of a Biology replacement curriculum for Special Education students as per IEP mandate and State graduation requirement regulation. Compensation: 20 hrs x \$35/hrs = \$700/max.

R1.7. Approval to appoint *John Ennis*, Girls JV Soccer Coach, compensation \$3590.

R1.8. Approval to appoint the following teacher to create benchmark assessments, effective (Dates to be determined) for 20 hrs max. x \$35/hr = \$700:

Michele Rodriguez *World Language*

R1.9. Approval to appoint *Danielle Cartaxo*, as Part time (.5) Resource Teacher - Clarendon School, effective March 23, 2012 - June 30, 2012, compensation \$90/day.

R1.10. Approval to appoint *Alex Kuchar* as Social Studies Replacement Teacher, Secaucus High School, effective February 15, 2012 through April 2, 2012 replacing Keith Schneider, Medical Leave of Absence, compensation \$80/day.

	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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On Behalf of the Board, Mr. Riebesell offered Congratulations and Well Wishes to Mrs. Wilson on her retirement. Mr. McStowe referred to a newspaper article from years ago written about Secaucus being the District to see regarding Business education. Thank you to Mrs. Wilson.

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 R2.3, as described below

Recommended Board Action for the following:

- R2.1** Approval of Field Trips
- R2.2** Approval to recognize the importance of "Purple Day for Epilepsy" on March 26, 2012 in support of promoting worldwide epilepsy awareness.
- R2.3** Approval to recognize the importance of women in the role of providing leadership in society and in education, in acknowledgment of March being National Women's History Month.

	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			

3. Finance

Motion by Ms. Marra, seconded by Mr. Troyer, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions R3.0 through R3.4, as described below

Recommended Board Action for the following:

R3.0 Approval of Budget for school year 2012-2013

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby adopt the 2012-2013 school district budget as follows:

Operating Budget	\$32,906,380
Grants & Entitlements	\$ 816,700
Repayment of Debt	\$ 1,265,839
Total	\$34,988,919

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District's tax requirements to support the proposed 2012-2013 general fund budget to be presented to the voters at the annual election on April 17, 2012 are as follows:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 31,636,305
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R3.1 Approval of Bills List – March 2012

R3.2 Approval of Out of District Travel

R3.3 Approval to renew The Substitute Service, LLC for the 2012-2013 school year in the amount of \$9,555.50.

R3.4 Approval to accept the Teacher Assistant Contract Agreement for the period 2011-2014

WHEREAS, the Secaucus Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") and the Secaucus Teacher Assistants Association (hereinafter referred to as the "STAA") have negotiated a successor Contract Agreement for the 2011-2012, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years; and

WHEREAS, the STAA has, by a majority vote of its membership, ratified the Contract Agreement.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby ratifies and approves the terms of the Contract Agreement for the 2011-2012, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years, which is attached to this Resolution and made a part hereof; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute, on behalf of the Board, the Contract Agreement by and between the Board and the STAA.

	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			

4. **Safety/Security/Buildings & Grounds** – Mr. McStowe discussed the progress of the repair of the Press Box and Concession stand at the High School Football field. Safety and Security at our schools along with two way radio law and update of plans for fire and police departments.

5. **Technology Committee** – Mr. Lewis reported on the district wireless project. Employee access cards and two way radio compliance with new law in 2013.

6. **Policy Committee** -
Motion by Mrs. Snedeker, seconded by Mr. McStowe, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions R6.1, as described below

Recommended Board Action for the following:

R6.1 Approval of first reading of the following policies:

- **Policy 1631** – Residency requirement for person holding School District Office, Employment or Position (New)
- **Policy 3324** – Right to Privacy – Teaching Staff Member (New)
- **Policy 4321** – Right to Privacy – Support Staff Member (New)
- **Policy 5600** – Pupil Discipline/Code of Conduct (Revised)
- **Policy 7510** – Use of School Facilities (Revised)
- **Policy 9181** – Athletic Competition (Revised)
- **Policy 9270** - Home Schooling and Equivalent Education Outside of Schools (Revised)

	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 -

The overall record for the 2011-2012 winter sports was 79 wins 80 losses 1 tie.

Boys Basketball

The Boys Basketball team finished the season with a record of 12 wins and 15 losses. The team finished in third place in the division. Pema Lama was named first team all division. Tom Kessler and Sean Egan were named to the second team all division. Joe Curran was named honorable mention.

Girls Basketball

The girls basketball team finished with a record of 23 wins and 5 losses. The team won the division championship for the second consecutive season. The girls advanced to the semi finals in the Hudson County tournament and the quarter finals in the state tournament. Alyssa Lyngholm, Danielle Roesing, Andie Lennon, and Julia McClure were named first team all division. Danielle Mitchell was named second team all division and Kendall Caruso was named honorable mention. Congratulations to Coach Sterling on being named coach of the year.

Bowling

The bowling team finished with a record of 35 wins and 35 losses. The team finished third in the state sectional tournament and Bobby Wolf and Austin Masser competed in the individual state tournament. Both were named to the all division team.

Cheerleading

The cheerleading team hosted a cheerleading competition that included over 50 teams throughout the state. It was one of the most successful events held this school year. Coach Calabrese and her team should be commended on their support and dedication to our school.

Boys and Girls Indoor Track and Field

The Indoor Track and Field Team participated in a most grueling schedule. Keeneth Ross placed in the 55m in the state sectionals and qualified for the state group 1 meet. Kathleen Mercado had an outstanding season and broke a 20 year record when she jumped 15'11 1/2" in the Hudson County Championship meet. Kathleen Mercado, Janae Polanco, Sam Nesheiwat and Hannah Narvacan were the members of our 4x400 relay team that finished second in Hudson County and sixth in North 2 Group 1. Mercado was named to the all-county team.

Boys and Girls Swimming

The boys swim team finished in fourth place in the division with a record of 4 wins and 3 losses. The girls swim team finished in sixth place in the division with a record of 3 wins 4 losses and 1 tie. Kat Cornelio was named first team all division for the 100 Yard Backstroke and the 200 Yard IM. Fanz Wang was named first team all division in the 100 Yard Backstroke and second team all-division in the 100 Yard Butterfly. Fanz Wang, Trong Nguyen, Sean Jeffas and Luis Rivas were named honorable mention in the 200 Yard Medley Relay.

Wrestling

The wrestling team finished with an overall record of 2 wins and 18 losses. The team finished fourth in the Patriot Invitational Tournament and fifth in the district. Justin Araujo and Eric Bluemke were named first team all division. JL Castellanos, Sean Roesing and Matt Genatt were named second team all division and Mike Schmitt was named honorable mention.

8. Shared Services- No Report

9. Legislative Report - No Report

10. New Business - Confirmed disenrollment – unanimous decision by the Board

11. Resident's Forum General

Mr. Anderson questioned

- How many outstanding contracts are still to be resolved and if there is money in the budget for increases.
- Mr. Anderson commented on State Ethics regarding Ms. Marra. Was she reprimanded for using the Board of Education logo and will she be brought up on ethics charges? Ms Marra responded that as a citizen she paid for the newspaper advertisement and also mentioned that she had the "OK" of the NJSBA.

Ms. Cali questioned the

- SEA contracts – it was ratified in September and they have yet to receive a corrected version from the attorney. Mr. LaPira stated that he will look into.

Also questioned the fact that

- Meet the Candidates night was scheduled the same night as the Clarendon Science Fair.
- Mentioned that Mrs. Gerbasio's work has been highly recognized. Wondering why we have an outsider taping projects in the district rather than the Media Academy.

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Mayor Gonnelli

- requested that the Business Office provide a Bills list to the public like the town council does.
- Would like a list of the Board of Education's Professional Service contracts.
- Questioned the choice of Meet the Candidate's night. Will it be televised?
- Mayor Gonnelli addressed Ms. Marra regarding the "Code of Ethics" newspaper advertisement
- Mr. Troyer was also directly addressed in regard to playing politics, the Mayor spoke of all the Shared Services work done together with the Board.
- Mayor Gonnelli stated the Town Administration only wants to help, he then proceeded to poll the Board regarding his involvement

Mr. Morano commented on the Broker of Record process

12. Board Member Comments

Mr. Krajewski – No Comment

Mr. Lewis wished Mrs. Wilson a Happy Retirement.

Mrs. Snedeker acknowledged Mr. Cocucci, Mr. Daniello and Dr. Berckes for their efforts during the St. Patrick's Day Celebration with the Senior Citizens.

Mr. Riebesell congratulated the Elementary School Science Fair winners. Mentioned the Sophomore Class Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and announced he was running for re-election.

Ms. Marra urged everyone to support the students and see The Wizard of Oz.

Mrs. Weiner congratulated the Teacher of the Year candidates who help to make our school system great. Also congratulated Mr. Cocucci for Clarendon's work with St. Jude's Children Charity.

Mr. McStowe congratulated all of the Teacher of the Year candidates and keep up the great job.

Mr. Manente thanked the Principals for their reports. Offered congratulations to the Teacher of the Year recipients and Tom Butler for his work as the district athletic trainer. Commented on an EE4NJ meeting attended at Seton Hall where Mrs. Randina and Mr. Presuto were guests on the Panel. They did a great job. And finally, Mr. Manente thanked Mrs. Gerbasio for her work with the children.

Mr. Lewis then read the following statement:

In light of recent events we – Gary, Jack, Lisa and Joseph – felt the need to address certain behavior that needs to be corrected.

It seems that some board members have forgotten that the most important thing that we need to concern ourselves with is the future of the children of Secaucus, which is why we were elected. Recently letters are being put into the local newspaper and comments are being made at public meetings that suggest that some people care more about a "political agenda" rather than doing what is best for the children.

It is very important to point out that not all board members agree with these comments and behavior.

We firmly believe that inserting articles or making comments during a meeting does not benefit the children; it only benefits those individuals who care more about themselves than they do about helping the children.

We feel that raising issues in such a manner is not the forum to accomplish anything productive. Furthermore, issues that have already been solved need to be dropped so that new issues can be dealt with efficiently.

We must all learn to set aside our own "personal politics" and agendas and remember that we are all here to better serve our children and our community.

After all, isn't that the reason we are all here in the first place?

Sincerely,

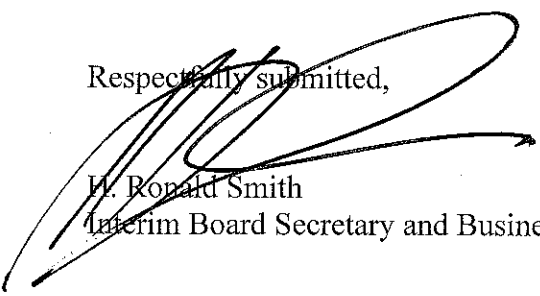
Gary Riebesell, Jack McStowe, Lisa Snedeker and Joseph Lewis

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13. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. McStowe seconded by Mrs. Weiner, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:16 PM

Respectfully submitted,



H. Ronald Smith
Interim Board Secretary and Business Administrator