

SECAUCUS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
DATED FEBRUARY 20, 2014

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

PRESENT: Messrs. Anderson, Lewis, Riebesell, McStowe, Mrs. Snedeker, Mrs. D'Addetta, Gerbasio and Ms. Marra

ABSENT: Mrs. O'Connell

LATE ARRIVAL:

President McStowe declared a quorum present

Also present: Robert Presuto, CSA  
Grace Yeo, Acting SBA/BS  
Francelis Montes de Oca, Human Resource Specialist  
Stephen Fogarty, Esq.

Vice President Riebesell, 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 Riebesell, announced that the Acting 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. Riebesell

**SECONDED BY:** Mr. Anderson

**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 4:15PM in order to discuss personnel.

Board Members present unanimously adopted the foregoing Resolution.

Motion by Mr. Riebesell, seconded by Mr. Lewis, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to adjourn Executive Session and resume Regular Meeting at 7:15PM.

Motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. D'Addetta and unanimously adopted by board members present to accept and approve the January 16, 2014 board meeting minutes.

**Organization Reports:**

Robert Valente – Middle School Principal, proudly announced that 7 students from the Secaucus Middle School were chosen to participate in the 2014 Northern Regional Chorus which will be held at the PAC on March 2, 2014.

Mr. Valente described a collaboration by Ms. Kelly Waters (English) and Mr. Doug DePice (Art). Ms Waters' class was studying/reading the Diary of Anne Frank. Both teachers met and Mr. DePice created an art gallery depicting the holocaust and the attic in which the book was created. The students truly enjoyed the concept and gained an immeasurable education experience.

Fundraising (pay forward) continues, a donation was just made to Saint Joseph's Pediatric Hospital in Paterson.

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Mr. Valente congratulated all Middle School fall sport teams. In conclusion, Mr. Valente thanked Grace Yeo for her assistance and dedication. He congratulated her parents for knowing what they were doing when they named her Grace.

Mrs. Wilhelm – Principal of Huber Street School reminded the Board Members that February 25<sup>th</sup> is PTA Founders Day. First grade students would be “signing” at the event. Don’t forget Huber will also be celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> day on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Wilhelm extended to all in attendance Read across America...March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the children look forward to being read; especially Mr. Anderson. Mrs. Wilhelm reported on the activities which took place during January and February.

Mrs. Wilhelm concluded with thanking Grace Yeo for always being helpful and her knowledge. In addition, Grace never yelled at her! Wishing Grace good luck, she completed her report.

Mr. Pat Cocucci – Principal of Clarendon announced the kick off for this year’s St. Jude’s fundraising program. On February 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> the Hudson County Creative Fest will be held at Clarendon. Another successful St. Valentine’s Day breakfast for our Senior Citizens, a fun time was had by all. This can only be successful with the assistance and leadership of Lisa Snedeker who always gives 100%. Sixth grade social was February 19<sup>th</sup> and the children had a ball. They behaved like 6<sup>th</sup> graders, without any social media influence. The PTA will hold a carnival on March 7<sup>th</sup> in the gym, all are invited. Mr. Cocucci expressed and acknowledged the tireless effort of the Executive Board of the PTA and its members in providing activities and/or supplies to all the children.

Mr. Cocucci addressed Grace. From his heart he wishes her all the best in her new endeavor and in life. Grace is kind, smart, always professional and has always been there for him and his family.

**Superintendent Report:**

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

HIB January/February Report was presented and read to those in attendance. The report is available at the Administrative Offices for review.

Mr. Presuto then read and provided the EVRS (Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System) Report for 2013-2014 and it too is available for review at the Administrative Offices.

The district recently completed NJ Quality Accountability Continuum (NJQAC) which consisted of representatives from the County Department of Education performing the review along with site visits on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The final report will be provided upon its receipt.

Mr. Presuto reported that he attended Clarendon’s PTA Founders Day and was totally “rocked” by the Rock Band performance. Having also attended the Municipal Alliance Meeting he was very impressed with the representatives of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Girls Circle, which presented a program on females and their roles in the media.

Thanks and appreciation was extended to Sal Cioffi and the entire custodial staff who have performed above and beyond this year through all the snow and ice storms.

Finally, Mr. Presuto thanked Grace Yeo. She serviced the district for the past nine years as a true professional, who was dedicated to her duties and to the district. It is a tough job, you wear a lot of hats and as his right hand she was always there to support him. She is truly a class act and will greatly be missed.

**Acting Business Administrator/Board Secretary Report:**

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

**Motion** by Mrs. D’Addetta, seconded by Mr. Riebesell, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to approve the advertising for a Special Board Meeting on March 6, 2014 to approve the 2014-2015 budget and to submit to the County Superintendent for review and approval.

Ms. Yeo thanked Sal Cioffi and his custodial staff for all their hard work during the snow storms. They have been out there in each every snow storm to keep our schools safe.

This being her last board meeting she didn’t think she could express herself so she wrote her thoughts down. “I could only have been as good as I was because of you. It was a truly hard decision to leave. You’ve all become part of my extended family, and I will miss you. I’ve learned from each and every one of you such valuable lessons. I can’t even begin to tell you how I’ve grown and how I respect and love each and every one of you. You have all been wonderful to me. I wish the district well and success on the expansion of the middle/high school. I know Secaucus will continue to be a leader in the education of our children because of all of you”.

**Public Agenda Comments:**

**Committee Reports and New Business**

**1. School Government**

Mr. Gerbasio announced to the audience that there is an additional Resolution; namely R1.7, which does not appear on the agenda.

**R1.1**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Gary Riebesell

**SECONDED BY:** John Gerbasio

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Secaucus Board of Education does hereby approve to appoint Aneta J. Kapusnik Maternity Leave Replacement Social Studies Teacher (for Allison Urbanovich) account # 11-140-100-101-000-14 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

**Effective Date:** March 3, 2014 through June 30, 2014

**Compensation:** \$59,554, the 1<sup>st</sup> Step BA +30 to be prorated.

**R1.2**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Gary Riebesell

**SECONDED BY:** John Gerbasio

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Secaucus Board of Education does hereby approve to appoint Robert Bilbao to the position of Night Supervisor Custodian for the High School/Middle School replacing Richard Pasinski account # 11-000-262-100-015-19 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**Effective Date:** March 3, 2014

**Compensation:** \$53,933, 1st Step Level II with an additional \$1,300 stipend as Night Time Supervisor to be prorated.

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**R1.3**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Gary Riebesell

**SECONDED BY:** John Gerbasio

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Secaucus Board of Education does hereby approve to appoint the following individuals listed below to co-curricular positions for the 2013-2014 school year as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

Amanda Prieto - Junior Class Advisor retroactive January 2, 2014 (shared position).  
½ of yearly stipend (\$4,925) will be prorated through June 30, 2014.

Pasquale Cocucci – Assistant Outdoor Track & Field Coach (shared position with Janet Regensburg) for the spring coaching season. Stipend of \$3,140 to be shared.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that compensation for these positions shall be contained in the Agreement between the Secaucus Education Association, Inc. and the Secaucus Board of Education and that no rights of tenure shall accrue by virtue of this appointment.

**R1.4**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Gary Riebesell

**SECONDED BY:** John Gerbasio

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Secaucus Board of Education does hereby approve to appoint the following individuals to our Substitute List for the 2013-2014 school year as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, and

**Substitute Teachers:**

- Brianna Rose Charles – Substitute Certificate
- Pia M. Kasabian – Substitute Certificate (Re-Appointment)
- Joseph W. Mancini – Substitute Certificate
- Jennifer L. Wilenta – Substitute Certificate

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** compensation for substitute teachers the 2013-2014 school year is set as follows:

- \$75.00 per/day to start for individuals holding a Substitute Certificate.
- \$85.00 per/day after 40 days for individuals holding a Substitute Certificate
- \$80.00 per/day to start for Certified Teachers.
- \$90.00 per/day after 40 days for Certified Teachers
- \$125.00 per/day for Substitute School Nurses

**R1.5**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Gary Riebesell

**SECONDED BY:** John Gerbasio

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Whereas, the Secaucus Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) submitted an application for an involuntary disability retirement on behalf of Edward J. Walkiewicz, on or about April 2, 2013; and

**WHEREAS,** on January 9, 2014, the Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund approved the Board’s application for an involuntary disability retirement on behalf of Edward J. Walkiewicz, effective May 1, 2013;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that based on Edward J. Walkiewicz’s approved disability retirement, the position of Board Secretary/School Business Administrator is hereby declared vacant and

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the Superintendent is requested to advertise such position and to recommend a qualified candidate to be appointed by the Board.

**R1.6**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Gary Riebesell

**SECONDED BY:** John Gerbasio

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Secaucus Board of Education does hereby approve the following employment contracts for January 2, 2014 – June 30, 2014.

Richard Calhoun, Staff Accountant/Assistant Board Secretary  
Francelis Montes de Oca, Human Resources Specialist

**R1.7**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Gary Riebesell

**SECONDED BY:** Kelli D'Addetta

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Secaucus Board of Education appoint Richard Calhoun as the Acting Business Administrator/Board Secretary, subject to approval of the Hudson County Executive Superintendent, effective March 3, 2014; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Board Attorney shall prepare an employment agreement consistent with this resolution for submission to the Executive County Superintendent.

The foregoing resolutions were adopted by the following roll call vote:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Robert Anderson	X			
Kelli D'Addetta	X			
John Gerbasio	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
Dora Marra	X			
Kathy O'Connell				X
Gary Riebesell	X			
Lisa Snedeker	X			
Jack McStowe, President	X			

**M1.1** Motion by Mr. Riebesell, seconded by Mr. Gerbasio, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to accept, with regret, letter of retirement from Florence Hugerich, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Clarendon School effective June 30, 2014.

**M1.2** Motion by Mr. Riebesell, seconded by Mr. Gerbasio, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to approve dates of Special Education Extended School Year Program:

Monday – Thursday from 8:30am – 12:30pm from July 1<sup>st</sup> –July 31, 2014

**M1.3** Motion by Mr. Riebesell, seconded by Mr. Gerbasio, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to approve:

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- (1) Learning Disability Teacher Consultant  
(1) School Social Worker  
(1) School Psychologist

To complete state mandated and required special education evaluations of classified students from February – May 2014, for a total of 20 hours each at \$45.00

**M1.4** Motion by Mr. Riebesell, seconded by Mr. Gerbasio, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to post for a Part-Time Network Technician

**M1.5** Motion by Mr. Riebesell, seconded by Mr. Gerbasio, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to post for an Anime Club Advisor for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year to replace Secaucus Public Librarian.

The foregoing resolutions were adopted by the following roll call vote:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Robert Anderson	X			
Kelli D'Addetta	X			
John Gerbasio	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
Dora Marra	X			
Kathy O'Connell				X
Gary Riebesell	X			
Lisa Snedeker	X			
Jack McStowe, President	X			

## **2. Curriculum**

### **R2.1**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Robert Anderson

**SECONDED BY:** Lisa Snedeker

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Secaucus Board of Education does hereby approve the annexed Field Trips in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 53 – Fiscal Accountability Measures: Subchapter 5, Subsection 5.8.

### **R2.2**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Robert Anderson

**SECONDED BY:** Lisa Snedeker

**BE IT RESOLVED,** to amend the Middle School/High School scheduling to address the educational needs of the district for the 2014-2015 school year.

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The foregoing resolutions were adopted by the following roll call vote:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Robert Anderson	X			
Kelli D'Addetta	X			
John Gerbasio	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
Dora Marra	X			
Kathy O'Connell				X
Gary Riebesell	X			
Lisa Snedeker	X			
Jack McStowe, President	X			

**3. Finance**

**R3.1**

**INTRODUCED BY:**                 **Joseph Lewis**

**SECONDED BY:**                 **Robert Anderson**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education approves for payment the Bill List as per annexed in the amount of \$2,308,262.91.

**R3.2**

**INTRODUCED BY:**                 **Joseph Lewis**

**SECONDED BY:**                 **Robert Anderson**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Secretary is hereby authorized to make transfers for the month of August within the various appropriations for the 2013-2014 school year as shown on the annexed report.

**R3.3**

**INTRODUCED BY:**                 **Joseph Lewis**

**SECONDED BY:**                 **Robert Anderson**

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that in accordance with 18A:17-36 and 18A:17-9 for the months of November and December, the Treasurer's Report and Board Secretary's report are in agreement and that the Board Secretary in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c)2 certifies that there are no changes in anticipated revenue amounts of revenue sources. The Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c) 4, certifies that after review of the Secretary's Monthly 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 extended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(a) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

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**R3.4**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Joseph Lewis

**SECONDED BY:** Robert Anderson

**WHEREAS**, the Secaucus Board of Education, at the July 18, 2013 regular board meeting authorized the Business Administrator and President to execute a contract with Cerebral Palsy of NJ for out of district placement of student RD; and

**WHEREAS**, the contract for the school year 2013-2014 reflected the annual tuition as \$71,852.60 and Extraordinary Service in the amount of \$29,007.30 for a total of \$100,839.00; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the contract reflected the incorrect Extraordinary Service; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the correct Extraordinary Service is \$17,850.00.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education authorize the Business Administrator and President to execute a corrected contract with Cerebral Palsy of NJ for a total amount of \$89,702.60.

**R3.5**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Joseph Lewis

**SECONDED BY:** Robert Anderson

**WHEREAS**, the Secaucus Board of Education, at the January 16, 2014 regular board meeting authorized the Business Administrator and President to execute a contract with YCS-Sawtelle Learning Center for school year 2013-2014 for out district placement of student, DL; and

**WHEREAS**, the student has moved out of district; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the contract with YCS-Sawtelle be void.

**R3.7**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Joseph Lewis

**SECONDED BY:** Robert Anderson

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education approve, as recommended by Superintendent the annexed out of district travel as of February 20, 2014.

Employee Name	Date(s) of Event	Title of Event	Location	Registration Fee	Estimated Tolls and Mileage	Total Cost
T.Tufaro	2/21/2014	NJSBA PARCC	Princeton	\$150.00	100 mi @ \$.31	\$181.00
R.Toledo	2/21/2014	NJSBA PARCC	Princeton	\$150.00	100 mi @ .31	\$181.00
Maria Rodriguez	3/14/2014	Foreign Language of NJ				
		Assessing for Learning	Somerset	\$90.00	88 mi @ .31 = \$27.28	
					tolls = \$9.20	\$126.48



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**R3.8**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Joseph Lewis

**SECONDED BY:** Robert Anderson

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education authorize the application of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act in the amount of \$22,488.00 effective July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014.

The foregoing resolutions were adopted by the following roll call vote:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Robert Anderson	X			
Kelli D'Addetta	X			
John Gerbasio	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
Dora Marra	X			
Kathy O'Connell				X
Gary Riebesell	X			
Lisa Snedeker	X			
Jack McStowe, President	X			

**4. Safety, Security Buildings & Grounds** No Report

**5. Technology** - No Report

**6. Policy**

**R6.1**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Dora Marra

**SECONDED BY:** Lisa Snedeker

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

- 1240 Evaluation of Superintendent
- 3142 Nonrenewal of Non-tenured Teaching Staff Member
- 3144 Certification of Tenure Charges
- 3221 Evaluation of Teachers
- 3122 Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers & Administrators
- 3223 Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding Principals, Vice Principals & Assistant Principals
- 3224 Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals
- 4146 Nonrenewal of Non- Tenured Support Staff Member

**7. Athletic Liasion**

Mr. Riebesell provided an update on the end of fall sport team results. He announced the teams and individuals who advanced to the County and hopefully onto State championships.

**8. Shared Services**

Mr. McStowe reported on the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting which included a discussion of a "shared" electrician. It was also brought to the Town's attention the dangers at the Clarendon School Teacher parking lot. Parents are utilizing the parking lot as a drop off/pick up. The town will assign a Park Ranger vehicle to park in the lot, thereby stopping the traffic.

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**9. New Business** - None

**Public General Comments**

Tom Troyer informed the Board he was submitting his petition for the April Election of the Board. He also inquired as to why the meeting was not being filmed. Mr. McStowe responded that he too was asking the same question. Mr. Troyer also inquired as to what was going on with the NFL and was the Board pursuing this matter. Mr. McStowe responded that yes we were pursuing, jointly with the Town.

Janet Fiume, Executive SEA, thanked Grace for her tireless work and commitment. Good Luck and Success and good health.

Lea Ann Nicolich, AnnMarie Grecco and Eileen Losurdo, Fran Bialkowski as spokesperson addressed Grace. On behalf of the Central Office we will miss you terribly. Grace truly is a professional, dedicated, loyal, fair, a great team player and a great team leader. It was always about the children; children came first. That is who you are. We hope you continue your new career with the same spirit, in a state of Grace.

Joan Cali, SEA President, inquired if a decision has been made regarding the make-up of snow days. Mr. McStowe replied soon, very soon.

**Board Member Comments**

Bobby Anderson congratulated all the athletes and their accomplishments. He commented to Grace that he will miss her....but still has a week to change her mind.

John Gerbasio thanked all those who came and attended the meeting. Mr. Gerbasio wished Grace all the best. She made the transition from a newly elected board member smooth and always provided him with the information requested.

Lisa Snedeker congratulated Mr. Cocucci, another great job in hosting the St. Valentine breakfast, truly it is the best day of the year. Mrs. Snedeker also welcomed and thanked Mrs. Wilhelm and the 6<sup>th</sup> graders who participated in serving lunch and playing games with the Senior Citizens at the Sr. Center. Addressing Grace, Lisa is done talking, can't talk.

Joe Lewis thanked Grace for all of her time and assistance in his preparation as a Business Administrator. He realizes that the time she spent with him took away from her conducting business; and wished her well in her new career.

Kelli D'Addetta complimented all the schools, Principals and their staff who participate in all the fund raisers. Also the rock band was awesome on Founder's Day. The district is lucky to have four great PTA's who do so much for children of the district. Congratulations to Mr. Leeson and to all the athletes participating in fall sports. Mrs. D'Addetta then addressed Ms. Yeo wishing her the best in her future, but to look at all the people who are here and have spoken before this Board. Truly it is a testimony as to who you are.

Dora Marra – ditto to all of Mrs. D'Addetta comments. Ms. Marra apologized for the board meeting not being filmed. The Board Office is a house and is a home. When you walk into the building you know you are home. You will be missed, Grace, and know that you are such an incredible woman.

Gary Riebesell "It is our misfortune that we have allowed you to leave us. We can only wonder why such a dedicated, intelligent, knowledgeable, efficient and universally loved employee, who truly seemed to love her co-workers and job, was "allowed" to leave."

Jack McStowe apologized to Mr. Cocucci for missing Founders Day, but will be at Huber's.

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Mr. McStowe provided a synopsis of a SAT scores following our students from 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade and the progress of their scores. He thanked the faculty for all their diligence in preparing our students. Addressing Grace, he announced that he still had five more days to change her mind. Keeping in mind we can always replace the position but we could never replace you. As Gracie Gold goes for “gold” in the Olympics, you too are “gold”.

Motion by Mrs. D’Addetta, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:25PM

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Yeo,  
Acting Board Secretary