

SECAUCUS BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD MEETING REGULAR MINUTES
DATED: DECEMBER 17, 2015

President Gerbasio called the meeting to order at 5PM and roll call taken as follows:

PRESENT: Messrs. Anderson, Bartletta, Gerbasio, Lewis, McStowe, Mrs. D'Addetta, Mrs. Hanley, Ms. O'Connell, Ms. Pantoliano and

President Gerbasio declared a quorum present

Also present: Kenneth J. Knops, Interim CSA
Edward J. Appleton, Interim BA/BS
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. Anderson

SECONDED BY: Mr. Lewis

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

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 5:05PM in order to discuss personnel.

Board Members present unanimously adopted the foregoing Resolution.

Motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to adjourn Executive Session and resume Regular Meeting at 7:03PM.

Motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and unanimously adopted by board members present to accept and approve the November 19, 2015 regular minutes and November 24, 2015 special minutes, with Mrs. D'Addetta abstaining for the November 19, 2015 meeting.

Organization Reports:

Mr. Robert Valente, Middle School Principal, reported on the many activities which took place during the month which included food and toy drives, and holiday concerts. He announced Teacher of the Year: Ms. Amanda Jones, Professional: Nancy Jaber. Mr. Valente welcomed the new Interim Superintendent, Kenneth Knops, and looks forward to working with him. Also, Mr. Valente expressed his gratitude to Mr. Anderson and Mrs. D'Addetta for the years of service as Board Members.

Dr. Robert Berckes, High School Principal, also reported on the many activities which took place at the High School which included many charitable events. He proudly announced that the Challenge Team took the "bronze" at a recent event. Also, four (4) students scored perfect scores on the SAT's. The Financial Aid Night was a huge success. Dr. Berckes wished Mr. Knops a Happy Birthday and welcomed him to the district.

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Mr. Steve Viggiani, Clarendon Principal, announced that the Teacher of the Year was Kim Woeckener and Professional: Lucy Biegler. Mr. Viggiani announced that as a result of feature in the EP Magazine which featured Giana and Julia Peschetti, parents participating in the exceptional parent program will receive a free subscription to the magazine. The character building programs being conducted at Clarendon are models for future programs. Mr. Viggiani welcomed Mr. Knops and thanked Mr. Anderson and Mrs. D'Addetta for their years of dedicated service on the board.

Mrs. Linda Wilhelm, Huber Principal, expressed her pleasure on returning and thanked Dr. Tufaro for a great job as Acting Principal in her absence. Mrs. Wilhelm reported on the recently held Kindergarten PJ/pancake breakfast, and picture with their grandparents. Both were a huge success, as were the holiday concerts. Proud to announce that Mr. Tom Curry was named Meadowlands Coach of the Year. Mrs. Wilhelm thanked Ms. D'Addetta for her years on the board and wished Mr. Anderson (who goes way back with Linda) well...we will miss you.

All Principals wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Superintendent Report:

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

This being his first public meeting Mr. Knops, Interim Superintendent, provided those in attendance with a brief biography and resume of his 39 years of educational experience. He expressed his pleasure at being here and is looking forward to working with the Principals and Administration of the district.

Mr. Knops explained how policies are generated, their status if they are mandatory to meet regulations and/or optional such as one on the agenda tonight; namely, Service Animals. He urged that we approve the Service Animals as we cannot expect that in the near future this may be need in the district.

Mr. Knops invited everyone to a program which will be held on January 20, 2016 an anti-bullying presentation from a parent of a child who committed suicide as a result of bullying and cyber bullying. There will be two separate presentations during the day for Middle School Students and High School Students, and if they wish to attend later in the evening with their parents all are welcome.

In the future board meetings will feature a student, staff, and/or teacher who has impacted and/or has had an accomplishment which highlights the school district.

Mr. Knops concluded with special thanks to Mr. Anderson and Mrs. D'Addetta for their years of dedicated service to the board and the students of the district.

Mr. Knops presented the Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying (HIB) findings as reported for the period November 19, 2015 through December 17, 2015.

Motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mrs. D'Addetta, to accept the HIB findings as reported by the Superintendent, and are available at the Administrative Offices for review.

S1.1

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Joseph Lewis

SECONDED BY: Kelli D'Addetta

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BE IT RESOLVED: that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves, the submission of the NJQSAC Statement of Assurance (SOA) for school year 2015-2016

The foregoing resolution was unanimously adopted by Board Members present.

Presentation:

Dr. Thomas Tufaro, Director of Technology, provided an overview of the results of last year's PARCC testing for the District and the State. Dr. Tufaro stressed that this is raw data, a base line for future testing. It is just the beginning. This is not to measure if a student is to be considered for gifted and talented, honors or AP scheduling, it is strictly data. The presentation will be available on the district website, and individual student information will be forwarded to parent(s).

Business Administrator/Board Secretary Report:

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

Mr. Edward Appleton introduced Mr. Alex Barresse to present the Audit Review to the Board. Mr. Alex Barresse, Auditor from the firm Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, presented to the Board Members the overview of the audit for the district for school year 2014-2015. He indicated that the district was rated as high performance, there were no repeated findings and the district was financially sound.

Public Agenda Comments:

Tom Troyer requested copies of the Change Orders which will be presented under Buildings and Grounds. Mr. Fogarty assured Mr. Troyer he could pick up copies tomorrow.

Committee Reports and New Business

1. School Government

R1.1

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: **John McStowe**

SECONDED BY: **Joseph Lewis**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby appoint the following individual, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Casey J. Scheiner	Physical Education Teacher, High School (C. Pulvino replacement) Compensation: BA, Step 3: \$58,084 Account # 11-130-100-101-000-15 (25%) 11-140-100-101-000-14 (75%) Effective Date: 12/18/15
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R1.2

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: **John McStowe**

SECONDED BY: **Joseph Lewis**

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, to appoint the following per diem positions for 2015-2016/SY:

Name	Per Diem Position	Certification	Compensation
*Richard Baird	Substitute Teacher	Substitute Teacher	Days 1-41 \$90/day Day 42+ \$105
Caroline R. Occhipinti	Substitute Teacher	Nursery School/Elementary School Teacher	Days 1-41 \$90/day Day 42+ \$105
Mina M. Bekhit	Substitute Teacher	Substitute Teacher	Days 1-41 \$85/day Day 42+ \$105
April Ceballos	Substitute Teacher	Substitute Teacher	Days 1-41 \$85/day Day 42+ \$105
Josalie Gonzalez	Substitute Teacher	Substitute Teacher	Days 1-41 \$85/day Day 42+ \$105
Barry W. Mattern	Substitute Teacher	Substitute Teacher	Days 1-41 \$85/day Day 42+ \$105
Rocio A. Loor-Mora	Substitute Teacher	Substitute Teacher	Days 1-41 \$85/day Day 42+ \$105
Evelyn Oliveras	Substitute Teacher	Substitute Teacher	Days 1-41 \$85/day Day 42+ \$105
Maria C. Picariello	Substitute Teacher	Substitute Teacher	Days 1-41 \$85/day Day 42+ \$105
Danielle Roesing	Substitute Teacher	Substitute Teacher	Days 1-41 \$85/day Day 42+ \$105
Diana K. Piedra Vasconez	Substitute Teacher	Substitute Teacher	Days 1-41 \$85/day Day 42+ \$105

*reappointed for the 2015-2016/SY

R1.3

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: **John McStowe**

SECONDED BY: **Joseph Lewis**

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Secaucus Board of Education does hereby approves to **to** appoint the following Title 1 Funded (After School) Supplemental Support Program staff at Huber Street at \$35/hr not to exceed \$10,000 aggregate

Teacher
Carol Cocucci
Lorraine Frank
Roxanne Hackel
Alyssa Grosso
Sharon Holsten
Nicole Hernandez

R1.4

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: **John McStowe**

SECONDED BY: **Joseph Lewis**

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby appoints John Scheiner, Supervisor of Building and Grounds as AHERA, Environmental, IAQ, IPM and PEOSH effective 12/18/15

R1.5**RESOLUTION**

INTRODUCED BY: **John McStowe**

SECONDED BY: **Joseph Lewis**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves to modify the mentors below as per the modified state schedule for the 2015-2016/SY for novice teachers with applicable fees paid to the mentor by the mentee

Mentee	Mentor	Complete Date	*Fee
Ilias Siafakas	Robert Fournier	January 31, 2016	\$275.00
William Kavalheim	Nancy Lynch	November 15, 2105	\$137.50

**Pro-rated based on employment status in district (F/T/P/T/Multi Year)*

R1.6**RESOLUTION**

INTRODUCED BY: **John McStowe**

SECONDED BY: **Joseph Lewis**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves to retroactively appoint William B. Heaney as Acting Head Building Custodian at Huber Street effective September 21, 2015 through February 12, 2016 (P. Sinisi replacement); Head Building Custodian Stipend, Elementary School of \$2,500 prorated for the coverage period

R1.7**RESOLUTION**

INTRODUCED BY: **John McStowe**

SECONDED BY: **Joseph Lewis**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves the extension of Medical Leave for:

Name	Position	School	Beginning	Expected RTW
Pasquale Sinisi	Head Custodian	Huber Street	9/21/15	2/15/16

R1.8**RESOLUTION**

INTRODUCED BY: **John McStowe**

SECONDED BY: **Joseph Lewis**

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves Medical Leave for:

Name	Position	School	Beginning	Expected RTW
Josefina Ocumarez	Custodian	Clarendon	12/16/15	1/15/16

M1.1 Approval to post for an LTR School Social Worker (L. Sprow)

The foregoing resolutions and motion 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			
Norma Hanley	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O’Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			

2. Curriculum

R2.1

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: **Robert Anderson**

SECONDED BY: **Kelli D’Addetta**

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves, as recommended by the Superintendent, the annexed Field Trips.

The foregoing resolution was 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			
Norma Hanley	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O’Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			

3. Finance

R3.1

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: **Joseph Lewis**

SECONDED BY: **Robert Anderson**

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BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approve the check register, as submitted by the Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary to pay bills and claims in the amount of \$3,976,846.77.

R3.2**RESOLUTION**

INTRODUCED BY: Joseph Lewis

SECONDED BY: Robert Anderson

BE IT RESOLVED: the Report of Transfers submitted by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the month of October within the various appropriations for the 2015-2016 school year as shown on the annexed report.

R3.3**RESOLUTION**

INTRODUCED BY: Joseph Lewis

SECONDED BY: Robert Anderson

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 Interim School Business Administrator for the month(s) of October 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: Robert Anderson

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby authorizes, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the out of district travel for employees and one board member as annexed to this resolution.

Employee Name	Date(s) of Event	Title of Event	Location	Registration Fee	Estimated Tolls and Mileage	Total Cost
D.Riser	2/23/2016	NJPSA/FEA	Ramapo			
		Workshop	College	\$150.00	55.2 mi. @ .31 = \$17.11	\$167.11
T. Tufaro	2/8, 2/20,2/11	Affirmative Action Training	Monroe	\$150.00	\$150/day	
					246.6 mi. @ .31 = 76.45	
					tolls \$40.50	\$566.95
S. Redvanly	2/18 & 2/19	NJMEA Music Conference	E.Brunswick	\$165.00	52 mi. @ .31 = \$16.12	
					\$35. Friday Luncheon	\$216.12

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A. Trombetta	2/23/2016	NJPSA/FEA	Ramapo	\$150.00	55.2 mi. @ .31 = \$17.11	\$167.11
J. Scheiner	1/8/2016	IPM Coordinators	MSU	\$0.00		
F. Baker	1/6/2016	Sp. Ed & Math	St. Peter's	\$179.00		\$179.00
BOARD MEMBER						
N. Hanley	1/23/2016	Bargaining At the Table	Monroe Twp.	\$199.00	85.6 mi. @ .31 = \$26.54	\$225.54

R3.5

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: **Joseph Lewis**

SECONDED BY: **Robert Anderson**

WHEREAS, the firm of Lerch Vinci and Higgins has conducted a fiscal audit of the financial records of the Secaucus Board of Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015; and

WHEREAS, recommendations by the auditor are contained in the Auditor’s Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting, wherein corrective action must be implemented;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the report be accepted and filed; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the “Corrective Action Plans” annexed are hereby approved and adopted, and each person named therein responsible for the implementation of said corrective action by the date and time for completion.

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			
Norma Hanley	X			
Joseph Lewis	X		R3.1	
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O’Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			

4. Safety, Security Buildings & Grounds

R4.1

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: **Ruby Pantoliano**

SECONDED BY: **Robert Anderson**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves the amended Food Service Bio Security Management Plan.

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R4.2

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: **Ruby Pantoliano**

SECONDED BY: **Robert Anderson**

WHEREAS, Dobco was awarded the Bid for General Contractor at Secaucus High School/Middle School; and

WHEREAS, Dobco has encountered changed circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Legacy Construction Management, DiCara/Rubino, Architects, and Dobco have agreed that the Change Order(s) listed below are appropriate for the changed circumstances:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following change orders be approved in for the (net) amounts as listed in accordance with annexed documentation:

13	Removal & relocation of backfill	add	\$443,890.00
14	OT Cost Sat/Sun erect steel	add	21,454.07
15	Install 3 additional joists rooftop	add	2,772.69
16	Rework existing electrical	add	3,563.23
17	Enclose conduits	add	1,175.78
18	Retrofit furring to locker installation	add	1,130.82

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

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Robert Anderson	X			
Lance Bartletta	X			
Kelli D'Addetta	X			
John Gerbasio	X			
Norma Hanley	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O'Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			

Mr. McStowe commented that at a recent meeting with the Construction Manager, Architect and Project Manager, the High School/Middle School project is on point and proceeding on schedule.

5. Technology

No Action

6. Policy

R6.1

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: **Kathy O'Connell**

SECONDED BY: **Joseph Lewis**

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

- 5517 Student Identification Cards
- 6620 Petty Cash
- 6660 Student Activity Accounts

R6.2

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: **Kathy O’Connell**

SECONDED BY: **Joseph Lewis**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves, as recommended by Superintendent, the following policies:

- 1240 Evaluation of Superintendent
- 3221 Evaluation of Teachers
- 3222 Evaluation of Teaching Staff members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators
- 3223 Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding Principals, Vice Principals and Assistant Principals
- 3224 Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals
- 3431.1 Family Leave
- 4431.1 Family Leave
- 5337 Service Animals

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

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Robert Anderson	X			
Lance Bartletta	X			
Kelli D’Addetta	X			
John Gerbasio	X			
Norma Hanley	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O’Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			

7. Athletic Liaison

Mrs. D’Addetta reported that all winter sports are now underway, and suggested that anyone interested in attending any of the athletic events should check the website. Mrs. D’Addetta reported on all fall athletic awards to students and divisional winners. In addition, Mr. Stan Fryczinski was named Coach of the Year for cross-country track, and Mrs. Sheila Rivera Coach of the Year for girls volleyball. Congratulations to both student athletes and coaches.

8. Shared Services

No Report

9. New Business- None

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10. Legislative

Mr. McStowe announced that No Child Left Behind has been abolished by the federal government.

Public General Comments

Ms. Judy Jaeger, on behalf of the SEA, welcomed Interim Superintendent Knops. She also thanked Bobby Anderson and Kelli D'Addetta for the service to the board and wished them well.

Mr. Tom Troyer, welcomed Mr. Knops as Interim Superintendent. He inquired as to who would be "investigating" to find a new Superintendent and hoped that the Board would look within the district first before going to the outside. He felt that there were capable candidates within the district. Mr. Gerbasio indicated that an ad-hoc committee would be established to conduct the search for a Superintendent.

Christina Lenz- 762 Fifth Street inquired as to if there was any truth to the scuttlebutt of the playground that the elementary schools will be redistricted. Mr. Gerbasio responded yes, that the board has been approached by the administrative educators of the district to consider a redistricting of the elementary schools.

Tara Rich- 1 Sparman Place expressed her concerns about the redistricting i.e., multiple children in possibly three different schools, transportation, Kindergarten Play, and Field Trips. Mr. Gerbasio reassured Mrs. Rich that all these are being considered. The Board will hold a forum so that these issues can be discussed in public. However, the Board will do what is best for the education of the children of Secaucus.

Board Member Comments

Bobby Anderson in his final comments acknowledged that the last three years had flown by and that he was able to contribute to the community and the Board. He felt that Mr. Knops was going to do a great job. Bobby congratulated both Lou Giele and Joan Cali, who he knows for too many years to count, and Norma Hanley on their election.

Ruby Pantoliano welcomed Mr. Knops to the district. She extended congratulations to all the athletes, coaches and musicians (who performed in all holiday concerts). Mrs. Pantoliano extended her thanks and appreciation to Kelli D'Addetta, who was her mentor upon her election to the board.

Lance Bartletta extended congratulations to all teachers and professionals as well as coaches. He welcomed Mr. Knops and thanked Bobby Anderson and Kelli D'Addetta for their years of service.

Norma Hanley welcomed Mr. Knops and looks forward to working together. She thanked all the music teachers for the work with the students in their performances at the holiday concerts. Mrs. Hanley also welcomed back Mrs. Wilhelm. In thanking and wishing Bobby and Kelli well, she thanked them for all their support to her upon her coming onto the board.

Jack McStowe extended his congratulations to Mr. Knops, coaches, teachers, professionals, and students, as well as the JSA. Mr. McStowe, acknowledged that both Bobby and Kelli worked very hard for the students of the district and thanked them for their years of service.

Kelli D'Addetta congratulated everyone for the great jobs that they do with our children. She wished Mr. Knops well and congratulated by Joan Cali and Lou Giele. In closing, she admitted that she was going to miss "all of this". She also expressed her appreciation and thanks to her husband and children who have shared her with the board for the last three years, she would not have been able to do this without their support.

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Kathy O'Connell addressed Mrs. D'Addetta acknowledging that she will be missed, and that both Kelli and Bobby were role models for her when she came onto the board. Welcome back Linda Wilhelm. Welcome Mr. Knops and we are looking forward to some amazing things happening in the district. Ms. O'Connell congratulated Casey Scheiner on his appointment.

Joseph Lewis thanked everyone for coming tonight. He welcomed Mr. Knops and expressed his appreciation to Bobby and Kelli for their years of service.

John Gerbasio, even though Mr. Knops was welcomed eight times, he still was going to extend his welcome and looks forward to working with him. To Kelli and Bobby he expressed his appreciation for their years of service, and that they are truly special people.

All the board members expressed good wishes to those in attendance for Happy Holidays and we will see everyone in the New Year.

Motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:26PM

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Appleton,
Interim Board Secretary and
Business Administrator