

**SECAUCUS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DATED: November 15, 2012**

President McStowe called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and roll call taken as follows:

PRESENT: Messrs., Anderson, Lewis, Manente, McStowe, Mrs. D'Addetta, Ms. Marra

ABSENT: Mr. Riebesell, Mrs. Weiner and Mrs. Snedeker

President McStowe declared a quorum present.

Also present: Cynthia Randina, CSA
H. Ronald Smith, Interim SBA/BS
Stephen Fogarty

Board Member Joseph Lewis, asked everyone to rise and join in the salute to the flag. In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act, Board Member, Joseph 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. Lewis

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 4:00 PM in order to discuss personnel.

Motion by Mrs. Weiner seconded by Mr. Anderson, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the Regular Meeting at 7:20 PM

H. Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 15 2012
Motion by Mr. Manente, seconded by Ms. Marra,

<u>Board Member</u>	11-15-12 Executive Session	11-15-12 Regular Meeting
Robert Anderson	X	X
Kelli D'Addetta	X	X
Joseph Lewis	X	X
Sal Manente	X	X
Dora Marra	X	X
Gary Riebesell	Absent	Absent
Lisa Snedeker	Absent	Absent
MaryAnn Weiner	Absent	Absent
Jack McStowe, President	X	X

Correspondence – none

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S.G.O. Report –

SMS SGO Vice President Zachary Cananico gave an update of Activities that took place at SMS including:

- A Maschio's update – all problems resolved
- SMS Halloween Dance will take place on Thursday Oct. 25th was a success.
- The Holiday MS SGO dance will take place on Thursday, December 20th.
- The SGO is sponsoring a clothing sale, some items available are sweatpants, sweatshirts & pajamas.

Linda Wilhelm gave an update of Activities that took place at Huber Street School including:

- Have been in contact with Little Ferry Superintendent who was elated to receive help. Huber has adopted a Kindergarten class. Ms. Holsten & Maloney will be spearheading the project. Families will be asked to donate Kindergarten items. A skype call will be set up between schools during the holidays.
- Jeans Day for Staff only with proceeds going to the troops.
- Homecoming Day- students will be permitted to wear a recreation shirt for \$1 proceeds benefiting families in Secaucus
- Homes of 10 Huber Staff members were devastated during
- Nutcracker NYC Ballet
- Town Food Day
- Thank you to Mayor Gonnelli and Pat Belenski for all of their work with affected families by the storm.
- Huber Street School has adopted some of their families that were extremely affected by the Hurricane.

Mr. Coccuci gave an update of Activities that took place at Clarendon School including:

- Thank you to Clarendon Staff and Faculty for bringing normalcy back to the students after the Storm.
- Thank you to Mayor Gonnelli, Town council and Pat Belenski for all that you do for the town.
- Clarendon Newspaper has started.
- School Store is under way and teaching the students how to run a business
- Children used the election as a learning process. Since election week was missed due to storm and vacation week. Students raised money for Seeing eye dog and the students voted on a name for the dog instead of President.
- Clarendon is preparing for their 1st ever talent show
- Children are involved in various activities to help hurricane victims.
- Food Drive

Dr. Berckes gave an update of Activities that took place at Secaucus High School including:

- Happy Birthday to Ms. Cali
- Congratulations to the Girls Volleyball team, who won during this meeting.
- Teachers were in contact with students during the two weeks off to so that they would be able to keep up with their studies.
- SAT testing will be held this Saturday
- College fair is now 11/29 since postponement we now have 28 schools attending instead of 33.
- The Open House for 8th graders has been postponed and the new date is still to be determined.
- The Senior Masquerade has been cancelled due to the storm. A vote of the class was taken and only 15 of 126 students voted yes.
- December 3rd is the SMS/SHS Winter concert
- The students and staff are all working to collect for Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund.
- Observations are being done. Our staff is a joy to watch in action.

Superintendent's Report

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

Mrs. Radina discussed among other items:

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• **HIB District Report**

As per District Policy #5512, incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying for the time period of October 19 through November 15, 2012 are as follows:

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

A thorough and complete investigation was conducted for the 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.

The investigation was 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.

- After the recent storms we want everyone to know that we are here to help in any way possible. We have been in touch with parents and staff and are extending our support in any way possible.
- We had to be extremely vigilant during the week so we did not incur further damage to our infrastructure which was back up and running by Friday, thanks to Rene Toledo, Robert Presuto and the Technical Staff. Thank you also to Sal Cioffi and his custodial staff in handling the preparation and clean up of the minimal damages from the storm.
- Thank you to the Central Office Staff, Principals, Department Chairs and Teachers.
- We have been in touch with several agencies that are providing assistance to families affected by the storm.
 - The United Way
 - Rotary
 - Wrapped 4 A Smile
 - NJEA
 - NJ School Boards
 - NJASA
- The Rotary Club made a monetary donation to a Secaucus Family in distress, as well as the Town of Secaucus, through donations.
- Tonight we will be approving the revised school calendar for the 2012-2013 school year as the Governor has stated that school will be open for the mandated 180 days. Since the NJEA Convention was cancelled we used two days of our legal holidays scheduled for February break in place of the two convention days, we also had an additional day factored in to the February break that was not a holiday. This allowed us to make up 3 days which now allow us 4 additional snow days at the end of June in the event of inclement weather otherwise we will close school earlier.
- On a brighter note I wanted to mention we had the opportunity to present at the Hudson County Consortium for Professional Development and the New Jersey School Board Convention on the lessons learned during implementation of the Teacher Evaluation Pilot Program formerly known as Excellent Educators for New Jersey (EE4NJ)
- We are extending the date for report card distribution. The reason for this delay is the district has implemented a new student database system, and due to the recent storm there were delays in the development. The new system is called Realtime and once this system is up and running to its full capacity it will allow us to capture individual students results from grade to grade, we will have attendance, discipline information, health issue and

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guidance matters available in one system. Eventually parents will have the ability to login and review up to date grades for their child. Our goal is to assist our staff in communicating student's grades to parents in a timely manner. With this said the Grammar school parents will receive grades during their scheduled conferences but will not receive the report cards until the new template has been completed and all teachers have been trained successfully

Report by the Secretary of the Board

Business Administrator, Ron Smith updated the meeting on the recent projects including the security camera & door access project. Mr. Smith commended Sal Cioffi and his custodial staff on all of their hard work preparing for Hurricane Sandy and clean up after. The district had sustained minor wind damage and loss of electricity. Thank you to the Mayor and DPW for taking the extra dirt from behind the high school to use as a berm to curb possible flooding.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Mrs. Heather Fearon questioned the dismissal of her son's teacher Mr. Gibson from Huber Street School. Stated that she felt it was not handled properly, parents should have been notified before class was told so they could prepare their children. Mrs. Fearon asked for answers on what to tell her son.

In response Mr. Fogarty (District Attorney) stated that the Board appreciates the concern of feelings. Unfortunately, there is no flexibility by the state since the teacher was not properly certificated. As a substitute a teacher can only be in the same position for 20 days.

Mrs. Mary Eccles – stated that Mr. Gibson has had an impact on many students. She questioned why this was information was not known earlier before the children became attached. Questioned Certification checks.

In response Mrs. Eccles was enrolled in a student teaching course and his university represented that he had the qualifications. The certification check process is being reviewed.

Ms. Joan Cali – questioned:

R1.1 Posting and appointment discrepancy.

1. School Government:

Motion by Mrs. D'Addetta, seconded by Mr. Manente, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions R1.1 through R1.11, as described below: Recommended Board Action for the following:

R1.1 Approval to appoint Allison Urbanovich and Sean Powers for Saturday Detention Teachers \$35/hr. The following are the names of the "Substitute" Saturday Detention Teachers:

Keith Schneider
Diane Quail
Tammy Hennessy
Denise McKenna
Allison Cunniff

R1.2 Approval to appoint and assign Fury Baker an additional High School teaching block to alleviate an oversized Math Resource Class. Retroactive to October 1, 2012 at a stipend of \$8500.

R1.3 Approval to appoint Substitutes as follows:

- a. Dwayne Hendricks Substitute Certificate
- b. Shauna Gennatt Registered Nurse

R1.4 Approval to appoint Allan Bonin to Character Education Advisor for the 2012-2013 school year at Huber Street School at a stipend of \$1,150.00

R1.5 Approval of Maternity Leave of absence for Kelly O'Connor from January 7, 2013 through June 30, 2013.

R1.6 Approval to Appoint Manal Abuhouran: Huber Street School Kindergarten Teacher, MA Step 1, \$60,479.00, effective January 7, 2013 to June 30, 2013 replacing Kelly O'Connor (Maternity Leave of Absence)

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R1.7 Approval to appoint Susan Montone to Wee Deliver (Extra Curricular) for Clarendon School at a stipend of \$1,150.00.

R1.8 Approval to Rescind the appointment of Mark Gibson as 5th Grade Teacher in Huber Street School as Long Term Leave Replacement for Michele Maxwell (Family Leave)

R1.9 Approval to Rescind the appointment of Jennine Peduto as 6th Grade Teacher at Clarendon School.

R1.10 Approval to Accept Sidebar Agreement to change 2012-2013 School Calendar due to extreme emergencies

R1.11 Approval to amend 2012-2013 School Calendar

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Robert Anderson	X			
Kelli D'Addetta	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
Sal Manente	X			
Dora Marra	X			
Gary Riebesell				X
Lisa Snedeker				X
MaryAnn Weiner				X
Jack McStowe, President	X			

2. Curriculum:

Motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motion R2.1 as described below.

Recommended Board Action for the following:

R2.1 Approval of Field Trips

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Robert Anderson	X			
Kelli D'Addetta	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
Sal Manente	X			
Dora Marra	X			
Gary Riebesell				X
Lisa Snedeker				X
MaryAnn Weiner				X
Jack McStowe, President	X			

3. Finance

Motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Manente, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions R3.1 through R3.5, as described below. Recommended Board Action for the following:

R3.1 Approval of Bills List

R3.2 Approval of Out of District Travel

R3.3 Approval of Drug Testing Contract

R3.4 Approval of Submission of IDEA Final Report 2012

R3.5 Approval of MetTel Settlement

BE IT RESOLVED by the Secaucus Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") that the terms, stipulations and conditions as established in the Release by Manhattan Telecommunications Corporation d/b/a Mettel in favor of the Board, which is annexed to this Resolution, are hereby adopted and approved by the Board. The Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms contained therein.

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	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Robert Anderson	X			
Kelli D'Addetta	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
Sal Manente	X			
Dora Marra	X			
Gary Riebesell				X
Lisa Snedeker				X
MaryAnn Weiner				X
Jack McStowe, President	X			

4. Safety/Security/Buildings & Grounds

Motion by Mr. Manente, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motion R4.1

Recommended Board Action for the following:

R4.1 Approval of Transportation Identification Route Numbers

Identification numbers are assigned to these routes and reported in the District Report of Transported Students. It is necessary for the Board of Education to approve the identification numbers as reported on November 12, 2012.

Route 1	Windsor Learning Center, Pompton Lakes (Weehawken)
Route 2	Special Services, Middle School and High School
Route 3	Special Services & ESL, Clarendon School
Route 4	NJCU-A. Harry Moore School, Jersey City (Weehawken)
Route 5	The Allegro School, Cedar Knolls
Route 6	Shepard High School, Morristown
Route 7A	Osprey Cove, Middle School/High School
Route 7	Osprey Cove, Harmon Cove Townhouses/Towers, Clarendon School
Route 8	Special Services & ESL, Clarendon School
Route 9	Special Services, Huber Street School
Route 10	Special Services, Middle School/High School
Route 11	Special Services, Clarendon School
Route 12	X-Change at Secaucus Junction, End of County Avenue, Huber Street School
Route 13	Special Services, Clarendon School
Route 14	County Avenue South, County Avenue North (odd #'s West side), Huber Street School
Route 15	Harmon Cove Townhouses/Towers, Clarendon School
Route 16	All County Avenue, High School
Route 17	Harmon Cove Townhouses/Towers, High School
Route 18	Meadowlands Parkway, Harmon Cove Townhouses/Towers, Middle School
Route 19	Harmon Cove Townhouses/Towers, Clarendon School
Route 20	Harmon Cove Townhouses/Towers, Clarendon School
Route 21	X-Change @ Secaucus Junction/Roosevelt Avenue, High School
Route 22	County Avenue North/Roosevelt Avenue/Liberty Court, Huber St. School
Route 23	X-Change @ Secaucus Junction/Roosevelt Avenue, Middle School
Route 25	The Phoenix Center School, Nutley
Route 26	JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute, Career Development Program, Edison
Route 27	Subscription Busing - Riverside Court, Huber Street School
Route 28	All of County Avenue, Middle School

Also reported were contracted routes: HCST (South Hudson Route); Sussex Coop (Resident - Out of District); School Choice/Englewood Public Schools.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Robert Anderson	X			
Kelli D'Addetta	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
Sal Manente	X	X-bus route 27		
Dora Marra	X	X-bus route 27		
Gary Riebesell				X
Lisa Snedeker				X

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MaryAnn Weiner				X
Jack McStowe, President	X			

5. **Technology Committee** None

6. **Policy Committee**

Motion by Ms. Marra, seconded by Mr. Manente, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve and adopt motions R6.1 and R6.2

Recommended Board Action for the following:

R6.1 Approval of the 2nd reading for the following policy:

Amendment to Policy 2435 Random Drug Testing

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Robert Anderson	X			
Kelli D'Addetta	X			
Joseph Lewis	X			
Sal Manente	X			
Dora Marra	X			
Gary Riebesell				X
Lisa Snedeker				X
MaryAnn Weiner				X
Jack McStowe, President	X			

7. **Athletic Committee** None

8. **Shared Services Report** – None

9. **Legislative Report** None

10. **New Business** – None

11. **Public Forum – General Comments:**

Ms. Joan Cali – spoke about Work being done in the buildings during school hours. Mr. Smith advised her he was not aware of this and it would be handled immediately.

Mr. Tom Troyer questioned:

- Monetary figures on Busing
- Decision to bus some and not others

Mrs. Eleanore Reinl commented

- R1.11 amendment of school calendar
- Spoke about previous busing situations years ago where the Board needed to vote no in order to follow state regulations

Mr. Saurabh Dani commented:

- That his family is new to town and live in the Riverside development.
- He would like access to the Board Minutes to see how the Board Members had voted previously on different issues. Mr. Fogarty responded that the minutes are available to be reviewed.
- May request additional information on busing routes. Mr. Fogarty responded that an OPRA request can be sent to the Board Office.

Mayor Gonnelli

- Thanked the Board's leadership for their open communication this year the Great relationship being formed.
- Thank you to Mrs. Randina and Mr. Smith, the town appreciates the use of Huber Street School for a shelter during the storm.
- Credit goes to Pat Belenski for obtaining \$500, 000 from fashion companies for needy families in our district affected by the storm.
- 1st annual Thanksgiving Day dinner for Town
- Spoke on Busing issues- Riverside was deemed a safety issue by the police department.
- Town will begin busing Creekside residents for a fee.
- Mayor spoke to articles in newspaper regarding busing issues.

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12. Board Member Comments

Mr. Anderson- Thank you to Town Council and Board of Education for working together. Please take the time to sit down at supper and talk with your kids.

Mrs. D'Addetta- Congratulations to the Girls Volleyball team and Good Luck in the game on Saturday. Principals and children compassionate regarding Hurricane Sandy. Thank you to Zachary for coming. As to the teacher issues, we need to put the children's interest first.

Mr. Lewis- Wished the Volleyball team Good Luck and Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Ms. Marra Mrs. Weiner is absent with pneumonia. Spoke on how wonderful how the town came together to help the families affected by the hurricane. United Way is looking for volunteers in town. Ms. Marra read reports regarding busing. Voted with heart. Board not paying for busing since it was deemed a safe route.

Mr. Manente - Addressed Mayor Gonnelli's comment on his concern for the safety of children. As well as busing of Creekside & Riverside.

Mr. McStowe Spoke to the preparedness of town and district in regard to Hurricane Sandy. Thank you to all the first responders. Seems we are stuck on the busing issue and need to move onto more important issues. Busing is now a town issue. BOE is only leasing the bus to the town. Would like to come together instead of fighting on a voted and already passed issue. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

13. Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,



H. Ronald Smith

Interim Board Secretary and Business Administrator