

**SECAUCUS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
DATED: July 26, 2018**

President McStowe called the meeting to order at 4:25PM and roll call taken as follows:

**PRESENT:** Messrs: Bartletta, Giele, McStowe, Ms. Cali, Ms. O'Connell, Ms. Dellafave, Mrs. Hanley, Ms. McFarlane and Ms. Pantoliano

**LATE ARRIVALS:**

**ABSENT:**

President McStowe declared a quorum present

**Also present:** Jennifer Montesano, Superintendent  
Grace Yeo, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Stephen Fogarty, Board Attorney

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 Cali, 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 Jersey Journal, and the Bergen Record.

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Joan Cali

**SECONDED BY:** Ruby Pantoliano

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act allows for the exclusion from discussion as the public portion of a meeting certain matters as outlined below, and

**WHEREAS**, the Secaucus Board of Education wishes to discuss such matters made and will make such discussion public when a proper conclusion has been reached:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education will hold a Closed Executive Session on this date, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b (1), (2), (6), (7) and (8) for the purpose(s) as outlined and described below. These matters will be disclosed to the public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer applies:

Board Members present unanimously adopted the foregoing Resolution.

Motion by Joan Cali, seconded by Ruby Pantoliano, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to adjourn Executive Session and resume Regular Meeting at 7:05PM.

Motion by Grace Yeo, seconded by Joan Cali, and unanimously adopted by board members present to accept and approve the regular board meeting minutes of June 28, 2018.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Lance Bartletta	X			
Joan Cali	X			
Sharon Dellafave	X			
Louis Giele	X			
Norma Hanley	X			
Kathleen McFarlane	X			
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O'Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			

**Organization Reports:**

President McStowe wished to clarify a statement that the Jersey Journal reported, stating that he was upset about a board member comments regarding the Dr. Berckes Tenure Charge made by Mrs. Pantoliano and wanted to clarify that he wasn't upset about the comment.

**Superintendent Report:**

Superintendent Montesano spoke of how busy the district has been over the summer. The IT Department is working on technology needs, 1-1 initiative for high school students is rolling out this year. Each teacher will have a device and be trained in the 1-1 initiative. Grades 3-5 now have the standard based report card.

**Correspondence:** Business Administrator, Grace Yeo, read a thank you card from recent retiree Joan Dalessio.

**Business Administrator/Board Secretary Report:**

Business Administrator, Grace Yeo, stated the district received additional state aid and thanked the Mayor and Town Council for letting the district keep the funds. It could have gone to tax relief for the town.

Motion by Grace Yeo, seconded by Kathy O'Connell to post for Special Board Meeting to take place Monday, August 6, 2018 at 6:00PM at 685 5<sup>th</sup> Street Secaucus, New Jersey

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Lance Bartletta	X			
Joan Cali	X			
Sharon Dellafave	X			
Louis Giele	X			
Norma Hanley	X			
Kathleen McFarlane	X			
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O'Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			

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

**Public Agenda Comments:**

**Committee Reports and New Business**

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**1.Human Resources -**

**R1.01**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Joan Cali**

**SECONDED BY: Norma Hanley**

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

Gianna Scaglione      Speech Language Specialist  
**Compensation:**    \$62,654  
**Effective Date:**    08/27/2018  
**Account Number:** 11-000-216-100-000-12-065  
**UPC:**                    100.CL.SPTH.CL.04

**R1.02**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Joan Cali**

**SECONDED BY: Norma Hanley**

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

Amanda Trombetta                      Supervisor of STEM  
**Compensation:**                      \$97,327  
**Effective Date:**                      09/01/2018  
**Account Number:**                      11-000-240-104-000-14-050  
**UPC:**                                      240.HS.SUPV.HS.04

**R1.03**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Joan Cali**

**SECONDED BY: Norma Hanley**

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

Tricia Corey                              Speech Language Specialist  
**Compensation:**                      \$62,654  
**Effective Date:**                      08/27/2018  
**Account Number:**                      11-000-219-104-000-17U  
**UPC:**                                      219.HS.PSYC.HS.02

**R1.04**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Joan Cali**

**SECONDED BY: Norma Hanley**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves the following Per Diem positions for the 2018-2019/SY as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Certificate</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Kelsey C. Mitchell	Substitute Teacher	Substitute	\$85/per day
Luis A. Guillen	Custodian	N/A	\$13/hour
*Marieme Niang	Substitute Teacher	N/A	\$85/per hour

**R1.05**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Joan Cali**

**SECONDED BY: Norma Hanley**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby retroactively approves the following Per Diem positions for the 2018-2019/SY as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Certificate</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Ajay Patel	Summer Custodian	N/A	\$13/hour
Ryan Ching	Summer Custodian	N/A	\$13/hour
Kalsang Sherpa	Summer Custodian	N/A	\$13/hour
Kyle Duda	Summer Custodian	N/A	\$13/hour
Jarrod Smyers	Summer IT	N/A	\$13/hour
Carlos Romero	Summer IT	N/A	\$13/hour

**R1.06**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Joan Cali**

**SECONDED BY: Norma Hanley**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves the following transfer effective 8/6/2018

<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
Eckert	Michelle	Clarendon	High School

**R1.07**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Joan Cali**

**SECONDED BY: Norma Hanley**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves the following transfer effective 8/6/2018

<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
Costantino	Debra	High School	Clarendon

**R1.08**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Joan Cali**

**SECONDED BY: Norma Hanley**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves the following transfer effective 8/6/2018

<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
Mason	Coleen	Middle School	Huber Street

**R1.09**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Joan Cali**

**SECONDED BY: Norma Hanley**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves to amend Resolution 1.15 from the June 28, 2018 Board of Education Meeting to state Grace Yeo as Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

**R1.10**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Joan Cali**

**SECONDED BY: Norma Hanley**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves to retroactively appoint the following individuals to Extended School Year Program (July 16, 2018 to August 9, 2018) positions for the summer of 2018

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Marieme Niang	Classroom Assistant	\$30/hr
Marybeth Vanoni	Classroom Assistant	\$30/hr

**R1.11**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Joan Cali**

**SECONDED BY: Norma Hanley**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves to retroactively appoint the following individuals for the Summer Music Program for the 2018-19/SY at \$40/hour not to exceed \$3,200

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
Robert Fournier	High School
Oscar Gongora	Elementary

**R1.12**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Joan Cali**

**SECONDED BY: Norma Hanley**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves to appoint the following individuals for Special Education Orientation on August 30, 2018 at \$40/hour not to exceed \$480

<b>Name</b>
Jonathan Mimmo

Sara Williams
Kritika Chopra

**R1.13**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Joan Cali

**SECONDED BY:** Norma Hanley

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Secaucus Board of Education approves accept with regret the following resignations:

Employee	School	Positon
Olivia Wilson	Clarendon	Speech Language Specialist
Sammantha Griffin	Clarendon	Speech Language Specialist
Emanuela Andolina	Middle School	.5 Language Teacher

**R1.14**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Joan Cali

**SECONDED BY:** Norma Hanley

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Secaucus Board of Education approves to rescind the appointment of Morghan Sonzogni, Resolution 1.08 from the June 28, 2018 Board of Education Meeting

**R1.15**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Joan Cali

**SECONDED BY:** Norma Hanley



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

Christopher Panepinto      Math Teacher  
**Compensation:**                 \$58,959  
**Effective Date:**                 09/01/2018  
**Account Number:**               11-130-100-101-000-15-080  
**UPC:**                                 100.MS.MATH.MS.04

**M1.01. Motion** to retroactively post for the following positions:

- 2- Speech Language Specialist

**M1.02. Motion** to post for the following positions:

- .5 Language Teacher (Italian and or Spanish)
- Mathematics Basic Skills Teacher (Title 1 Funded) located at the Middle School
- English/Language Arts Teacher (Title 1 Funded) located at the High School
- Special Education Orientation Teacher

The foregoing resolutions were adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Lance Bartletta	X			
Joan Cali	X			
Sharon Dellafave	X			
Louis Giele	X			
Norma Hanley	X			
Kathleen McFarlane	X			
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O'Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			

**2.Policy-** None

**3.Shared Services –** None

**4.Legislation –** None

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**5. Curriculum-** None

**6. Athletics- None**

**7. School Technology – None**

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**8. Finance-**

**R8.01**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Sharon Dellafave**

**SECONDED BY: Kathy O’Connell**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education approve the check registers, as submitted by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to pay bills and claims in the amount of \$ 1,490,224.44 for June 2018 and \$ 681,820.52 for July 2018

**R8.02**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Sharon Dellafave**

**SECONDED BY: Kathy O’Connell**

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby authorizes the Business Administrator, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, the out of district travel for employees as annexed to this resolution.

**REQUEST FOR OUT OF DISTRICT CONFERENCE/WORKSHOPS**

**DATE : 6/28/2018**

Employee Name	Date(s) of Event	Title of Event	Location	Registration Fee	Estimated Tolls and Mileage	Total Cost
AnnMarie Grecco	8/9/2018	Training District Cert Staff	Hamilton, NJ	\$0.00	\$36.48	\$36.48
Jennifer Montesano	8/9/2018	Training District Cert Staff	Hamilton, NJ	\$0.00	\$36.48	\$36.48
Daniela Riser	8/9/2018	Training District Cert Staff	Hamilton, NJ	\$0.00	\$36.48	\$36.48
Alison Roa	10/17/2018	NJAAP School Health Conf	Somerset Pk	\$175.00	\$36.38	\$211.38
Dylan Caruso	07/16/18 - 07/19/18	Continuing Studies AP Stat	New Brunswick	\$1,025.00	\$98.00	\$1,123
Aomar Elassa	07/23/18 - 07/26/18	AP Summer Institutes	Mid Cty College	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
Erica Spinelli	08/06/18 - 08/10/18	Orton Gillingham	Hasbrouck Heights	\$0.00	\$101.68	\$101.68
Janet Colamarino	06/25/18 - 06/29/18	Orton Gillingham	Secaucus, NJ	0.00	\$55.80	\$55.80

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Samantha Griffin	06/25/18 - 06/29/18	Orton Gillingham	Secaucus, NJ	0.00	\$8.93	\$8.93	***
Anna Mongiello	06/25/18 - 06/29/18	Orton Gillingham	Secaucus, NJ	0.00	\$30.50	\$30.50	***
Lucia Abello	06/25/18 - 06/29/18	Orton Gillingham	Secaucus, NJ	0.00	\$27.71	\$27.71	***
Shella Rivera	06/25/18 - 06/29/18	Orton Gillingham	Secaucus, NJ	0.00	\$16.93	\$16.93	***
Alexandra Zaller	06/25/18 - 06/29/18	Orton Gillingham	Secaucus, NJ	0.00	\$49.06	\$49.06	***
Shelby Manthorpe	06/25/18 - 06/29/18	Orton Gillingham	Secaucus, NJ	0.00	\$5.58	\$5.58	***
Melissa Lopena	06/25/18 - 06/29/18	Orton Gillingham	Secaucus, NJ	0.00	\$14.51	\$14.51	***
MaryCate Benetti	06/25/18 - 06/29/18	Orton Gillingham	Secaucus, NJ	0.00	\$26.78	\$26.78	***
Georgina Cruzado	06/25/18 - 06/29/18	Orton Gillingham	Secaucus, NJ	0.00	\$11.53	\$11.53	***
Lisa Smith Bonin	06/25/18 - 06/29/18	Orton Gillingham	Secaucus, NJ	0.00	\$85.42	\$85.42	***
Jolanda Harrsch	06/25/18 - 06/29/18	Orton Gillingham	Secaucus, NJ	0.00	\$37.89	\$37.89	***

\*\*\*\*\* Adjustment for 4 additional travel day from original resolution on 05/24/2018

\*\*\* Adjustment for 3 travel days from original resolution on 05/24/2018

R8.03

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Sharon Dellafave**

**SECONDED BY: Kathy O'Connell**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby authorizes the Business Administrator and President to execute contracts for out of district placement tuition for the 2018-2019 school year for:

Student ID	Placement	Amount
11678	YCS – Sawtell Learning Center	\$ 64,036.21*
14538	Celebrate the Children	\$ 71,500.00
10786	Chapel Hill Academy	\$ 61,020.00
15867	Bergen County Special Services Physical Therapy	\$ 1,250.00**
15867	Bergen County Special Services Occupational Therapy	\$ 1,250.00**
15867	Bergen County Special Services Home Instruction	\$ 4,221.00**
15868	Bergen County Special Services Physical Therapy	\$ 1,250.00**
15868	Bergen County Special Services Occupational Therapy	\$ 1,250.00**
15868	Bergen County Special Services Home Instruction	\$ 4,221.00**
16384	NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$ 4,500.00

13802	Bergen County Special Services BCSS Programs	\$ 5,300.00**
13802	Bergen County Special Services One to One Assistants and Nurses	\$ 5,000.00**
14655	Bergen County Special Services BCSS Programs	\$ 7,800.00**
14655	Bergen County Special Services One to One Assistants and Nurses	\$ 7,500.00**
13114	The Community School	\$ 41,290.20

\*Includes Extended School Year July 2018 to June 30, 2019

\*\* Extended School Year Only

**R8.04**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Sharon Dellafave**

**SECONDED BY: Kathy O'Connell**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby authorizes the Business Administrator and President to execute contract, with Elevator Maintenance Corp. for the 2018-2019 school year.

**R8.05**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Sharon Dellafave**

**SECONDED BY: Kathy O'Connell**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby authorizes the submission of the IDEA Grant for 2018-2019 to Department of Education for approval:

Professional Services	100-300	\$ 13,844.00
Out of District Tuition	100-500	\$ 422,912.00

**R8.06**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Sharon Dellafave**

**SECONDED BY: Kathy O'Connell**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves the General Fund Budget increase due to the additional State Aid for the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year submitted by the Business Administrator in the amount of \$382,533.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the General Fund Accounts and their amounts be increased as follows:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
11-000-217-320-000-17	\$ 50,000.00	Speech, OT/PT Professional Services
11-000-100-569-000-11	\$120,000.00	Tuition, Other
11-000-261-420-023-19	\$ 18,574.00	Maintenance Professional Services
11-110-100-101-000-12-065	\$ 58,959.00	Salary – Kindergarten Teacher
11-000-291-270-000-11	\$ 30,000.00	Medical Health Benefits
11-000-266-300-000-11	\$ 75,000.00	Security Purchased Services
12-000-270-733-000-21	\$ 30,000.00	School Bus (Mini Van)
Total	\$382,533.00	

The foregoing resolutions were adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Lance Bartletta	X			
Joan Cali	X			
Sharon Dellafave	X			
Louis Giele	X			
Norma Hanley	X			
Kathleen McFarlane	X			
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O’Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			

**9. Safety/Security – Buildings & Grounds-**

**R9.01**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Kathy McFarlane**

**SECONDED BY: Kathy O’Connell**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education here approves the in-district regular education routes for the 2018-2019 school year as follows:

Clarendon School – Grades K through 5:           To and From Osprey Cove  
   To and From Harmon Cove  
   To and From Harmon Cove Towers  
   To and From The Harper  
   To and From Huber Street District (overflow)

Huber Street School – Grades K through 5:        To and From County Avenue  
   To and From XChange @ Secaucus Junction  
   To and From Roosevelt Avenue Section  
   To and From Liberty Court  
   To and From Riverside Court (Agreement)  
   To and From Creekside Manor (Town  
   Contract/Agreement)

Middle School – Grades 6 through 8      & High School – Grades 9 through 12:  
   To and From Osprey Cove  
   To and From Harmon Cove  
   To and From Harmon Cove Towers  
   To and From County Avenue  
   To and From XChange at Secaucus  
   Junction  
   To and From Roosevelt Avenue Section  
   To and From Riverside Court  
   (Agreement)  
   To and From The Harper

Due to the shortage of drivers, it is possible that Middle School and High School Students may be on the same bus for their regular routes.

All schools have late buses for bus students only. **Middle School and High School will have separate buses. The Middle School bus will load from the Middle School entrance and depart at 3:40 PM. The High School bus will load from the High School entrance and also depart at 3:40 PM. Elementary school buses depart at 3:45 PM.**

The foregoing resolutions were adopted by a roll call vote as follows:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Lance Bartletta	X			
Joan Cali	X			
Sharon Dellafave	X			
Louis Giele	X			
Norma Hanley	X			
Kathleen McFarlane	X			

John McStowe	X			
Kathy O'Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			

**10. Technology – None**

**Public General Comments -**

Donna Barabas – Addressed board but wanted to exclude Dellafave, Giele, McFarlane, and stated to Board Attorney, Stephen Fogarty, that he should have known that there was no criminality and asked if he advised Superintendent Montesano and Board President McStowe to press charges. Commented that Superintendent Montesano had no secondary experience and after 6 months here she suspended the high school principal and assistant principal. She asked if Montesano took into consideration for the students and their safety? Superintendent Montesano put over 600 students at risk when she imposed other faculty members to take over for the suspended faculty members. They could have continued their jobs, there was no danger to student. Ms. Barabas thought the suspension was outrageous and they should be reinstated and Dr. Berckes, Mr. Case and the community should be apologized to. Moving principals were pawns and they were involuntary transferred. The board members should have listened to the parents and not moved the principals. Her remedy for this issue is for the board president McStowe and the 5 other board members who voted for the suspensions to resign, Superintendent Montesano and board attorney Stephen Fogarty should be terminated. This is shameful behavior.

Chris Delasi – As a parent with 2 students in the district, she thought that shuffling principals was disrespectful and she thought we were moving forward. Why are we going forward with the tenure charges, people make mistakes and we should counsel them to make them better. Her son chose to stay in our district and believes in the Principals here and they are a key part in his development. Stated that Dr. Bob has done a lot for this community and firing him is a bitter pill to swallow and thought maybe he could have resigned. Wants board to make good decisions and wants the board president to acknowledge the speakers at the board meetings.

Don Evanson – He is reaching out to schools to introduce students to the stock market and financial lessons going forward. Spoke of the Shark Tank program from last year and the

innovative things that students came up with. There will be a teacher/police department basketball game as a fund raiser with the funds going to St. Jude.

**Board Member Comments-**

All board members wished everyone an enjoyable rest of the summer, congratulated new hires, thanked the speakers, Mr. Evanson, and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Ms. Hanley – Acknowledged that we hear the public opinions

Ms. Dellafave – hoped that everyone would have faith in the board in this long process relating to the suspensions. Board members are legally bound to confidentiality and could not reveal pending tenure charges but it is the law that we must uphold. Is confident that I and all fellow trustees will have a fair and objective opinion in the process going forward


Ms. McFarlane – Summer is a challenging time with supplies being ordered, procedures decided, and principal moves, etc. Hoped that the suspension situation would be completed by the start of the new school year. Decisions to be made should have the best interest for all involved. The driving force should be for the welfare of the students.

Mr. Giele – Suspension situation should be solved, frustrated on how it has been handled, doesn't know when it will be solved, parents should be concerned. This situation will set an example for our future. There is a dark cloud over all employees in district. If our High School principal is terminated, who is next and our employees have a right to be worried.

Mr. McStowe – Apologized to speaker, Chris DeIasi, for not acknowledging her or any other person who got up to speak.

Motion by Joan Cali, seconded by Kathy O'Connell, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Grace Yeo,  
Board Secretary