

**SECAUCUS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
DATED: January 17, 2019**

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

**PRESENT:** Messrs: Bartletta, McStowe, Ms. Cali, Ms. Dellafave, Ms. Eccles, Ms. McFarlane, Ms. O’Connell, Ms. Pantoliano, and Dr. Strobert

**LATE ARRIVALS:**

**ABSENT:**

President Cali declared a quorum present

Also present: Jennifer Montesano, Superintendent  
Grace Yeo, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Stephen Fogarty, Board Attorney 4:00PM – 5:00PM  
Vic LaPira, Board Attorney 5:00PM – 7:52PM

President Cali, asked everyone to rise and join in the salute to the flag. In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act, Vice President McStowe, announced that the Board Secretary had forwarded notice of this meeting for advertising by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Secaucus Town Hall, on the bulletin board in the hallway of the Board of Education Administration Building, as well as being provided to the Jersey Journal, and the Bergen Record.

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Jack Mcstowe**

**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 Jack McStowe, seconded by Kathy O’Connell, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to adjourn Executive Session and resume Regular Meeting at 7:00PM.

Motion by Joan Cali, seconded by Kathy O’Connell, and unanimously adopted by board members present to accept and approve the regular board meeting minutes.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Lance Bartletta	X			
Joan Cali	X			
Sharon Dellafave	X			
Mary Eccles			X	
Kathy McFarlane	X			
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O’Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			
Dr. Strobert			X	

**Showcase:**

The Media Academy and Mrs. Gerbasio were recognized for their outstanding work on the video of our district that can be viewed on our website. Ms. Montesano said it was a great showcase of our school, our students, and our Faculty and Staff. Principal Viggiani gave Certificates of Merit to members of the Media Academy.

**Organization Reports:**

Robert Valente – Principal Huber Street School

Mr. Valente announced that Lucia Abello of the Early Learning Center was the Teacher of the Year at the holiday concert on December 21, 2018. The Huber Street School students along with Clarendon School students enjoyed ice skating at the Town Ice Rink on January 12, 2019 with the entrance fee going to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The Scripps Spelling Bee is under way this week. The week of February 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> will be Pre K registration and Kindergarten registration will be the week of February 25. Mr. Valente congratulated newly elected board members, Ms. Eccles and Dr. Strobert as well as congratulating Joan Cali being elected Board of Education President. Mr. Valente expressed his condolences to the recent passing of Fred Ponti.

Danielle Garzon – Acting Principal Clarendon School

Dr. Garzon announced that Anna Falco was Teacher of the Year and Lucille Ramirez was the Service Provider of the Year at the Holiday Sing a Long on December 21, 2019. January began with the Scripps Spelling Bee with the finals being on January 25, Clarendon School also participated in the St Jude Ice Skating Fundraiser. On Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> In Service day, Pre K registration will be the week of February 4<sup>th</sup> and Kindergarten registration will be the week of February 25<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Garzon then welcomed new board members, Mary Eccles and Dr. Strobert.

Amanda Wargoeki – Vice Principal of High School - speaking on behalf of Middle School Principal – Christine Candela

Ms. Wargoeki discussed the Parent Information Night that took place on Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and that an additional Information Night would take place on Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. On January 15, James Sarto, Ed.S – NJ Leaders to Leaders Program Coordinator, spoke to Middle school students about Vaping. On January 10<sup>th</sup>, the Scripps Spelling Bee took place with 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, Soloni Singh, winning for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. The Geography Bee was held with 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, Ryan Jack winning it.

Steve Viggiani – Principal Secaucus High School

Mr. Viggiani welcomed new board members, Mary Eccles and Dr. Strobert and congratulated Joan Cali on being new Board President. On January 9, 2019 there was a presentation for parents to go over the 1-1 initiative with another presentation date on January 23, 2019. On January 15, James Sarto, Ed.S – NJ Leaders to Leaders Program Coordinator, spoke to High school students about Vaping. The High School Sail club will do computer tutoring for senior citizens on January 22, 2019 and the National Honor Society is having a fundraiser at Panera on January 18, 2019.

**Superintendent Report:**

Ms. Montesano said there were 2 very successful parent nights held to discuss the upcoming 1-1 initiative for Chromebooks for the students. Over 100 parents were in attendance and there would be 2 more presentations for additional parents to attend. All staff has been issued and started using their Chromebooks. On January 15, James Sarto, Ed.S – NJ Leaders to Leaders Program Coordinator, spoke to parents of High school students about the dangers of Vaping. Ms. Montesano is very excited that our district will be presenting at NJASA Techspo '19 in Atlantic City on January 31, 2019. Ms. Montesano, Dr. Daniela Riser and Patricia Smeyers would all take part in the presentation. Ms. Montesano, on behalf of the district, ended by sending her condolences to the family and friends of past Administrator, Fred Ponti.

Ms. Montesano presented the Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying (HIB), findings as reported for the period December 21, 2018 through January 17, 2019.

Motion by Jack McStowe, seconded by Kathy O'Connell and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to accept the report; which is available at the Administrative Offices for review.

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

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Lance Bartletta	X			
Joan Cali	X			
Sharon Dellafave	X			
Mary Eccles	X			
Kathy McFarlane	X			
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O'Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			
Dr. Strobert	X			

**Business Administrator/Board Secretary Report:**

Ms. Yeo announced that there would be 2 additional people added to our Out of District Travel Log for the month of January.

Ms. Yeo also announced that January is School Board Recognition Month. Board members along with Superintendent, Jennifer Montesano, and Business Administrator, Grace Yeo were given a key chain in recognition for their service on the board.

**Public Agenda Comments:**

**Committee Reports and New Business**

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**1.Human Resources -**

**R1.01**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Jack McStowe**

**SECONDED BY: Kathy O'Connell**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby appoints the following individual, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

Richard Larcara                      Middle School Social Studies  
 Long Term Replacement  
**Compensation:** MA step 1, \$62,654,  
**Effective Date:** March 25, 2019 – June 30, 2019  
 Account Number: 11-130-100-101-000-15-080  
 UPC: 100.MS.HIST.MS.LTR  
 \*Prorated

**R1.02**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Jack McStowe**

**SECONDED BY: Kathy O’Connell**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby appoints the following Per Diem Employees, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CERTIFICATION</b>	<b>DAILY PAY</b>
Payal Shah	Substitute Teaching Certificate	\$85/per day

**R1.03**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Jack McStowe**

**SECONDED BY: Kathy O’Connell**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby reappoints the following Per Diem Employee, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

<b>NAME</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>DAILY PAY</b>
Patricia Valente	Clerical	\$20/per hour

**R1.04**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Jack McStowe**

**SECONDED BY: Kathy O’Connell**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves continue to compensate Angelo Moniello as a head custodian at the rate of \$2,900, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

**R1.05**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Jack McStowe**

**SECONDED BY: Kathy O’Connell**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby approves to rescind the appointment Angelo Aligo as Assistant Baseball Coach, Resolution 1.21 from the October 18, 2018 Board of Education meeting.

**R1.06**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY: Jack McStowe**

**SECONDED BY: Kathy O’Connell**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby to approves to extend medical leave for the following individual

Employee	School	Date Leave	Original Return	Extended Date
4310	High School	09/04/2018	12/24/2018	03/22/2019

**R1.07**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Jack McStowe

**SECONDED BY:** Kathy O’Connell

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby to approves bonding leave for the following individual

Employee	School	Date Leave	Original Return
5207	Huber Street	04/29/2019	06/10/2019

**R1.08**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Jack McStowe

**SECONDED BY:** Kathy O’Connell

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby to approves intermittent bonding leave for the following individual

Employee	School	Date Leave	Date Return
4285	Huber Street	3/20/19	3//28/2019

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			
Mary Eccles	X			
Kathy McFarlane	X			
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O’Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			
Dr. Strobert	X			

**2.Policy-**

**R2.01**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Jack McStowe

**SECONDED BY:** Kathy O’Connell

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent to adopt the first reading of the following policy:

- 5240-Tardiness

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

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Lance Bartletta	X			
Joan Cali	X			
Sharon Dellafave	X			
Mary Eccles	X			
Kathy McFarlane	X			
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O’Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			
Dr. Strobert	X			

**3.Shared Services** – None

**4.Legislation** – None

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**5. Curriculum-**

**R5.01**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Kathy O’Connell

**SECONDED BY:** Jack McStowe

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

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

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Lance Bartletta	X			
Joan Cali	X			
Sharon Dellafave	X			
Mary Eccles	X			
Kathy McFarlane	X			
John McStowe	X			
Kathy O’Connell	X			
Ruby Pantoliano	X			
Dr. Strobert	X			

**6. Athletics-** Junior girls Basketball player Damaris Rodriguez scored 1,000 points

**7. School Technology** – None

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**8. Finance-**

**R8.01**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Kathy McFarlane

**SECONDED BY:** Mary Eccles

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education approve the check register, as submitted by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to pay bills and claims in the amount of \$3,703,736.87

**R8.02**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Kathy McFarlane

**SECONDED BY:** Mary Eccles

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the Report of Transfers submitted by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the month of November within the various appropriations for the 2018-2019 school year as shown on the annexed report.

**R8.03**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Kathy McFarlane

**SECONDED BY:** Mary Eccles

**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 School Business Administrator for the month(s) of November 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.

**R8.04**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Kathy McFarlane

**SECONDED BY:** Mary Eccles

**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 as annexed to this resolution.

REQUEST FOR OUT OF DISTRICT CONFERENCE/WORKSHOPS

DATE : 1/17/2019

Employee Name	Date(s) of Event	Title of Event	Location	Registration Fee	Estimated Tolls Mileage and Hotel	Total Cost
Jennifer Montesano	01/30 - 01/31	NJASA TechSpo '19	Atlantic City	\$249.00	\$275.56	\$524.56
Daniela Riser	01/30 - 01/31	NJASA TechSpo '19	Atlantic City	\$249.00	\$275.56	\$524.56
Sean Buckley	5/3/2019	Mindfulness & Stress Management	Hoboken	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jennifer Montesano	Monthly	County Round Table Meetings	Jersey City	\$0.00	\$16.10	\$16.10
Grace Yeo	Monthly	County Round Table Meetings	Jersey City	\$0.00	\$16.10	\$16.10
David Segro	02/24 - 02/26	NJAHPERD Pre- Convention	Long Branch	\$289.00	\$140.71	\$429.71
Nicole Hernandez	1/22/2019	Hudson County Prof Leaning Comm	Secaucus	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Patricia Smeyers	3/1/2019	NJSTEM Quarterly Meeting	Piscataway	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Georgina Cruzado	5/29/2019	NJTESOL Spring Conference	New Brunswick	\$234.00	\$39.55	\$273.55
ToniAnn Palmisano	Multiple	Kickoff for Math Instruction Units	Monroe Twnshp	\$0.00	\$411.00	\$411.00
Sal Cioffi	03/23-03/30-04/6	CDFM Refresher Course	Branchburg	\$739.00	\$30.07	\$769.07
Cathleen Taylor	1/22/2019	Hudson County Prof Leaning Comm	Secaucus	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ToniAnn Palmisano	1/22/2019	Hudson County Prof Leaning Comm	Secaucus	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jerome Kaiser	01/30-01/31	NJASA TechSpo '19	Atlantic City	\$249.00	\$275.56	\$524.56
Christine Candela	01/30-01/31	NJASA TechSpo '19	Atlantic City	\$249.00	\$275.56	\$524.56
Joan Cali	01/30-01/31	NJASA TechSpo '19	Atlantic City	\$249.00	\$275.56	\$524.56
Jack McStowe	01/30-01/31	NJASA TechSpo '19	Atlantic City	\$249.00	\$275.56	\$524.56
Sharon Kim	1/22/2019	Hudson County Curriculum Consortium	Secaucus	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Karen Rondi	1/16/2019	HCPDC Workshop	Rutherford	\$0.00	\$2.73	\$2.73
Amanda Trombetta	01/30 - 01/31	NJASA TechSpo '19	Atlantic City	\$249.00	\$275.56	\$524.56
Eileen Losurdo	2/21/2019	Mandatory District Test Coord Trng	Whippany	\$0.00	\$16.12	\$16.12
Elizabeth Paredes	1/22/2019	Hudson County Prof Leaning Comm	Secaucus	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kathy O'Connell	01/29 - 01/31	NJASA TechSpo '19	Atlantic City	\$349.00	\$176.56	\$525.56

**R8.05**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Kathy McFarlane

**SECONDED BY:** Mary Eccles

**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
15259	Bergen County Special Services New Bridges High School	\$82,620 Prorated
15259	Bergen County Special Services One to One Assistant	\$52,000 Prorated

**R8.06**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Kathy McFarlane

**SECONDED BY:** Mary Eccles



**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby authorizes the Business Administrator and President to execute contract, with Geese Chasers North Jersey, LLC for the 2018-2019 school year.

Compensation:

Not to exceed \$12,000.00

**R8.07**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Kathy McFarlane

**SECONDED BY:** Mary Eccles

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby authorizes the Business Administrator to accept on behalf of the STEM classes, LEGO Kits valued at \$2,100.00

**R8.08**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Kathy McFarlane

**SECONDED BY:** Mary Eccles

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby authorizes the Business Administrator and President to execute contract, with BSC Services International for the 2018-2019 school year not to exceed \$3,753.00

**R8.09**

**RESOLUTION**

**INTRODUCED BY:** Kathy McFarlane

**SECONDED BY:** Mary Eccles

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Secaucus Board of Education hereby authorizes the submission of the following budget amendment application for fiscal year 2018-2019 and accepts the grant modifications for these funds upon the subsequent approval of the fiscal year 2018-2019.

Title IA - \$ 48,750

Title IIA - \$ 64,133

Title III - \$ 2,390

Title III Immigrant - \$ 5,065

Title IVA - \$ 5,676

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

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Lance Bartletta	X			
Joan Cali	X		R8.04	
Sharon Dellafave	X			
Mary Eccles	X			
Kathy McFarlane	X			
John McStowe	X		R8.04	
Kathy O'Connell	X		R8.04	
Ruby Pantoliano	X			
Dr. Strobert			X	

**9. Safety/Security – Buildings & Grounds-** None**10. Technology** – None**Public General Comments -**

Jill Bobinski – Ms. Bobinski asked why the bathrooms are locked during the day at the High School and Middle School. She said it is upsetting for some students and wanted to know why this is happening. Ms. Montesano said that she would get back to her

**Board Member Comments-**

Board members welcomed new board members Mary Eccles and Dr. Strobert, they also congratulated the Media Academy on their recognition. President Joan Cali, on behalf of the Board of Education, sent sympathies to the Ponti family on their recent loss of Fred Ponti, former administrator in the district.

Motion by Jack McStowe, seconded by Kathy O’Connell, and unanimously adopted by Board Members present to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:52PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Yeo  
Board Secretary