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Adjournment

The Regular Meeting of the Margate City Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 P.M. on March 6, 2024 by Board President, Mr. Joseph Pepe, at the Eugene A. Tighe Media Center.

Certification of Notice:

Melina Skwarek, Board Secretary, announced that adequate notice of this meeting had been provided and read the following Certification Notice:

On May 20, 2023, a notice of this meeting was posted on the district website, the bulletin board in the Board of Education Administration Office, the Eugene A. Tighe School, and the William H. Ross III School and emailed to the City Clerk and Downbeach.com, and advertised in *The Press*.

<u>Roll Call</u> - Members Present:	Mr. Joseph Pepe; Mr. Jack Sorensen; Mrs. Amy Brog; Mrs. Shannon Wray-Norris; Mrs. Danielle Gomes-Chapman; Mr. Nicholas Palmisano; Mr. Clete Schwegman
Members Absent:	Mr. James Swift
Others Present:	Mrs. Audrey Becker, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Melina Skwarek, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; Mr. Ryan Gaskill, Principal; Mr. Eric Goldstein, Solicitor

Recognition of Retirement:

Mrs. Becker recognized the retirement of Mrs. Teresa Osborne and acknowledged her thirty plus years of service within the District. She began her employment with Margate Schools as a Lucky Kids Assistant and worked her way up to Secretary to the Superintendent. She wished Mrs. Osborne the best of luck in her retirement. She will be missed.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. Pepe wished Mrs. Osborne the best of luck in her retirement.

Public Comment:

No Members of the community commented.

Activity Calendar:

Mrs. Becker distributed the Activity Calendar for March 2024.

Fire Drill & Security Drill Report:

Mrs. Becker distributed the Fire, Security, and Bus Evacuation Drill Reports for Eugene A. Tighe School & William H. Ross School for the month of February 2024 attached as Exhibit # 1, pages 29,190-29,192.

Superintendent's Report & Principals' Updates:

Mrs. Audrey Becker announced that the Administrative Team was very busy preparing for State monitoring. The County Office representatives were scheduled to be in the District on March 12, 2024. It has been twelve years since the County has been in the District for monitoring. The Administrative Team is awaiting their feedback and looking for areas of improvement.

The upcoming budget positions the District in a tough spot. There are many tough challenges facing the District financially. The proposed budget is fiscally sound and does not see any sacrifices to student programs or activities.

Mrs. Audrey Becker shared the following:

- The ELA curriculum is almost finalized for both buildings.
- State testing plans are in place.
- The Kindergarten registration application is available and posted on the District's website as of March 1, 2024. The District encourages parents to submit an application for their child(ren).
- The Non-Resident Tuition application is available and posted on the District's website as of March 1, 2024. The District encourages parents to submit an application for their child(ren).

- Mrs. Becker shared information on current activities at the Ross School in light of Mrs. Marino's absence.
- Mr. Ryan Gaskill shared information on current activities at the Tighe School.

School Safety Data System Report:

Mr. Gaskill commented on the School Safety Data System (SSDS) reports submitted by each school. He mentioned that this is a report submitted semi-annually to the State of NJ and includes acts of violence, vandalism, and HIB. This submission included student incidents from the first half of the 2023-2024 school year, along with staff training and school programs that were offered.

Budget Presentation 2024-2025 FY:

Mrs. Skwarek presented the 2024-2025 FY proposed budget. This was an extremely tough budget year due to a decrease in the District's unassigned fund balance. The District also projected a decline in tuition student enrollment and an increase in out of district student placements. Other factors including a 5.81% CPI increase affecting tuition rates and transportation costs. The District employs unionized staff who are in the top ten percent highest paid in the state, which results in a tremendous increase to both salary and benefit costs. In addition, the District was required to allocate a large share of funding to capital projects to help offset the local share of funding secured under the ROD grant. The Administrative Team worked diligently to ensure all curricular and extracurricular activities were maintained. The goal was to ensure all student programs would continue in the following year. Attached as Exhibit # 2, pages 29,193-29,196.

Mr. Pepe thanked Mrs. Becker and Mrs. Skwarek for their hard work with this budget.

MEA Report:

Ms. Kelly Crawford wanted to recognize the two teachers being approved for retirement this evening. She congratulated Dr. Minichino and Ms. Reeves. Congratulations and best of luck! She also commented on the upcoming agenda item to approve Mr. Gaskill as Superintendent effective July 1, 2024. She congratulated Mrs. Becker on her upcoming retirement and shared how lucky Mr. Gaskill has been to learn from Mrs. Becker.

Personnel Matters:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, to approve the following personnel matters:

1. Approve Ryan Gaskill as the Superintendent of Margate City School District effective July 1, 2024.
2. Approve the Superintendent's employment contract for July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027, as reviewed and approved by the Executive County Superintendent.
3. Approve the Business Administrator's employment contract for July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, as reviewed and approved by the Executive County Superintendent.
4. Approve an intermittent family leave for Kristie Cafiero starting 1/29/24 until 4/29/24.
5. Approve the Functional Capacity Examination and any associated fees for a professional physician's determination relating to an employee's ability to perform their essential job functions and their ability to return to their job responsibilities.
6. Approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar.
7. Approve Laurie Staller as a Substitute pending completion of paperwork.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Schwegman, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog #3-7, Mr. Sorensen, and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Abstentions: Mrs. Brog # 1 & 2

Instructional Support/Activities:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, to approve the following instructional support/activities:

1. SHARE: Activity list for Autism Acceptance Month. Staff: Kaitlin Roselli and other staff.
2. Approve the first grade students to experience Rizzo's Reptiles Wildlife Program on May, 17, 2024. Staff: Theresa Brennan, Christa Toner and Joanne Adams; Costs: \$875

Instructional Support/Activities (Continued):

3. Approve the 2024 English Language Summer School program to run for 19 days. Staff: Tracy Magel; Costs: Not to exceed \$3,408
4. Approve the Environmental Club beach cleanup project on April 13, 2024. Staff: Chelsi Crompton.
5. Approve Family STEM Night at Tighe School on April 10, from 5:00 pm -7:00 pm. Staff: Chelsi Crompton.
6. Approve a presentation on Autism Awareness by Kerry Magro, Ed.D. for students and staff. Costs: \$2,750

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Schwegman, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen, and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Field Trips:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, to approve the following field trips:

1. Approve Anita Grimley and 10 students to take a class trip to the Funny Farm on June 4, 2024. Staff: Anita Grimley, Lora Blanco, Mindi Ermelin, Lillian Gaskill, Kaitlin Roselli, Mark Winterbottom, Eileen Duffey; Cost: Substitute bus driver 7 hrs x \$20/hr = \$140
2. Approve the 7th grade field trip to Tree to Tree Adventure Park on May 24, 2024. Staff: Tracy Jones and Tighe Teachers as needed; Costs: Tree to Tree Admission \$1,380, \$125 Substitutes as needed, and substitute bus driver hourly rate \$20/hr x 7 hrs = \$140
3. Approve the 8th grade field trip to Stockton University to the Holocaust Resource Center and Campus Tour on April 24, 2024. Staff: Michael McMenamin, Sherry Scott, Michelle Cossaboon, Lisa Drexler; Costs: Dining Hall \$359.60 and substitutes as needed

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Schwegman, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen, and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Workshops:

Motion by Mrs. Wray-Norris, seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to approve the following workshop matters:

1. Approve Bonnie Marino to attend “Hot Issues in Education Law: 2023-2024” on February 1, 2024. Cost: \$125
2. Approve Chrissy Campbell and Kaitlin Roselli to attend the “VB-MAPP Training”

Workshops (Continued):

- webinar on March 6, 2024.
3. Approve Kaitlin Roselli to attend the NASW NJ Conference on April 15, 2024 at Hard Rock Casino. Costs: \$275 and Travel.
 4. Approve a webinar “Anxiety, Social Relationships and Processing Speed: A Guide to Understanding its Impact with Students” with Eileen Braaten, PhD at AEP Connections. Staff: Bonnie Marino, Tina Baronowitz, Lora Blanco, Nastasa Coughlin, Stephanie Curry, Barbara Farrell, Anita Grimley, Chauncey Iannone, Jacque Jones, Kaitlin Roselli and Veronica Valencia; Costs: \$125 x 11 = \$1,375 plus 5 to 6 Substitutes for ½ day each.
 5. Approve Melina Skwarek to attend the “Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting – Debriefing and Lessons Learned” training course on March 27, 2024 at Rowan College, from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Costs: Travel.
 6. Approve Matt Burton to attend the 2024 NJSBGA Conference/EXPO from March 17-20, 2024 at Harrah’s Hotel and Conference Center.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Schwegman, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen, and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Students:

Motion by Mrs. Wray-Norris, seconded by Mr. Sorensen, to approve the following student matters:

1. Approve the final determination of Ross HIB Investigation No. 2023-24-R01 and Ross HIB Investigation No. 2023-24-R02.
2. Approve home instruction for one Tighe Student effective April 8, 2024 until doctor’s clearance is received. Staff: Tighe staff as needed.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Schwegman, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen, and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, the board unanimously agreed to accept the February 7, 2024 Regular & Executive Meeting Minutes, and the February 21, 2024 Work Session Minutes.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Schwegman, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen, and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Financial Reports:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, to accept the Secretary's Financial Reports for the month of January 2024 as attached to these minutes and certifying that no budgetary account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(a). See Exhibit # 3, pages 29,197 - 29,220. The Secretary's Report agrees with the Report of Receipts and Disbursements.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Schwegman, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen, and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Board of Education Certification:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11, the Margate City Board of Education certifies that as of January 31, 2024 after review of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Reports (Revenue and Appropriation Sections) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that to the best of our knowledge there have been no changes in anticipated revenue sources and/or amounts and no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)2-3 so that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Schwegman, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen, and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Bills and Payrolls:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, to approve the payment of bills and payrolls, as listed on Exhibit # 4, pages 29,221 - 29,240.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Schwegman, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen, and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Transfer of Funds:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, to approve the following Transfer of Funds:

Transfer of Funds within the General Current Expense Account

Ratified Budget Transfers for 2023-2024

TO:	11-000-217-320-00-00-010	STUDENT SERVICES	\$35,000.00
		TOTAL	\$35,000.00
FROM:	11-000-217-320-00-00-025	STUDENT SERVICES	\$35,000.00
		TOTAL	\$35,000.00

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Schwegman, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen, and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Report of Receipts and Disbursements:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, to accept the Report of Receipts and Disbursements for the month of January 2024, attached as Exhibit # 5, pages 29,241 – 29,251.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Schwegman, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen, and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Cash Report:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, to accept the Cash Report for the month of January 2024, attached as Exhibit # 6, page 29,252.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Schwegman, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen, and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, to approve the following new business:

- A. Approve submission of the proposed 2024-2025 Margate City School District Budget to the Atlantic County Executive Superintendent for review.
- B. Approve a resolution fixing the sum to be raised by Local Tax Levy for the 2024-2025 School District budget. Attached as Exhibit # 7, page 29,253.
- C. Approve a resolution to set maximum travel expenditure limits as required by Section 15, Chapter 53, P. L. 2007. Attached as Exhibit # 8, page 29,254.
- D. Approve a resolution to set maximum dollar limits for professional services for the 2024-2025 school year as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23A 5.2. Attached as Exhibit # 9, page 29,255.
- E. Approve the need for \$178,109 of banked cap to be included in the base budget tax levy allocation, to supplement a portion of the local share of the ROD Grant. This must be completed by the end of the 2024-2025 budget year and cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.
- F. Approve a cap adjustment for increase in health care costs for the 2024-2025 budget year in the amount of \$16,940.
- G. Approve a tuition contract with Longport Board of Education for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$827,306 plus a tuition adjustment for the 2022-2023 school year of (\$7,456) for a total cost of \$819,850 calculated as follows:

Grade Level	Student #	Tuition Rate	Budgeted Revenue
Preschool Disabled	1	\$32,458	\$32,458
Kindergarten	3	\$24,470	\$73,410
Grades 1-5	15	\$25,958	\$389,370
Grades 6-8	11	\$30,188	\$332,068
Total	30		\$827,306
Plus/Minus Tuition Adjustment			\$ (7,456)
Budgeted Total			\$819,850

- H. Approve a tuition contract with Atlantic City Board of Education for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$734,481 for regular education students and \$228,593 for special education students less a tuition adjustment for the 2022-2023 school year of (534,045) for a total cost of \$429,029:

New Business (Continued):

Grade Level	Student #	Tuition Rate	Budgeted Expense
Grades 9-12	33	\$22,257	\$734,481
Resource	7	\$32,656	\$228,593
Total	40		\$963,074
Plus/Minus Tuition Adjustment			<u>\$ (534,045)</u>
Budgeted Total			\$429,029

- I. Approve a tuition contract with the Atlantic County Vocational School Board of Education for the 2024-2025 school year for 9 students to attend the Academy Program at a cost of \$3,300 per student and 1 special education students at a cost of \$5,000 per student less a tuition adjustment from the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of (\$3,511) for a total cost of \$31,189.
- J. Approve resolution to appoint Siracusa Kaufmann Insurance Agency as the Risk Management Consultant for the 2024-2025 school year with compensation for services rendered equal to 4% of the district’s annual assessment.
- K. Approve a service contract with Ascend Construction Management, Inc. for doorway arch lintel repair and masonry work at the Tighe School in the amount of approximately \$7,000 (ESCNJ Co-op #65MCESCCPS; Job Order Contracting #20/21-03).
- L. Approve a service contract with Murray Paving and Concrete, LLC. to install protective barriers/sanctions at the Tighe School in the amount of \$11,999.62 (ESCNJ Co-op #65MCESCCPS; Job Order Contracting #22/23-03).
- M. Approve a service contract for elevator services and preventative maintenance with Schindler Elevator Corporation, in the amount of approximately \$4,800 annually (NJ State Contract 20-GNSV2-01121 T2946).

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Schwegman #A-G & #J-M, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen, and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Abstentions: Mr. Schwegman #H & I

Other Matters:

Motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mr. Palmisano, to approve the following other matters:

- A. Share the findings of Ross HIB Investigation No. 202324-R03.

Other Matters (Continued):

- B. Approve Melina Skwarek, Ryan Gaskill, and Audrey Becker to attend “Reunification Planning – Preparing for the Unexpected” on March 21, 2024. Costs: Travel.
- C. Approve the following new job description: Child Study Secretary/Secretary to the Principal.
- D. Approve to accept the retirement of Mario Minichino as of June 30, 2024.
- E. Approve Tina Baronowitz to attend “Climate Change at Alstede Farms Harvest Hall” on March 18, 2024. Costs: Substitute.
- F. Approve the Atlantic City High School Robotics Club visit to our 6th grade computer science classes on Friday, March 8, 2024. Staff: Mario Minichino.
- G. Approve to accept the retirement of Kimberly Reeves as of October 1, 2024.
- H. Approve the Student Council Cereal Drive to support Jewish Family Services. Staff: Danielle Ujcich and Tracy Magel.
- I. Approve Faces for Autism activities for Tighe School during the month of April: Wear Blue Mondays and Ribbon Pretzel Sale. Staff: Jacque Jones.
- J. Approve Lisa Drexler and Kristie Cafiero to attend the virtual PD “The Intersection of Reading and Writing” on March 11, 2024 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Schwegman, Mr. Palmisano, Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, Mrs. Wray-Norris, Mrs. Brog, Mr. Sorensen, and Mr. Pepe

Nays: None

Public Comment:

No members of the community commented.

Executive Session:

Upon motion by Mrs. Gomes-Chapman, seconded by Mrs. Brog, the board unanimously approved the following resolution at 6:42 P.M.:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 requires adoption of a resolution of the Board to go into Executive Session;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, New Jersey Title 18A and the Margate City Board of Education Bylaw No. 9322 hereby enters Executive Session to discuss the following matters:

- Potential Litigation

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the minutes of this Executive Session shall be made public following formal action by the Board and/or at the conclusion of any investigation(s), due process proceeding, or litigation, so long as not prohibited by law and so long as the need for maintaining confidentiality no longer exists.

Upon motion by Mrs. Wray-Norris, seconded by Mr. Sorensen, the board unanimously agreed to reconvene the regular meeting at 7:15 P.M.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Mrs. Brog, seconded by Mrs. Wray-Norris, the board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 7:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melina Skwarek
Board Secretary/School Business Administrator