

Sussex-Wantage Regional School District  
November 16, 2023  
Special Session Meeting

The Special Session Meeting of the Sussex-Wantage Regional School District Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Nick D'Agostino, Board President, on November 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sussex Middle Media Center.

**Roll Call**

Roll Call

Members Present: Mrs. Kristen Cooper-Trinidad, Ms. Courtney deWaal Malefyt, Mrs. Taylor Dely, Mrs. Brittney Simmons, Mrs. Stephanie Tortorella, Mrs. Dorothy Witte, Mrs. Danielle Zill-Barry and Mr. Nicholas D'Agostino

Members Absent: Mrs. Alissa Cecchini

Also in attendance were: Mr. Michael Gall, Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Christina M. Riker, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**The following statement was read by Mr. D'Agostino**

Open Public Meetings Act

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Sussex Wantage Regional School District Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the school buildings and notice of said meeting sent to the New Jersey Herald and The Star Ledger.

Mrs. Witte read the Sussex Wantage School Mission Statement: The Sussex Wantage Regional School District is a responsive, caring, child-centered community. Our mission is to educate each individual to become a confident, competent, lifelong learner and productive, responsible citizen, by providing challenging opportunities in a safe environment through a partnership of families, schools and communities.

Mission Statement

**Superintendent's Report:**

Superintendent Report

- Mr. Gall stated that he will report out at the Regular Session Meeting on November 30, 2023. He thanked the Board for coming out tonight for this Special Meeting.

**Audience Remarks:**

Audience Remarks

- None

**Personnel:**

Personnel

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve the following substitute teachers, nurses, teacher assistants, secretaries,

Substitute Approval

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bus drivers, and custodians as listed for the 2023-2024 school year.\*

Teacher  
Brooke Chiusano

Custodian  
Glenn Eisenecker  
Isaac Schuman  
Jonathan Stephens

(\*All new substitutes and appointments are required to comply with State Statute regarding fingerprinting, security checks and appropriate legal agency clearance, and also Federal Employment)

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board accept the retirement of Rosemary Teufert, Special Education Teacher, Sussex Middle School, effective January 01, 2024, with thanks for over 32 years of service to the District.

Retirement

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board accept the resignation of Alyssa Gould, 3.5 hour Special Education Teacher Assistant, Wantage School, effective October 30, 2023.

Resignation

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board terminate the employment of employee # [REDACTED] effective November 03, 2023.

Termination

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve Cassandra Arias, Social Worker, C.E. Lawrence School, MA, Step 2, \$61,796.00 (prorated) effective January 02, 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year.

New Hire –  
CEL Social  
Worker

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve Krista Feldmann, PreSchool Teacher, C.E. Lawrence school, BA, Step 1, \$57,546.00 (prorated) effective January 02, 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year.

New Hire –  
Preschool  
Teacher

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve Kristina Ulrich, Relief Teacher/Physical Education Preschool Teacher, C.E. Lawrence school, BA, Step 1, \$57,546.00 (prorated) effective January 02, 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year.

New Hire –  
PE Preschool  
Teacher/  
Relief  
Teacher

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve the transfer of Jeanette Leggour from Part-Time Central Office Secretary to the position of Transportation Coordinator effective December 01, 2023 at the

Transfer to  
Transp.

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amount of \$56,000.00 (prorated) for the 2023-2024 school year.  
Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Coordinator

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve additional hours as needed to be submitted via voucher for Jeanette Leggour to shadow and train for the position of Transportation Coordinator effective October 31, 2023 through November 30, 2023 at her hourly rate.  
Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Additional  
Training  
Hours –  
Transp.  
Coordinator

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve the following CARE Personnel for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year:

2023-2024  
CARE  
Personnel

Sabrina Gamutan	Teacher - After Care	\$23.00 per hour
Sabrina Gamutan	Teacher - Before Care (as needed)	\$23.00 per hour

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve the following personnel for additional hour(s) of attendance to fulfill IEP requirements as follows at their regular hourly rate of pay unless otherwise noted:

Additional  
Hours – TAs

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Add'l Hours Worked</u>	<u>Add'l Time</u>
Christine Kymer	10/20/23	2:15pm - 3:30pm	1.0 hour, 15 minutes
Melissa Stoll	10/23/23	9:00am - 9:30am	30 minutes
Elizabeth VanHorn	10/24/23	8:30am - 9:30am	1.0 hour
Alexa Cunningham	10/24/23	2:30pm - 3:30pm	1.0 hour
Melissa Stoll	10/24/23	9:00am - 9:30am	30 minutes
Elizabeth VanHorn	10/25/23	8:30am - 9:30am	1.0 hour
Elizabeth VanHorn	10/31/23	8:30am - 9:30am	1.0 hour
McKenzie Crowell	11/02/23	8:30am - 9:30am	1.0 hour
Elizabeth VanHorn	11/08/23	8:30am - 9:30am	1.0 hour
Stephanie Danner	11/08/23	2:30pm - 3:30pm	1.0 hour

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve Susan Vecharello, Assistant to the BA, for a \$100.00 salary increase for 6 college credits earned, effective December 01, 2023.  
Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

College  
Credits  
Earned

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve the following student teacher assignment as follows:

2023-2024  
Student  
Teacher

<u>Student/College</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Co-op Teacher</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
Danielle Gangemi	Student Teaching/	Gerda Bakker	January 2 -
Western Governors University	Field Experience		March 30, 2024

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

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Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve the following personnel to fulfill IEP requirements for students participating in field trips as follows below. To be paid at regular hourly rate of pay; additional hours are not paid if activity does not occur or if the student is not present.

Field Trip TAs

Date	Name	Additional Hours	Field Trip
10/31/23	Susan McIntyre	12:00pm - 1:00pm 1.0 hour	High Point State Park

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve the following personnel to fulfill IEP requirements for students participating in after school activities as follows below. Stipend rate is \$16.00 per hour. No stipend is paid if activity does not occur or if the student is not present.

Afterschool TAs

Date(s)	Name	Additional Hours	After School Activity
10/26/23	Hope Malone	3:30pm - 6:00pm 2.5 hours	SMS Bowling Club
11/14/23	Laura Lau	5:00pm - 8:00pm 3.0 hours	TREP\$ at SMS
11/14/23	Jennifer Beco	5:00pm - 8:00pm 3.0 hours	TREP\$ at SMS
11/14/23	Annette Notaro	5:00pm - 8:00pm 3.0 hours	TREP\$ at SMS
12/05/23	Courtney Decker	6:25pm - 8:30pm 2 hours, 5 minutes	Grade 4 Winter Concert Rehearsal and Performance
12/05/23	Christine Kymer	6:25pm - 8:30pm 2 hours, 5 minutes	Grade 4 Winter Concert Rehearsal and Performance
12/05/23	Susan Rome	6:25pm - 8:30pm 2 hours, 5 minutes	Grade 4 Winter Concert Rehearsal and Performance
12/05/23	Brianna Space	6:25pm - 8:30pm 2 hours, 5 minutes	Grade 4 Winter Concert Rehearsal and Performance

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

It is recommended that the Board approve the salary allocations for grants as

2023-2024 Salary

follows for the 2023-2024 school year:

Allocations to Grants

**Lawrence Elementary School:**

<u>Employee Name</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Full Salary</u>	<u>Grant Salary</u>	<u>Grant Percent</u>
Arminda Wunder	IDEA - PS	\$20,672	\$10,753	52.02%
Jenna Rohel	IDEA - PS	\$20,422	\$10,753	52.65%
Sara Maas	ESEA-Title IA	\$90,366	\$10,000	11.07%
Carla Kubrin	ESEA-Title IA	\$60,051	\$10,000	16.65%
Angela Wagner	ESEA-Title IA	\$97,466	\$10,000	10.26%
Mariola Lawrence	ESEA-Title IA	\$72,701	\$10,000	13.75%
Christine Mazzarella	ESEA-Title IA	\$89,966	\$10,000	11.12%

**Wantage Elementary School:**

<u>Employee Name</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Full Salary</u>	<u>Grant Salary</u>	<u>Grant Percent</u>
Lisa Van Wyk	ESEA-Title IA	\$62,105	\$8,500	13.69%
Danuta Wolak	ESEA-Title IA	\$65,296	\$8,500	12.89%
Kathleen Madison	ESEA-Title IA	\$75,366	\$8,500	11.28%
Donna Puizina	ESEA-Title IA	\$33,494	\$8,500	21.87%

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board amend the resolution approved at the June 29, 2023 Regular Session Meeting:

Amend  
Bowling Club  
Moderators  
WES

Approved: Danuta Wolak WES Bowling Club Moderator \$985.00

As follows:

Danuta Wolak WES Bowling Club Moderator \$591.00  
Lori Suyker WES Bowling Club Moderator \$394.00

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve Employee # [REDACTED] for a continuous, non-FMLA/NJFLA leave of absence, utilizing accumulated sick leave, from November 30, 2023 to January 01, 2024. Anticipated return to work date is January 02, 2024.

Non-FMLA/  
NJFLA LOA

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Moved by Ms. deWaal Malefyt, seconded by Mrs. Tortorella that the Board approve Sara Hernandez, Preschool Teacher, C.E. Lawrence School, BA, Step 1, \$57,546.00 (prorated) effective January 02, 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year. Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

New Hire –  
Preschool  
Teacher

Moved by Ms. deWaal Malefyt, seconded by Mrs. Tortorella that the Board approve the following transfers for the 2023-2024 school year effective January 02, 2024:

2023-2024  
Staff  
Transfers

Name	From	at School	To	at School
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Katherine Gomez	Resource Room	CEL	Preschool Instructional Coach	CEL
Harriet Anderson	School Nurse	CEL	Preschool School Nurse	CEL

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Moved by Ms. deWaal Malefyt, seconded by Mrs. Tortorella that the Board approve Kristin Woodell, School Nurse, C.E. Lawrence School, BA, Step 1, \$57,546.00 (prorated) effective January 02, 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year.  
Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

New Hire –  
CEL School  
Nurse

Moved by Ms. deWaal Malefyt, seconded by Mrs. Tortorella that the Board approve Alexis Sugar, Special Education Teacher, C.E. Lawrence School, BA, Step 1, \$57,546.00 (prorated) effective January 02, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year.  
Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

New Hire –  
CEL Spec Ed  
Teacher

Moved by Ms. deWaal Malefyt, seconded by Mrs. Tortorella that the Board approve the following personnel for additional hour(s) of attendance to fulfill IEP requirements as follows at their regular hourly rate of pay unless otherwise noted:

Additional  
Hours – TAs

Name	Date	Add'l Hours Worked	Add'l Time
Melissa Stoll	11/14/23	8:30am - 9:30am	1.0 hour
Amanda Keith	11/16/23	8:30am - 9:00am	30 minutes
Elizabeth VanHorn	11/16/23	8:30am - 9:30am	1.0 hour

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Moved by Ms. deWaal Malefyt, seconded by Mrs. Tortorella It is recommended that the Board approve the following personnel to fulfill IEP requirements for students participating in after school activities as follows below. Stipend rate is \$16.00 per hour. No stipend is paid if activity does not occur or if the student is not present.

Afterschool  
TAs

Date(s)	Name	Additional Hours	After School Activity
12/14/23	Sarah Bakonyi	6:15pm - 8:30pm 2 hours, 15 minutes	SMS Choir Concert

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

Moved by Ms. deWaal Malefyt, seconded by Mrs. Tortorella that the Board approve the following Substitute Custodians for two (2) hours of orientation at each of the schools, not to exceed six (6) hours total at the sub Custodian rate of pay:

Sub  
Custodian  
Training  
Hours

Glenn Eisenecker  
Isaac Schuman  
Jonathan Stephens

Carried; Yes 8, No 0, Absent 1

**Unfinished Business:**

Unfinished  
Business

- None

**New Business:**

New Business

- Mrs. Witte thanked Mrs. Teufert for her years of service and wished her luck in her retirement.
- Mrs. Witte said that she attended TREPS last Tuesday night and it was “awesome” and more crowded than ever.

**Executive Session:**

Executive  
Session

WHEREAS, this Board is authorized, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 to exclude the public from that portion of this meeting for purposes of discussing specific matters as permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12; and,

WHEREAS, this Board intends to discuss certain matters which are deemed confidential pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, in Executive Session,

WHEREAS, at this time the Board cannot determine the time when the discussion to be held in Executive Session will be made public, but will disclose the minutes of the Executive Session when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Sussex Wantage Regional Board of Education that this meeting shall be adjourned to an Executive Session (closed session) and the public will be excluded in order that the Board may discuss the items listed below, and upon reconvening this public meeting the Board President will announce, if possible, the time when and the circumstances under which the discussion conducted in Executive Session will be disclosed to the public. This resolution is authorized and allowed by and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-13.

The general nature of the subject to be discussed per N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 (a):

Legal & Student Matters – HIB Appeal

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board go into executive session at 7:05 pm. Mr. D’Agostino advised the public that the Board would be in executive session for approximately forty-five (45) minutes and that no action would be taken afterwards.

The Board returned to public session at 8:32 pm.

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Ms. deWaal Malefyt to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm.

Adjourn-  
Ment

Respectfully submitted,



Christina M. Riker  
Board Secretary