

Sussex-Wantage Regional School District
September 28, 2023
Regular Session Meeting

The Regular Session Meeting of the Sussex-Wantage Regional School District Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Nick D'Agostino, Board President, on September 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sussex Middle School Media Center.

Roll Call

Roll Call

Members Present: Mrs. Alissa Cecchini, Mrs. Kristen Cooper-Trinidad , Mrs. Taylor Dely, Mrs. Brittney Simmons, Mrs. Dorothy Witte, Mrs. Danielle Zill-Barry and Mr. Nicholas D'Agostino

Members Absent: Ms. Courtney deWaal Malefyt, Mrs. Stephanie Tortorella

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

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

Sussex Middle School Students of the Month:

- 6th grade - Colton McDole
- 7th grade – Madaline Guddemi
- 8th grade – Samantha Sales

Mr. Schwarz was joined by Mr. Gall and Mr. D'Agostino. He reported that besides Students of the Month, Sussex Middle School would be looking to also have Students of the Week this school year. Mr. Schwarz gave brief introductions of each of the students, including staff reasons for selection. All students were in attendance and came forward to receive a certificate of recognition.

Mr. Gall reported on the following to the Board and Public:

- Mr. Gall thanked everyone for their efforts throughout the beginning of the school year. He said it is much appreciated. He also thanked all of our stakeholders and administrators for hosting successful Back to School Nights. He said they were all well attended.
- Policy Committee met:
 - For the Board's consideration are modifications to a few policies relative to the prevention of allergic reactions and to prohibit the consumption of highly caffeinated drinks or drinks with warning labels for minors on our campus
- Curriculum & Special Services Committee met:
 - Parents and guardians will be receiving state assessment information in the near future.
 - Special thanks to Mrs. Themelakis for her efforts in preparing for our October 9th Professional Development.
 - At Lawrence – School Culture and Climate Project
 - Every month is a pep rally with cleanliness, red and green choices, “marshmallow marching” and compliment cards are being given out. Rewards include pom-poms and extra recess.
 - Our Special Services department has been working diligently to fill open Teacher Assistant positions. If anyone is interested in being a Teacher Assistant, please submit an application via our website through Applitrack.
- Mr. Gall reported that there are a few trees at Lawrence that need to come down. One out by Ryan Road needs to be removed. The front spruce tree needs to be pruned back significantly or removed due to obstruction of the security camera. Mr. Gall asked for thoughts on the tree that is overhead on the playground closest to the monkey bars. He is unaware of any significance of any of the trees in question, but asked the public if they had any other information to get in touch with him.

Audience
Remarks

Audience Remarks:

- Mr. D'Agostino wanted to remind the public that what he posts on his personal page does not represent the Board of Education. He said Board members each have their own opinion. He said he does “apologize” for his post being taken out of context, but says “I know my heart and will do better in the future”.
- Leah Gunther, Wantage, recounted a story that Mr. Gregory shared in Mrs. Speck's retirement speech about starfish and making a difference. She asked why the transportation department and administration do not want to make a difference. She said that as Mr. Retz said no one should have stops at their home. She wanted to know why the district is doing the bare minimum. She also said her mom rerouted her route so that no one would have to cross the streets. She said that not all bus changes should have to wait for the audit. She feels that she should be protected and has spoken to members of the community and has 1,500 signatures to move the bus stop. She has also spoken to five (5) families and they are fine with the additional ten (10) minutes that would be added. She said that Krapf has

also said that they would come and get them. She asked the Board to look at her bus stop again and she believes that the Board can make a difference.

- Mr. D'Agostino thanked her for her comments.
- Mary Cafarelli, Wantage, asked about items # 14 and # 15 on the agenda and what was a Quasi Entity. Mrs. Riker answered that these were entities acting on behalf of the district and naming them as a Quasi Entity of the District is for insurance coverage and is required. Ms. Cafarelli also said that she went online over the summer to look at minutes and they were behind. She said she called the office and no one called her back. She then said she emailed Superintendent and he told her to watch the videos. She said the minutes are up to date now and hope this continues.
- Michael Johnson, Wantage, lives on Greenville Road. He said he has two (2) daughters that have gone through the school system and the bus used to go down there. He said there is no reason it cannot be the same again.
- Lisa Fahrenfeld, SWEA President, reported that SWEA just supported the first public event for PRIDE. This was the Woodbourne 5K race and the PRIDE committee donated \$500 to that. This was the first of multiple events to support the community.
- Jeffrey Korger, Franklin, said he had the pleasure of interviewing with Mr. Gall for the Security Guard position. He said he is retired Franklin Borough Police Officer after twenty-five (25) years. He wanted to come tonight as he is on agenda for approval and wanted to introduce himself.
- Barbara Hollstein, Montague, here as a private citizen and not Board President or Bus Driver. She said she is currently taking a class on routing and that all districts use a routing software. She said that the Gunthers have been asking for a bus stop change since August and have been told "no". Ms. Hollstein said that the bus stop is not safe and does not meet the two (2) criteria for a safe stop. One is a safe place to stand and the other is enough sight distance for others to stop for bus. She said that the decision is "arbitrary and capricious". She ended by staying that "I won't stop for this family until we are in front of a judge".
- Lisa, Wantage, said she came here hoping to have more of a resolution. On 9/19/23 she was asked to meet Nick D'Agostino and two (2) other candidates. She said we are now confused about transparency as they were told that the bus stop was going to be on agenda and that he said he is President and creates the agenda. Mr. D'Agostino said that he would speak to the Board and if they agreed it would be on the agenda.
- Mr. D'Agostino said "let me be clear, the Board's consensus is to continue with current routes, so it will not change".

Board Secretary Certification – read by Mrs. Riker

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(a), I certify that as of August 31, 2023 no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(a).

Board
Secretary
Certification

Approval of Board Minutes:

Approval of
Board
Minutes

Moved by Mrs. Cecchini, seconded by Mrs. Dely that the Board approve following minutes:

August 31, 21023 Regular & Executive Session

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Personnel

Personnel:

Substitute
Approval

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve the following substitute teachers, nurses, teacher assistants, secretaries, bus drivers, and custodians as listed for the 2023-2024 school year.*

Teacher

Carrie Conklin
Sarah Losee

Teacher Assistant

Shadia Aladham
Carrie Conklin
Sarah Losee
Karolee Murphy

Secretary

Karolee Murphy

(*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 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board accept the resignation of Kelsey O’Connell, Guidance Counselor, Sussex Middle School, effective November 08, 2023.

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Resignation –
SMS
Guidance

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board accept the resignation of Robert Osborn, part-time Security Guard, Wantage School, effective September 14, 2023.

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Resignation –
PT Security
Guard

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board accept the resignation of William Gebhard, full-time Security Guard, Sussex Middle School, effective September 26, 2023.

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Resignation –
FT Security
Guard

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board accept the resignation of Natalie Ludwig, 5.5 hour Special Education Teacher Assistant,

Resignation –
5.5 TA WES

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Wantage School, effective September 18, 2023.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board accept the resignation of Elyse Schear, 3.5 hour Special Education Teacher Assistant, Wantage School, effective September 21, 2023.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Resignation –
3.5 TA WES

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve Alexis Dillon, 5.5 hour Special Education Teacher Assistant, C.E. Lawrence School, Step 1, \$18.90 per hour, effective September 18, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year. Shift is 9:30am to 3:30pm with ½ hour unpaid lunch.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

New Hire –
5.5 TA CEL

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve Gretchen Miller for a transfer from a 3.5 hour Special Education Teacher Assistant, C.E. Lawrence School, to a 5.5 hour Special Education Teacher Assistant, Wantage School, effective September 14, 2023 at no change in rate of pay. Shift is 9:30am to 3:30pm with a ½ hour unpaid lunch.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Transfer to
5.5 TA WES

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve Shadia Aladham, 3.5 hour Special Education Teacher Assistant, C.E. Lawrence School, Step 1, \$18.90 per hour, effective September 19, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year. Shift is 12:00pm to 3:30pm.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

New Hire –
3.5 TA CEL

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve Alyssa Gould, 3.5 hour Special Education Teacher Assistant, Wantage School, Step 1, \$18.90 per hour, effective September 25, 2023, for the 2023-2024 school year. Shift is 8:30am to 12:00pm.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

New Hire –
3.5 TA WES

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve Kimberly Robine for a transfer from a 3.5 hour Special Education Teacher Assistant, C.E. Lawrence School, to a 5.5 hour Special Education Teacher Assistant, Wantage School, effective September 25, 2023 at no change in rate of pay. Shift is 9:00am to 3:00pm with a ½ hour unpaid lunch.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Transfer to
5.5 TA WES

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve Jeffrey Korgor, full-time Security Guard, Sussex Middle School, \$29.59 per hour, effective upon receipt of fingerprint clearance, for the 2023-2024 school year.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

New Hire –
FT Security
Guard

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve the following personnel for co-curricular and extracurricular activities at Sussex Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:

SMS 2023-
2024 Co-
Curricular

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	Name	Activity	Stipend
	Kayla Gunes	Ski Club Moderator	\$ 985.00
Remove:	Ashley Torlucci	TREP\$ Moderator	\$ 985.00
Add:	Eileen Potts	TREP\$ Moderator	\$ 985.00
	David Anderson	Detention Monitor	\$ 40.00/hour
	Jade McCarthy	Detention Monitor	\$ 40.00/hour

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, 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 TA Hours

Name	Date	Add'l Hours Worked	Add'l Time
Jennifer Beco	09/15/23	2:30pm - 3:30pm	1.0 hour
Jennifer Beco	09/25/23	2:30pm - 3:30pm	1.0 hour

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve the following dates for the 2024 Extended School Year (ESY) Program:

2024 ESY Dates

Week 1	Monday - Thursday	July 08 - July 11, 2024
Week 2	Monday - Thursday	July 15 - July 18, 2024
Week 3	Monday - Thursday	July 22 - July 25, 2024
Week 4	Monday - Thursday	July 29 - August 01, 2024

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

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

2023-2024 Student Teacher Assignments

Student/College	Purpose	Co-op Teacher	Date(s)
Maria Johnson/ Marywood College	10 hours Observation/ Field Experience	Laura Aroune	October 06 - November 03, 2023

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve the following staff for the CARE Program for the 2023-2024 school year:

2023-2024 CARE Staff

Debra Card	Sub Teacher
Paige Riker	Sub Teacher - PM
Deborah Roberts	Sub Teacher
Adrian White	Sub Teacher
Lori Suyker	Teacher - PM

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve the revision of the following resolution that was approved at the June 29, 2023 Board of Education meeting:

Revise FMLA/NJFLA LOA

It is recommended that the Board approve [REDACTED], Teacher, Wantage School, for a continuous, FMLA designated leave of absence beginning September 05, 2023 until on or about October 10, 2023, utilizing accumulated sick days. This will be followed by a continuous, unpaid NJFLA and FMLA designated leave of absence beginning October 11, 2023 until November 28, 2023. This will be followed by a continuous, unpaid NJFLA designated leave from November 29, 2023 until January 17, 2024. Anticipated return to work date is January 18, 2024.

To read as follows:

It is recommended that the Board approve [REDACTED], Teacher, Wantage School, for a continuous, FMLA designated leave of absence beginning September 05, 2023 until October 25, 2023, utilizing accumulated leave. This will be followed by a continuous, NJFLA designated leave of absence beginning October 26, 2023 until November 15, 2023, utilizing accumulated leave. This will be followed by a continuous, unpaid NJFLA designated leave from November 16, 2023 until January 18, 2024. Anticipated return to work date is January 19, 2024. Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve [REDACTED], Teacher, Sussex Middle School, for a continuous, FMLA designated leave of absence beginning on or about November 27, 2023 through December 22, 2023 utilizing accumulated leave. This will be followed by a continuous, unpaid NJFLA leave of absence beginning on January 02, 2024 until February 28, 2024. This will be followed by a continuous, unpaid, non-FMLA/NJFLA designated leave of absence from February 29, 2025 to April 23, 2024. Anticipated return to work date is April 24, 2024. Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

FMLA/NJFLA
LOA

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve the following substitute teachers, nurses, teacher assistants, secretaries, bus drivers, and custodians as listed for the 2023-2024 school year.*

Substitute
Approval

Teacher Assistant
Bernadette Angolemmo

Custodian
Dylan DelGuidice

(*All new substitutes and appointments are subject to compliance with all State Statute regarding fingerprinting, background checks and P.L. 2018, c.5)
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve Bernadette Angolemmo, 3.5 hour Special Education Teacher Assistant, Wantage School, Step 1, \$18.90 per hour, effective September 28, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year. Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

New Hire –
3.5 TA WES

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board

New Hire –

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approve Haley Flores, 5.5 hour Special Education Teacher Assistant, Wantage School, Step 1, \$18.90 per hour, effective October 12, 2023. Shift is TBD.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

5.5 TA WES

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve Harriet Anderson, School Nurse, C.E. Lawrence School, for a move on guide from BA+20, Step 14, \$83,366.00 to MA, Step 14, \$85,616.00 effective September 1, 2023.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

MOG

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, 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.

TA for Field Trips

Date	Name	Additional Hours	Field Trip
09/29/23	Rebecca Andersen	1.5 hours	Hillcrest Farms
09/29/23	Loriann Clarke	30 minutes	Hillcrest Farms
09/29/23	Abigail Link	30 minutes	Hillcrest Farms
09/29/23	Arminda Wunder	30 minutes	Hillcrest Farms
09/29/23	Miranda Yanish	30 minutes	Hillcrest Farms

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, 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.

TA for Afterschool Activities

Date(s)	Name	Additional Hours	After School Activity
10/05, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26/23	Diane DeGroat	3:30pm - 6:00pm	SMS Bowling Club
12/14/23	Jennifer Beco	6:15pm - 8:30pm 2 hours, 15 mins	SMS Band/Chorus Concert

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

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Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, 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:

TA Additional Hours

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Add'l Hours Worked</u>	<u>Add'l Time</u>
Jennifer Beco	09/26/23	2:30pm - 3:30pm	1.0 hour
Hope Malone	09/29/23	8:30am - 9:30pm	1.0 hour

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve Randi Cosh, Play/Cafe Aide, C.E. Lawrence school, \$15.33 per hour and for the additional shift of Special Education Teacher Assistant, C.E. Lawrence School, 1:00pm to 3:45pm, \$18.90 per hour, effective September 27, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year.

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Increase Hours CEL Play/Café & TA

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve the following teachers for the Learning/School Culture Acceleration Program "Achievement Academy" at the rate of \$40.00/hour. Maximum hours and compensation listed below. The program begins approximately October 09, 2023, and concludes approximately January 22, 2024. ***This is to be funded by grant funding (Fund 20) as available.***

Learning/School Culture "Achievement Academy"

Academic		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Max # of Hours</u>	<u>Max Compensation</u>
Susan Winfield	15	\$600.00
Julie Vysotsky	15	\$600.00
Leslie Coolong	15	\$600.00
Tracy Ison	15	\$600.00

Enrichment		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Max # of Hours</u>	<u>Max Compensation</u>
Janell Kallimanis	15	\$600.00
Jade McCarthy	15	\$600.00
Jennifer Apolito	15	\$600.00
Theresa Whitty	15	\$600.00
Alexandra Fairweather	15	\$600.00
Laura Aroune	15	\$600.00
Douglas Vince	15	\$600.00
Kristy Hums	15	\$600.00
Angela Silletti-Cayer	15	\$600.00

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad, seconded by Mrs. Zill-Barry that the Board approve Vanessa Garcia, School Guidance Counselor, Sussex Middle School, MA, Step 1, \$61,296.00 (prorated), effective date November 02, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year.

New Hire – SMS Guidance Counselor

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Policy

Policy:

Second Reading

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approves on Second Reading the following Policies and Regulations:

a	Policy & Reg 1642.01	Sick Leave (New)
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Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve the submission and certification of the School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for the 2022-23 school year.

School Self-Assessment for 2022-2023 School Year

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Cooper –Trinidad, seconded by Mrs. Simmons that the Board approve the following resolution:

HIB Approval

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received the Superintendent’s report of incident(s) of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying (“HIB”) within the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board has had the opportunity to review the Superintendent’s recommendations with respect to the incident(s) of HIB on this report;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board accepts the Superintendent’s recommendations as presented on the report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(d), the Superintendent of Schools, and/or his designee, has informed the applicable parents/guardians of the students involved in these incidents with the following information within five (5) days of this Board meeting:

- The nature of the investigation;
- Whether the District found evidence of HIB;
- Whether discipline was imposed;
- Whether services were provided to address the incident of HIB.

Presented to the Board for first review:

WES #1 2023-2024

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Cooper –Trinidad, seconded by Mrs. Simmons that the Board approves on First Reading the following Policies and Regulations:

First Reading

a	Policy 8505	Wellness Policy/Nutrient Standards (Revised)
b	Policy 5331	Anaphylaxis to Food and Other Substances (Revised)

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Finance:

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Zill-Barry that the Board approve the final salary payment for the month of August 2023 in the amount of \$141,872.60 as reviewed and as per the attached check register. Be it further noted that the breakdown by category is as follows: (F1)

Fixed	\$	0.00
Operating	\$	0.00
Salaries	\$	141,872.60
Special	\$	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$	141,872.60

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Zill-Barry that the Board approve the payment of bills for September 1 through September 28, 2023 in the amount of \$1,818,230.21 as reviewed and as per the attached check register. Be it further noted that the breakdown by category is as follows: (F2)

Fixed	\$	557,495.54
Operating	\$	332,155.39
Salaries	\$	782,679.97
Special	\$	<u>145,899.31</u>
Total	\$	1,818,230.21

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, we the Trustees of the Sussex-Wantage Regional Board of Education, having reviewed the reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of Monies, certify that no major account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, for the period ending July 31, 2023.

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Zill-Barry that the Board accept the Treasurer's Report and Board Secretary's Report for the month of July 2023.

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Zill-Barry that the Board approve the attached Transfers for the month of July 2023. (F5)

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Zill-Barry that the Board approve

Finance

Bills List –
End of August
2023

Bills List –
September
2023

Board
Secretary/
Treasurer
Report July
2023

Transfers –
July 2023

PD - Travel

professional day travel, pursuant to policies 0147, 0147A, 3440, and 4440 as per the attached. (F6)

Carried; Yes 4, No 0, Absent 2, Abstain 3 (Dely, Witte, D'Agostino)

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Zill-Barry that the Board approve an Out of District Agreement for Service (as per settlement agreement OAL Docket No. EDS-07622-2023S) for student # [REDACTED] with SEARCH Consulting, LLC (aka Search Learning Group), effective September 27, 2023 through June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$680.00 per day.

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Settlement Agreement – OOD Search Consulting

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Zill-Barry that the Board approve a 2023-2024 Joint Transportation Agreement with Camden County Educational Services Commission (CCESC) in the amount of \$45,000.00 as follows:

2023-2024 Joint Transp. Agreement – CCESC

School Year: **2023 - 2024 Regular School Year**
 Host District: **Camden County Educational Services Commission**
 Joiner District: **Sussex Wantage**

Joiner District To and From Total Route Cost: **\$45,000.00**

Start Date	End Date	Host District's Route #	Destination	# of Host District's Students	# of Joiner District's Students	Per Diem Cost	Number of Days	Joiner Cost
09/07/2023	06/2024	609	Garfield Park Academy	8	1	\$250.00	180	\$45,000.00

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Zill-Barry that the Board approve an emergency purchase of a Traulsen Reach-In Freezer for the cafeteria at Sussex Middle School from Chef's Corner Restaurant Equipment & Supplies, Inc. in the amount of \$8,190.00. It is further recommended that the Board approve the transfer of funds from Fund 50 Food Services to Fund 10 General Fund once delivery and installation are complete. **Account # 12-000-300-730-000-000.**

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Traulsen Reach In Freezer for SMS

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Zill-Barry that the Board approve Quote # NNDX088 from CDW.G, Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ/AEPA-22G), for the purchase of G Suite Licenses and Google Workspace EDU-PLUS in the amount of \$5,230.00. **This is a budgeted 2023-2024 item - Account # 11-190-100-320-000-000.**

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

G-Suite Licenses – CDW.G

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Zill-Barry that the Board accept a donation of student furniture from the Montague Township School District in the estimated amount of \$200.00. This donation is to be accepted in accordance with

Donation – from

District Policy # 7230 Gifts, Grants, and Donations.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Montague

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Zill-Barry that the Board approve Estimate # MM2493 from Maplewood Shop, LLC for the purchase of a woodworking program including curriculum, tools and supplies for Sussex Middle School in the amount of \$31,488.20. ***This is a budgeted 2023-2024 item - Account # 11-190-100-610-000-030.***
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Maplewood Shop, LLC purchase SMS

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Zill-Barry that the Board approve COR # 003 for Paving and Materials and Contracting, LLC for the C.E. Lawrence Elementary School Site Improvements Project as follows:

COR#003 Paving Materials and Contracting, LLC

Original Allowance	\$ 100,000.00
Amount of Allowance Used	\$ <u>77,777.00</u>
Current Allowance	\$ 22,223.00
Deduct Remaining Allowance	\$ <u>(22,223.00)</u>
Final Allowance	\$ 0.00

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Zill-Barry that the Board approve the Sussex-Wantage Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) to operate as a Quasi Entity of the Sussex-Wantage Regional Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Quasi Entity – PTO 2023-2024

Moved by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Zill-Barry that the Board approve the Sussex-Wantage Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) to operate as a Quasi Entity of the Sussex-Wantage Regional Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Quasi Entity – SEPAG 2023-2024

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, we the Trustees of the Sussex-Wantage Regional Board of Education, having reviewed the reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of Monies, certify that no major account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, for the period ending August 31, 2023.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Board Secretary/ Treasurer Report August 2023

Moved by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad, seconded by Mrs. Cecchini that the Board accept the Treasurer’s Report and Board Secretary’s Report for the month of August 2023.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad, seconded by Mrs. Cecchini that the Board approve the attached Transfers for the month of August 2023. (FA3)
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Transfers – August 2023

Moved by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad, seconded by Mrs. Cecchini that the Board approve COR # 002 for Schindler Elevator Corporation Wantage Elementary School Elevator Repairs Project as follows:

COR#002
Shindler
Elevator WES

COR-03:	
Credit for re-using hoistway doors due to existing conditions	\$ (1,008.00)
Sub-Total	\$ (1,008.00)
The original Contract Sum was	\$177,276.00
The net change by previously authorized Change Orders	\$ 10,590.00
The Contract Sum prior to this Change Order was	\$187,866.00
The Contract Sum will be decreased by this Change Order	\$ (1,008.00)
The new Contract Sum including this Change Order will be	\$186,858.00
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2	

Special
Services

Special Services:

Moved by Mrs. Dely, seconded by Mrs. Cecchini that the Board approve an Occupational Therapy Evaluation for student # [REDACTED] to be performed by Performance Pediatrics for an amount not to exceed \$479.75.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

OT Eval

Moved by Mrs. Dely, seconded by Mrs. Cecchini that the Board approve an Occupational Therapy Evaluation for student # [REDACTED] to be performed by Performance Pediatrics for an amount not to exceed \$479.75.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

OT Eval

Moved by Mrs. Dely, seconded by Mrs. Cecchini that the Board approve a Physical Therapy Evaluation for student # 6727 to be performed by Performance Pediatrics for an amount not to exceed \$479.75.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

PT Eval

Moved by Mrs. Dely, seconded by Mrs. Cecchini that the Board approve home instruction for student # [REDACTED] for a maximum of ten (10) hours per week, effective immediately, duration to be determined.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Home
Instruction

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Dely that the Board approve an Occupational Therapy Evaluation for student # [REDACTED] to be performed by Performance Pediatrics for an amount not to exceed \$479.75.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

OT Eval

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Dely that the Board approve an Occupational Therapy Evaluation for student # [REDACTED] to be performed by Performance Pediatrics for an amount not to exceed \$479.75.
Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

OT Eval

Curriculum:

Curriculum

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board approve the following field trips:

Field Trips

Date	Grade Level/Teacher	Destination, Purpose, Cost
09/20, 9/28, 10/17, 10/24//23	6-8/Vince, Hums	Hardyston Middle School Cross Country meet No cost to students
10/03, 10/05, 10/12, 10/19, 10/30/23	5-8/Veltri	Various Away games for Field Hockey No cost to students
10/17/23	7-8/Kallimanis	Jefferson Township Middle School Sussex County Junior Honors Music Auditions Cost to students: \$12.00 (paid by parent)
10/18, 11/15, 12/13/23, 2/14, 3/20, 4/24/24	3-5 Autism Class/Grifone	Acme or Shoprite Community based/social skills No cost to students
10/26, 11/01, 11/07, 11/13/23	7-8/Kallimanis	Glen Meadow School, Vernon Sussex County Junior Honors Music Rehearsals No cost to students
11/03/23	8/Teufert	High Point High School 8th Grade ELA Team No cost to students
12/08/23	7-8/Westling	WSUS Studio Perform holiday music on the radio No cost to students
01/03, 01/10, 01/17, 01/24, 01/31/24	3-8/Veltri and Gunes	Mountain Creek Ski Club Cost for participation parent paid

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Moved by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad, seconded by Mrs. Simmons that the Board approve the following field trips:

Field Trips

Regular Session Meeting – September 28, 2023

Date	Grade Level/Teacher	Destination, Purpose, Cost
9/29/23	AM PreK/deWaal, Tooker, Flynn	Hillcrest Farms Apple picking Cost to students \$6.00 Cost to BOE \$5.00
9/29/23	PM PreK/deWaal, Blazier	Hillcrest Farms Apple picking Cost to students \$6.00 Cost to BOE \$5.00
10/03/23	6-8/Vince, Hums	Woodbourne Park Cross Country No cost to students
10/11/23	6-8/Vince, Hums	Vernon High School Cross Country No cost to students
10/11/23	4/All Teachers	Space Farms Learning about structures of animals and Historical Sourcing and Evidence No cost to students
10/12, 11/16, 12/14/23, 01/18, 02/15, 03/14, 04/18/24	4/Schnetzer	CEL/Mrs. Schneider's class Reading Buddies No cost to students
10/18/23	7-8/O'Connell	Sussex Technical School Leadership Building Workshop No cost to students

Carried; Yes 7, No 0, Absent 2

Unfinished Business:

Unfinished Business

- Mrs. Witte said she wanted to follow through with an update on the bus stop herself. She said she did call the township three (3) times and no one called her back. She said she did run into and asked him to put asphalt at the bus stop and he said that they would be working up in that area and he would take a look. But on the guardrail, she does not think that will happen. She also said that Mr. Restel is leaving Wantage and no one is currently taking his place. She will follow up when a replacement is hired.

New Business:

New Business

- Mrs. Witte said that she was able to go to all the Back to School Nights. She said it was the first time she did not have to, so it was much more enjoyable. She said that all the buildings looked great and all the teachers were full of smiles and happy faces everywhere. Mrs. Witte said that all kinds of projects were already up in the hallways and it was a complete pleasure going. She wished everyone good luck in the school year.
- Mrs. Witte also said that when she was at Back to School Night at the Middle School she found out we only have one (1) soccer goal and that she spoke to Mr. Gall that we should get one (1) for soccer and gym classes.
- Mrs. Witte said that when she was in the gym at Middle School the staff really wants air condition, but maybe a large fan will suffice. Mr. Gall said that there was a type of fan that a former board member wanted. He will look into that.
- Mrs. Witte made the following statement:
“After hearing from several people in our district and with all the audience remarks tonight regarding your social media posts and the action of you requesting and conducting a private meeting with a district family last week, knowing that making a promise to them concerning a board issue without any knowledge to any other board members until after the fact. I would like to publicly say, I do not agree with most of the posts you have made on social media recently or in the past. I most certainly do not agree with any of your posts involving any children or parent, especially those of our district. I have known you a very long time and though your intentions, I'm sure, may not have been perceived as you meant them, I can clearly see how they could have been. I understand there may be a disclaimer on your profiles but I, for one, do not feel comfortable with that being enough. I ask that you please refrain from posting anything, anywhere that would even slightly resembles our school district or our board members' opinions. You need to be much more considerate and conscientious of your fellow board members and our district so misconceptions do not occur. I am not only speaking of those most recent, but many others in the past and yes, unfortunately there have been many. Posting any matters of our school district, nor responding to any other social media post referencing our school district is not your responsibility, nor anyone else's on the board - the only time you need to speak on behalf of our school district is when you are pretty much sitting right here. I am asking you as a friend and as a member of our Sussex-Wantage Regional school board to please stop, please. Unbeknownst to any other board member, I believe having a private meeting in the capacity of a current school board President with a family over an ongoing school issue is repulsive and I, for one, am very disappointed in you for that also. I hope moving forward you can remember what I've said and return to the man that we all voted to be the President of our Board. Again, I am speaking as an individual board member on both subjects of private meetings and social media. Nick, please stop. If anyone else here agrees or disagrees or has anything else to say or add, I'm done talking so please feel free”.
- Mr. D'Agostino thanked Mrs. Witte for her comments. He said that “they had had a 3.5 hour discussion last night and today. I not wish to be to be adversarial in the community. I got involved because I was born and raised

here. I listened to her last night and now. I deleted my political facebook page. He said that he always thought if you can speak up you will make a difference

- Mrs. Dely said that she agreed with Mrs. Witte that you should not have had meeting without knowledge of the Board.
- Mr. D'Agostino said that he disagreed, that he could meet as long as there was not a quorum of the Board in attendance.

Audience Remarks:

**Audience
Remarks**

- Jackie, Wantage, agree with Mrs. Witte and that is why she came here tonight. She said she did not like the way Mr. D'Agostino used the student's name in his post and that it is a safety concern. She added that minutes should be public and accessible.
- Mary Cafferelli, Wantage, said to Mrs. Witte that she applauds your courage in speaking out. She recognized Leah for doing an amazing job speaking tonight and added that she signed her petition. She asked about doing a fundraiser to raise the cost of changing the bus stop.
- Lisa Fahrenfeld, SWEA President, said to the Board that she knows that you have all been through training and that a private meeting is a breach of the Code of Ethics and that politics should not be involved.
- Mrs. Sparta, Greenville Road, asked about the audit of transportation and the process. Mr. Gall said that we need to get board approved in advance. She said that no child should have to cross Route 23 to get on bus. She wants Route 103 to be reversed in the afternoon to reduce the number of children crossing Route 23.
- Megan Steele, Sussex, asked what happens if there is not contract, is there a strike?
- Ms. Febres, Board Attorney, said that staff would come to work as they have a contract that has expired, but continues in place.
- Stevie Vallone, Wantage, said she is running for the Board with Caitlyn Space. She said she was running with Nick, but she wants a non-partisan campaign. She said they will be here for the children and not the issues. She currently has a son in Wantage and a daughter that will be in the district soon.
- Leah Gunther, Wantage, wanted to know the reason for not moving bus stop for her. Mr. D'Agostino said that if you watched the video from last month, the Board spoke multiple reasons for not changing the stop
- Christina Lain, Wantage, has two (2) daughters in the district and thanked Mrs. Witte for your concerns. She said she would love if Mr. D'Agostino resigned. She said she met with Mr. Gall and brought everything with her. She said she cares about the children in this district. She reported that minutes after meeting with Mr. Gall, Mr. D'Agostino posted on social media. Ms. Lain read this post to the Board and public. She asked the Board to vote "no confidence" and called again for Mr. D'Agostino to resign.
- Barbara Hollstein, Montague, said she is highly disappointed with this Board. She said that there is a lot of hurt and harm that Mr. D'Agostino has caused in these social media posts. She said he has gone after her and

she knew he would lose race back in June. Ms. Febres asked Ms. Hollstein to lower her voice. Ms. Hollstein replied that “she can be passionate”. She suggested that we should fire our Transportation Coordinator and she would apply. She ended by saying she would make a complaint that this is “arbitrary and capricious”.

- Mr. D’Agostino said he did not ask for any meeting on social media.
- Leah Gunther, Wantage, said that “you signed my petition” and that she wanted to give back. Which she came forward and did.
- Kathy Gomez, Wantage, lifetime resident, not here as a teacher tonight and stated that her “heart hurts bad right now”. She said that growing up here she had an hour bus ride, but those days do not exist anymore. She said she is not here to argue politics, but does not feel any community spirit anymore. She said she has seen lots of Boards, but feels her heart wants to say “remember this community”. She said that she feels for Mrs. Witte and appreciates the transparency tonight.
- Hunter Space, Wantage, said that the page that Caitlyn and Stevie were tagged in that included racist remarks, “we are not that”. He said he loves where he lives and that racism is not what the community stands for.
- Mrs. Gunther, Wantage, said that “I love this town and my faith has been so shaken”. She said that when Leah mentioned a petition, she cringed, but it has now given her hope. She said realizes that bussing is a fluid issue. She said that she is battling her own transportation department and she is a parent and taxpayer. She also said that she may not get her bus stop, but wants no one to have to cross route 23. She thanked Mrs. Witte for making calls. She said that it is only ten (10) minutes and all of the families impacted signed stating that was fine.
- Breelagh D’Agostino, Wantage, said she is Mr. D’Agostino’s wife and his is not a racist. She said she knows his heart.
- Mrs. Gunther, Wantage, reported that on facebook a High School student was asked to get into a vehicle. She retreated to safety and the suspect fled the scene. She said that her child does not have a place to run and if she was not there what would happen.

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 & Personnel Matters

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad that the Board go into executive session at 8:35 pm. Mr. D'Agostino advised the public that the Board would be in executive session for approximately fifteen (15) and that there would be no action taken afterwards.

The Board returned to public session at 9:49 pm.

Moved by Mrs. Zill-Barry, seconded by Mrs. Cooper-Trinidad to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 pm.

Adjourn-
Ment

Respectfully submitted,



Christina M. Riker
Board Secretary