The Board of Education of the Borough of North Caldwell in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in executive session on March 16, 2021, via an online Zoom Meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Mr. Michael Halik, Business Administrator, indicated that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting had been properly advertised and the agenda had been posted at the appropriate locations.

In addition, a notice was posted on the Entrances of Grandview Elementary School and on the Board of Education Website, that March 16, 2021 meeting would be done via the Zoom Online Meeting Platform.

Roll call by the Business Administrator:

Present: Mr. Robert Projansky, President
Mrs. Mindy Opper, Vice President
Mrs. Jordan Shumofsky
Mrs. Sapna Malige
Mrs. Johanna Stroever

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Linda Freda, Superintendent
Mr. Michael Halik, Business Administrator / Board Secretary
Mr. Chris Chechetto, Gould/Mountain Principal
Mr. Michael Stefanelli, Grandview Principal
Mr. Ian Adlon, Computer Technician

ACTION ITEM

ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTION

O1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the use of the Zoom Online Meeting Platform, to conduct the March 16, 2021, Board Meeting in compliance with A-3850 which was signed by Governor Murphy on March 20, 2020, so that Board of Education business can continue, during the State of Emergency for the COVID-19 crisis.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Opper

Yes: 5 No: 0

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Projansky reported that sixty-eight (68) people were attending the zoom meeting.

Mr. Projansky addressed inquiries he has had in addition to comments on social media regarding regionalization of New Jersey schools. He said in 2020, the Board passed a resolution against forced regionalization and said it should be left to be a local decision vs. the County Superintendent making a plan for us. Voters would have had no say, so we passed a resolution against the legislation that was proposed at that time because we felt local tax payers should be allowed to have a say as they purchased their home in town because they wanted to be in North Caldwell schools. The current bill does not require regionalization, but provides money for studies to investigate regionalization and helps remove barriers to do so.

Mr. Projansky then congratulated Mrs. Pennisi on her retirement after twenty (20) years in the district saying he was happy for her, but she would be missed, he thanked her for her service and wished her the best of luck in her retirement.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Freda reported that the 4th and 5th graders are back in person and everyone is happy. She thanked Mr. Checchetto, Mr. Falco, Mr. Adlon and the teachers who worked diligently to accomplish this task.

Dr. Freda thanked Mrs. Pennisi for her dedication to the students noting she went out of her way to make sure students' needs were met and will be greatly missed.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Transportation Committee, Mrs. Shumofsky and Mrs. Opper, presented their transportation report to the community.

2021-2022 TRANSPORTATION PRESENTATION

Obstacles to Re-instating Subscription Busing: INFRASTRUCTURE - We do not have a company to manage our subscription busing program. Managing the program includes: bidding & hiring the bus company, re-drawing the routes, managing the sign up, registration and securing payments from parents. In addition, they must manage the routes, investigate issues and provide customer service to parents and the district.

- Essex Regional Educational Services Commission (ERESC), (the company that coordinated our student transportation in prior years) – The District and ERESC are still

involved in a legal issue & their transportation department was not willing to do the Subscription Busing due to COVID-19.

• Sussex Co-Op (Currently Manages Our Mandated Transportation) – they currently have reduced staff due to Covid-19 and cannot handle a Subscription Service. A Subscription service would require additional staff but this project alone is not large enough to enable them to take on the cost to hire additional staff member(s).

• Creating a Transportation Department with West Essex Regional School District – Neither district is in the position to do this for financial and staffing reasons (would need a place to house at least 2 staff members, pay Salaries + benefits in addition to purchasing Transportation Software).

Obstacles to Re-instating Subscription Busing:

BUDGET CONSTRAINTS: We have $208,000 budgeted for mandated transportation which is required by state statute.

• Adding buses for subscription busing

• Historically required 3 additional buses.

• Buses would be a non-tiered route • Lowest Cost Bidder

• Difference in Bus Quality

• Shortage of Bus Drivers

• Prices range from $45,000 -70,000 depending on market

• Fees from subscription busing students would need to cover the full cost of those buses. Subscription busing in the past has been supplemented by the BOE budget.

<u>Cost per student for subscription busing is dependent on:</u>

• Number of Buses Required

• Number of Students Registered

• Cost of each additional route

<u>Cost of a Management Service (or additional staff)</u>

• We would not know the cost up front, but would likely be more than $1,250-$1,500 per student.

Obstacles to Re-instating Subscription Busing: Costs of Subscription Busing may be cost prohibitive for some families in our school community Transporting students to school

(inside 2 miles) is not part of our core mission, the Transportation Committee does not want to create a system where only those who can afford the cost have access to busing.

The Transportation Committee would prefer to use any additional resources the district has towards:

- Bringing students back to school full day
- Concentrating on Academic priorities for the community.

2021-2022 Transportation Committee Recommendation: To provide only Busing Mandated by State Law* and Continue Suspension of Subscription Busing

*As required by law, children who live more than two (2) miles from the school they attend will continue to be bused, without charge.

While this was not an easy decision, the lack of infrastructure and budgetary constraints make subscription busing untenable for our district. In light of the unknowns related to next year's health and safety restrictions, we prefer to focus our resources on the education of each student and use resources to educate our children in person for as many hours as possible. This decision being made now will give parents adequate time to make other arrangements.

- Children may either walk or be driven to and from school
- Carline currently runs quickly and efficiently (12-15 mins/school)
- The Board worked closely with the North Caldwell Police Department and the Borough of North Caldwell to ensure that all necessary safety measures were implemented with the increased number of walkers and carline traffic.
- The Board will continue to work closely with the Police Department and Borough to ensure that these safety measures remain in place.
- The Board will continue to support the Tiny Treasures Before and After School Care programs for both schools.

Mrs. Malige stated she enjoyed having subscription busing; however, she understands the problems the district is facing so this is not an easy choice. Also, it would be irresponsible to triple the cost for parents in the current environment. She further stated that she would rather see time and resources used for reopening school for a full day schedule.

Mrs. Stroever thanked the committee for looking into all the elements that needed to be considered, but stated their recommendation makes sense given all the issues at hand.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Kerry Howe, 7 Rose Avenue – thanked the Board for having the fourth and fifth grade students back daily and asked if the transportation committee's recommendation was a forever decision. She also inquired about the busing prices mentioned in the presentation. She wanted to know if the prices were based on the number of children riding the bus. Mrs. Opper responded to the first question stating the decision would be done on a year-to-year basis because of the unknowns when it comes to busing. Mr. Halik responded stating the prices were calculated with approximately fifty (50) students riding each bus which would have them running until approximately 4:15 p.m.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

G1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Policy 1620, Administrative Employment Contracts,** at first reading.

Moved:	Mrs. Opper	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

G2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Policy 5330.05, Seizure Action Plan,** at first reading.

Moved:	Mrs. Opper	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

G3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Regulation 5330.05, Seizure Action Plan,** at first reading.

Moved:	Mrs. Opper	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

G4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Policy 6440, Cooperative Purchasing,** at first reading.

Moved:	Mrs. Opper	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

G5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Policy 6470.01, Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification,** at first reading.

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Regulation 6470.01, Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification,** at first reading.

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G7. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Policy 7440, School District Security,** at first reading.

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G8. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Regulation 7440, School District Security,** at first reading.

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G9. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Policy 7450, Property Inventory,** at first reading.

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G10. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Policy 7510, Use of School Facilities,** at first reading.

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G11. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve **Regulation 7510, Use of School Facilities,** at first reading.

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G12. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve **Policy 8420, Emergency and Crisis Situation,** at first reading.

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G13. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the facilities use application submitted for Summer Fun Camp 2021.

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G14. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve payment to **Dr. Fadden** for a developmental pediatric assessment in the amount of $675.00 for **student #8005607.**

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G15. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve tuition contract with Glenview Academy effective for the 2021-2022 school year to commence on July 6, 2021 for the following student:

Student #8005856
Tuition: $83,561.92
Extraordinary Services: $46,640.00
Total Contract: $130,201.92

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

B1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the **Public and Confidential Minutes of February 17, 2021.**

Moved:	Mrs. Shumofsky	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

B2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the **Public and Confidential Minutes of March 3, 2021.**

Moved:	Mrs. Shumofsky	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

B3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following **Payroll(s):**

February 26, 2021	**$357,342.46**
March 15, 2021	**$369,560.76**

Moved:	Mrs. Shumofsky	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

B4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following **Hand Check Register:**

March 2, 2021	**$609,631.68**

Moved:	Mrs. Shumofsky	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

B5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following **Bills and Claims:**

March 16, 2021	**$285,626.30**

Moved:	Mrs. Shumofsky	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

B6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following Title 1 Tutoring:

February 2021 **$8,118.75**

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

B7. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the attached Board Secretary's and Treasurer's **Monthly Financial Reports** for **January 2021**.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

B8. **WHEREAS** pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Board Secretary does certify that as of **January 2021**, no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8.1; therefore be it

RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c) 4, the Board of Education does certify that as of **January 2021**, the Board Secretary Monthly Financial Report, did not reflect an over expenditure in any Major Account or Fund, and based on the Appropriation Balances reflected on this report and on the advice of District Officials, that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

B9. **RESOLVED** that the North Caldwell Board of Education approves the submission of the preliminary 2021-2022 School budget to the County Office of the New Jersey State Department of Education as follows:

	BUDGET	**LOCAL TAX LEVY**
General Fund	**$14,848,564**	**$13,559,084**
Special Revenue Fund	**$ 226,442**	
Debt Service Fund	**$ 563,975**	**$ 563,975**
Total Budget	**$15,638,981**	**$14,123,059**

The school district has proposed programs and services in excess of the Adequacy Budget adopted by the State Board of Education. Information on this budget and the programs and services it provides is available from the district's Board Office.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

B10. RESOLVED that the North Caldwell Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2021-2022 school year at the sum of $24,700.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS

P1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the Professional Development Workshops/Conferences costs for the following teachers:

Name	Date	Workshop	Cost	Travel
DellaValle, G.	4/9-4/10	The Breadth & Depth of the Orton Gillingham Approach	$200.00	
DellaValle, G.	4/30-5/1	2021 Alta National Virtual Conference Written Expression & Dyslexia	$152.00	
Garthwaite, J.	4/9-4/10	The Breadth & Depth of the Orton Gillingham Approach	$200.00	
Garthwaite, J.	4/30-5/1	2021 Alta National Virtual Conference Written Expression & Dyslexia	$152.00	
Grimaldi, L.	4/9-4/10	The Breadth & Depth of the Orton Gillingham Approach	$200.00	

Grimaldi, L.	4/30-5/1	2021 Alta National Virtual Conference Written Expression & Dyslexia	$152.00	
Silva, T.	3/22	Creative Interventions For Children	$60.00	
Veniero, S.	4/9-4/10	The Breadth & Depth of the Orton Gillingham Approach	$200.00	
Veniero, S.	4/30-5/1	2021 Alta National Virtual Conference Written Expression & Dyslexia	$152.00	

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Stroever

Yes: 5 No: 0

P2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accept the retirement of **Alba Pennisi** effective June 30, 2021.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofsky Seconded: Mrs. Stroever

Yes: 5 No: 0

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Projansky asked the Board how they felt about suspending subscription busing for another school year. The Board then discussed how our core mission is to have students in school every day and get back to full days. He stated that should be our priority at this time.

A motion to suspend subscription busing was then brought before the Board for a vote.

RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the suspension of subscription busing for the 2021-2022 school year.

Moved: Mrs. Stroever Seconded: Mrs. Sapna

Yes: 5 No: 0

NEW BUSINESS

None

The following resolution was called at approximately 8:05 p.m.

> **RESOLVED** that in accordance with section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, the Board has the authority to adjourn to closed session to discuss matters pertaining to: personnel. Said matters will be made public upon their disposition.
>
> | | | | |
> |---|---|---|---|
> | Moved: | Mrs. Shumofsky | Seconded: | Mrs. Malige |
> | Yes: | 5 | No: | 0 |

The principals left the zoom meeting at 9:16 p.m.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Board adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Halik
Business Administrator / Board Secretary