

Oakland Public Schools
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 16, 2024
3:30 PM

A Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Education was held on July 16, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 3:38 PM by Mr. Scerbo.

Mr. Scerbo led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Open Public Meeting announcement as follows: The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure 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 this Act, the Oakland Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on January 11, 2024, June 18, 2024 and July 8, 2024 in the Municipal Building, the Board Offices, all school offices and copies sent to newspapers serving Oakland: The Record News. The Board reserves the right to limit public discussion of personnel items, so as to preserve individual privacy.

The Board appreciates the concerns and comments expressed by the public and will take them into consideration. However, please remain advised that, neither the Board nor the administration may comment on or respond to public inquiries or statements regarding any internal personnel matters involving a District employee.

Please be further advised that there is no privilege or qualified privilege with regard to any statements that you make before the Board of Education. Furthermore, in addition to their respective rights to privacy, employees of this school district retains all rights regarding defamation and slander according the laws of New Jersey.

Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise, sign in, and state their names and addresses. Each speaker shall be limited to three minutes. A speaker who has not finished in the allotted time will be directed by the presiding officer to summarize quickly and relinquish the floor within 30 seconds.

Roll Call

The following board members were present: Ms. Kilday, Mr. Mazzilli, Mr. Scerbo, and Ms. Shelkin (arrived at 3:44 PM).

The following board member was Absent: Ms. Cooper

Also present:

Dr. Gina M. Coffaro, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Annette M. Wells, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Ms. Pam Baykal, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, and 1 member of the public

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Coffaro introduced Ms. Baykal, Curriculum Supervisor.

Ms. Pam Baykal, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, discussed two of the 2024-2025 district goals.

Ms. Baykal reported that Goal #1 was to increase reading levels in grades K-2 and increase reading comprehension in grades 3-5.

Ms. Shelkin arrived at 3:44 PM.

Ms. Baykal discussed Goal #2 which focuses on math in grades K-2.

Ms. Baykal reported that building goals will align with district goals and professional development goals are focused on the building/district goals.

Time was allowed for questions and comments from the board and public.

Ms. Baykal left the meeting at 4:22 pm.

I. MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Kilday and seconded by Ms. Cooper to approve the following Minute items A through C as follows:

- A. Approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes from June 25, 2024.
- B. Approve the Work Session minutes from June 25, 2024.
- C. Approve the Executive Session minutes from June 25, 2024.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

II. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

A motion was made by Ms. Shelkin and seconded by Mr. Mazzilli to approve Buildings and Grounds item A as follows:

- A. Approve the application for compliance with kindergarten students to toilet room facilities for the following classrooms for the 2024-2025 school year:

TOPS Early Childhood Learning	#155, #156, #157
(Our Lady of Perpetual Help Preschool Annex -leased building)	

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

III. PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Ms. Kilday and seconded by Mr. Mazzilli to approve Personnel items A through G as follows:

- A. Rescind the appointment of Christina Barbour as Part-time Paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year.
- B. Approve the appointment of Michael Serey as District Physical Therapist at an annual salary of \$82,037 (Step 9/MA), effective September 1, 2024. This is a new tenure track position. This appointment is contingent upon satisfactory completion of all employment obligations.
- C. Approve the appointment of Leah Costello as Applied Behavior Analysis Therapist Paraprofessional at T.O.P.S Early Childhood Learning at an hourly rate of \$23 for the 2024-2025 school year, effective September 1, 2024. This is a new position. This appointment is contingent upon satisfactory completion of all employment obligations.
- D. Approve Sara Reiner-Cuomo to shadow Mary Burns for three days, on or about October 2, 2024, October 4, 2024, and October 7, 2024, at the daily substitute rate of pay, upon submission of an approved voucher.
- E. Approve the appointment of Sara Reiner-Cuomo as Leave Replacement Teacher for Mary Burns at Manito Elementary School at an annual salary of \$67,934 (Step 1/MA) to be prorated, effective from on or about October 8, 2024 through on or about March 11, 2025. This appointment is contingent upon satisfactory completion of all employment obligations.
- F. Approve the following appointments of certified staff, upon satisfactory completion of all employment obligations. These are tenure track positions.

Name	Position	Location	Step	Degree	Salary	Start Date
Alexa Mottola	Occupational Therapist	District	1	MA	\$67,934	9/1/2024
Dina Pagano	Special Education Teacher	T.O.P.S	6	BA	\$71,229	9/1/2024
Colene Talasco	Special Education Teacher	Heights	6	BA	\$71,229	9/1/2024
Lee Ann Villegas	Pre-School Teacher (replacing Karen Fiore)	T.O.P.S	3	BA+15	\$68,835	9/1/2024

- G. Approve the appointment of Lauren Harkins as Applied Behavior Analysis Therapist Paraprofessional at Heights Elementary School at an hourly rate of \$23 for the 2024-2025 school year, effective September 1, 2024. This is a new position. This appointment is contingent upon satisfactory completion of all employment obligations.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

IV. REGULAR EDUCATION

A motion was made by Ms. Shelkin and seconded by Ms. Kilday to approve Regular Education items A through D as follows:

- A. Approve the HIB Report for the period June 26, 2024 through July 16, 2024 as follows:

Number of HIB Investigations	0
Number of Affirmed HIB Incidents	1

- B. Approve the Comprehensive Equity Plan for 2024-2025 school year and its Statement of Assurance submission to the County Superintendent of Schools.
- C. Approve the (Emergency) Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan for the 2024-2025 school year as mandated by New Jersey Department of Education to satisfy the 180-day requirement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9. and its submission to the County Office of Education.
- D. Approve Valley Middle School and Elementary School Gifted and Talented students to participate in the Mathematical Olympiads monthly problem-solving for the 2024-2025 school year. Registration cost in the amount of \$525.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

V. SPECIAL EDUCATION

A motion was made by Ms. Kilday and seconded by Ms. Shelkin to approve Special Education items A through D as follows:

- A. Approve the Settlement Agreement and Release from July 1, 2024 to August 30, 2024 and September 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 between the District and the parents of one student, whose name is on file in the Superintendent's office.
- B. Approve the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Academic Year 2024-2025 Education Level 1 School Contract for one student, whose name is on file in the Superintendent's office, amount not to exceed \$2,420.00.
- C. Approve the signed contract between the District and Dr. Eric Rozenblat, BCBA/Parent Trainer to render Applied Behavior Analysis Services including student evaluation, consultation and treatment, for the 2024-2025 school year.
- D. Approve the attached addendum to the agreement between the Oakland Board of Education and Speech Therapy Plus for the 2024-2025 school year.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

VI. FINANCE

A motion was made by Mr. Mazzilli and seconded by Ms. Kilday to approve Finance items A through K as follows:

- A. Approve the June 2024 certified gross (net & agency) payroll in the amount of \$2,230,689.05.
- B. Approve the payment of the attached list of bills in the amount of \$1,513,655.53 which in proper legal form and subject to audit, provided funds are available in their respective accounts.
- C. Approve the Board Secretary's certification to the Oakland Board of Education that, as of June 30, 2024 no line-item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which, in total, exceed the line-item appropriation in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)3; and further,

Approve the Oakland Board of Education's certification that, after a review of the Board Secretary's and Board Treasurer's monthly financial reports and the advice of District officials, there is no reason to doubt that any major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)4.
- D. Approve the school year 2023-2024 Budget appropriation transfers for the month ending June 30, 2024.
- E. Approve the Preliminary Board Secretary's Financial Report for the month June 30, 2024.
- F. Approve the Preliminary Treasurer of School Monies Report for the month ending June 30, 2024.
- G. Approve a consortium for Title III funds, with Oakland Board of Education as the lead agency and with the following other school districts: Wyckoff, Midland Park, Glen Rock, North Haledon, Ho-Ho-Kus, and Oradell.
- H. Accept and approve the funding allocation and submission of the fiscal year 2024-2025 ESEA Grant in the following amounts:

Title I	\$39,463
Title II	\$18,028
Title III	\$38,918 (\$6,262 Oakland)
Title III, Immigrant	\$1,252
Title IV	\$10,000

- I. Accept and approve the funding allocation and submission of the FY25 IDEA Grant in the following amounts:

Basic	\$ 351,140
Preschool	\$ 20,721

- J. Approve Velez Educational Services to provide State and Federal report consulting for the 2024-2025 school year at a fee not to exceed \$8,930.

- K. Approve the wire transfer to the NJ Department of Labor for NJ Unemployment Compensation of \$9,909.48 for the Second Quarter of 2024.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

VII ADMINISTRATION

None

VIII. TRANSPORTATION

A motion was made by Ms. Kilday and seconded by Ms. Shelkin to approve Transportation item A as follows:

- A. Approve a district vehicle and driver to transport Safety Town students from the 2024 Safety Town program at Indian Hills High School to the Oakland Rec Camp to be paid for with Safety Town funds.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

IX. POLICY

A motion was made by Ms. Shelkin and seconded by Ms. Kilday to approve Policy items A through B as follows:

- A. Approve the *second* reading of new/revised Board policies/regulations as listed below:

P 2440	Summer Session
P&R 2423	Bilingual Education
R 5111	Eligibility of Resident-Non-Resident Students
P&R 5330.04	Administering an Opioid Antidote

- B. Approve the *Abolishment* of the following Board Policy:

P 0164.6	Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency
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Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

Regular Meeting
EXECUTIVE SESSION

July 16, 2024

Motion made by Mr. Mazzilli and seconded by Ms. Shelkin to enter executive session at 4:32 PM.

WHEREAS, The Board of Education must discuss subjects concerning personnel matters, legal issues, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying, and/or contract negotiations concerning the District, and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid subjects are not appropriate subjects to be discussed in a public meeting; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid subjects to be discussed are within the exemptions which are permitted to be discussed and acted upon in closed executive session pursuant to P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, it is therefore

RESOLVED, that the aforesaid subjects shall be discussed in a closed executive session by this Board and administrative staff and information pertaining thereto will be made available to the public as soon thereafter as possible and once the reasons for nondisclosure no longer exist.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board returned from Executive Session at 4:50 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Kilday and seconded by Ms. Shelkin that the meeting be adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette M. Wells
School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary