

Sussex-Wantage Regional School District
May 23, 2024
Special Session Meeting

The Special Session Meeting of the Sussex-Wantage Regional School District Board of Education was called to order by Mrs. Stephanie Tortorella, Board President, on May 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sussex Middle Media Center.

Roll Call

Members Present: Mr. Nicholas D'Agostino, Mrs. Taylor Dely, Mrs. Caitlin Space, Mrs. Stevie Vallone, Mrs. Dorothy Witte, and Mrs. Stephanie Tortorella

Members Absent: Mrs. Alissa Cecchini, Mrs. Brittney Simmons, Mrs. Danielle Zill-Barry

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

Roll Call

The following statement was read by Mrs. Tortorella

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.

Open Public Meetings Act

Mrs. Tortorella 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 – Madelyn Lawrence (not in attendance)
- 7th grade – Matthew Sheperd (not in attendance)
- 8th grade – Marah Albakri (in attendance)

SMS Students of the Month

Mr. Schwarz was joined by Mr. Gall and Mrs. Tortorella. 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. The student that was in attendance came forward to receive a certificate of recognition.

rehiring of Tenured Certified Staff and Non-Certified Staff per the attached memo. (Attachment C)
 Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3, Abstain (Vallone – on Leo Kinney, Heidi Riker, Miranda Yanish, Stephanie Shuart & Karolee Murphy)

Moved by Mrs. Witte, seconded by Mr. D’Agostino that the Board approve the Substitute Teachers, Nurses, Teacher Assistants, Bus Drivers, Care Program personnel and Custodians for the 2024-2025 school year as per the attached listing. (Attachment D)
 Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3, Abstain (Vallone – on Heidi Riker & Karolee Murphy)

2024-2025
 Substitute
 Approval

Moved by Mrs. Witte, seconded by Mr. D’Agostino that the Board approve the personnel for the 2024-2025 Extended School Year Program, July 08 - August 01, 2024 as per the attached listing. ***This will be funded by the 2025 Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)*** (Attachment E) (copy previously provided)
 Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3, Abstain (Vallone – on Stephanie Shuart & Karolee Murphy)

2024 ESY
 Staff Approval

Moved by Mrs. Witte, seconded by Mr. D’Agostino that the Board approve the following substitute teachers, nurses, teacher assistants, secretaries, bus drivers, and custodians as listed for the 2024-2025 school year.*

Substitute
 Approval

Security Guard
 Anthony Korn

(*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 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Witte, seconded by Mr. D’Agostino that the Board accept the resignation of Jacalyn Lemise, 5.5 hour Special Education Teacher Assistant, C.E. Lawrence School, effective May 07, 2024.
 Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Resignation –
 CEL 5.5 TA

Moved by Mrs. Witte, seconded by Mr. D’Agostino 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
05/16/24	Birnbaum, Stephanie	6:30pm - 8:30pm 2.0 hours	SMS Spring Concert
05/16/24	Lau, Laura	6:30pm - 8:30pm 2.0 hours	SMS Spring Concert

Special Session Meeting – May 23, 2024

05/24/24	Vanderhoof, Denise	3:30pm - 5:00pm 1 hour, 30 minutes	Round 1
06/04/24	Graves, Kimberly	12:00pm - 1:30pm 1 hour, 30 minutes	High Point High School 8th Grade Picnic
06/06/24	Graves, Kimberly	7:00am - 8:30am 1 hour, 30 minutes 12:00pm - 10:00pm 10 hours 11.5 total less 30 lunch = 11.0 total	Hershey Park
06/07/24	Andersen, Rebecca	9:30am - 10:30am 1 hour	Space Farms
06/07/24	Pisciotta, Maria	1:45pm - 2:15pm 30 minutes	Space Farms
06/07/24	Riker, Heidi	9:30am - 10:00am 30 minutes	Space Farms

Carried; Yes 5, No 0, Absent 3, Abstain 1 (Space)

Moved by Mrs. Witte, seconded by Mr. D'Agostino that the Board approve the following personnel for additional hours 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
Bakonyi, Sarah	04/08/24	3:30pm - 3:40pm	10 minutes
Bakonyi, Sarah	04/15/24	3:30pm - 3:40pm	10 minutes
Card, Sarah	05/10/24	2:30pm - 3:30pm	1.0 hour
Card, Sarah	05/17/24	2:30pm - 3:10pm	40 minutes
Clarke, Loriann	05/03/24	8:25am - 9:15am	50 minutes
Clarke, Loriann	05/10/24	8:25am - 9:15am	50 minutes
Crift, Nanette	05/23/24	8:30am - 9:30am	1.0 hour
Cunningham, Alexa	05/17/24	2:30pm - 3:10pm	40 minutes
Doherty, Kristen	04/30/24	1:09pm - 3:09pm	2.0 hours
Doherty, Kristen	05/10/24	1:09pm - 3:09pm	2.0 hours
Flynn, Kelly	05/17/24	7:30am - 8:30am	1.0 hour
Ganley, Leah	05/09/24	2:30pm - 3:10pm	1 hour, 10 minutes
Ganley, Leah	05/13/24	2:30pm - 3:30pm	1 hour
Graves, Kimberly	05/13/24	12:00pm - 2:40pm	2 hours, 40 minutes
Graves, Kimberly	05/15/24	12:00pm - 2:40pm	2 hours, 40 minutes
Graves, Kimberly	05/22/24	12:00pm - 2:40pm	2 hours, 40 minutes
Havens, Nicole	04/26/24	2:45pm - 4:30pm	1 hour 45 minutes
Hayzler, Carly	05/14/24	10:30am - 12:00pm	1 hour, 30 minutes
Hickey, Shirley	05/03/24	3:30pm - 4:30pm	1.0 hour
Jennings, Michelle	05/09/24	2:30pm - 3:30pm	1.0 hour
Jennings, Michelle	05/10/24	2:30pm - 3:30pm	1.0 hour
Keith, Amanda	05/08/24	3:10pm - 4:30pm	1 hour, 20 minutes

Special Session Meeting – May 23, 2024

Moved by Mrs. Witte, seconded by Mr. D’Agostino that the Board approve the following personnel to work a maximum of two hours and thirty minutes (2.5) additional hours for preparation, set up, clean up and attendance at the Preschool Parent night on June 04, 2024.

Prep for
Preschool
Parent Night

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Anderson, Harriet	\$40	\$100.00
Arias, Cassandra	\$40	\$100.00
Blazier, Katherine	\$40	\$100.00
deWaal, Laura	\$40	\$100.00
Flynn, Kelly	\$40	\$100.00
Feldmann, Krista	\$40	\$100.00
Gomez, Katherine	\$40	\$100.00
Hernandez, Sara	\$40	\$100.00
Tooker, Rebecca	\$40	\$100.00
Ulrich, Kristina	\$40	\$100.00

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Witte, seconded by Mr. D’Agostino that the Board approve the following personnel as follows for assisting a student in need on May 01, 2024 after school hours at the rate of \$40 per hour:

Additional
Hours – SMS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Gina Ferraro	Guidance	3:40pm - 5:00pm (1 hr, 20 mins)	\$53.20
Vanessa Garcia	Guidance	3:40pm - 5:00pm (1 hr, 20 mins)	\$53.20

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

It is recommended that the Board approve Angela Silletti-Cayer, School Nurse, Sussex Middle School, to assist the school physician with Sports Physicals on June 24, 2024 from approximately 8:00am to 12:00am at the stipend rate of \$40 per hour, not to exceed 4.0 hours.

SMS Sports
Physicals

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Witte, seconded by Mr. D’Agostino that the Board approve the following personnel for the 2024 Moving Forward General Education Program, July 08 - August 01, 2024. This program is anticipated - contingent upon student enrollment. ***This will be funded by Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title 1, Part A grant and/or New Jersey Learning Acceleration Program - High Impact Tutoring Grant***

2024 Moving
Forward
Program Staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Alexandra Fairweather	Substitute Teacher	\$48.77/hour

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Witte, seconded by Mr. D’Agostino that the Board approve Harriet Anderson, School Nurse, previously approved for the ESY program funded by IDEA, to also be working the Moving Forward program during the same time period funded by ESEA, Title IA with no increase in salary. Both programs run

Nurse – ESY
and Moving
Forward

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Witte, seconded by Mr. D’Agostino that the Board approve Child Study Team (CST) personnel for summer hours not to exceed as noted to complete evaluations and IEPs in accordance with NJAC 14:6a as per the attached listing. ***This will be funded by the FY2024 Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)*** (Attachment F) (copy provided)

2024 CST
Summer
Hours

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Witte, seconded by Mr. D’Agostino that the Board approve an extension of a continuous, FMLA/NJFLA leave of absence for Employee # [REDACTED] that was previously approved at the March 14, 2024 Board of Education meeting, from an anticipated return to work date of on or about May 01, 2024 to an anticipated return to work date of on or about May 27, 2024, pending release by physician, utilizing accumulated sick days.

Extend
FMLA/NJFLA
LOA

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Witte, seconded by Mr. D’Agostino that the Board approve Employee # [REDACTED] for an unpaid, continuous, FMLA/NJFLA designated leave of absence, from September 03, 2024 to on or about November 26, 2024. Anticipated return to work date is November 27, 2024.

Unpaid
FMLA/NJFLA
LOA

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Witte, seconded by Mr. D’Agostino that the Board approve Employee # [REDACTED] for an unpaid, continuous, NJFLA designated leave of absence, from September 06, 2024 to December 06, 2024. Anticipated return to work date is December 09, 2024.

Unpaid
NJFLA LOA

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Witte, seconded by Mr. D’Agostino that the Board approve Employee # [REDACTED] for a continuous, non-FMLA/NJFLA leave of absence, beginning May 01, 2024 to on or about June 1, 2024, utilizing accumulated leave. Anticipated return to work date is June 03, 2024.

Non-
FMLA/NJFLA
LOA

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Witte, seconded by Mr. D’Agostino that the Board approve Employee # [REDACTED] for a FMLA leave of absence beginning on or about September 03, 2024 through September 12, 2024 utilizing eight (8) days of accumulated leave. It is further recommended that the Board approve a FMLA/NJFLA leave absence beginning September 13, 2024 through October 10, 2024 utilizing twenty (20) days of accumulated leave. Following this, it is recommended that the Board approve an unpaid FMLA/NJFLA leave of absence beginning October 11, 2024 through December 06, 2024. Anticipated return to work is December 09, 2024.

FMLA/NJFLA
LOA

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Vallone, seconded by Mrs. Space that the Board accept the resignation of Nicole Ammirato, 4th Grade Teacher, Wantage Elementary, effective June 30, 2024.

Resignation –
WES Teacher

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

SMS #23
SMS #24
SMS #25
SMS #26
SMS #27

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mr. D’Agostino, seconded by Mrs. Dely that the Board approve the HIB District and School Grade Report for the 2022-2023 school year.

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

2022-2023
HIB District
and School
Grade Report

Finance:

Finance

Moved by Mrs. Space, seconded by Mrs. Vallone that the Board approve the payment of bills for April 26, 2024 through April 30, 2024 in the amount of \$849,526.70 as reviewed and as per the attached check register. Be it further noted that the breakdown by category is as follows: (F1)

Bills List –
End of April
2024

Fixed	\$ 10,965.17
Operating	\$ 943.46
Salaries	\$ 837,618.07
Special	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 849,526.70

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Space, seconded by Mrs. Vallone that the Board approve the payment of bills for May 1, 2024 through May 23, 2024 in the amount of \$1,857,792.63 as reviewed and as per the attached check register. Be it further noted that the breakdown by category is as follows: (F2)

Bills List –
May 2024

Fixed	\$ 581,859.06
Operating	\$ 308,054.61
Salaries	\$ 862,972.58
Special	\$ 104,906.38
Total	\$ 1,857,792.63

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

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 April 30, 2024.

BS/Treas –
April 2024

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Space, seconded by Mrs. Vallone that the Board approve professional day travel, pursuant to policies 0147, 0147A, 3440, and 4440 as per the attached. (F4)

PD - Travel

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

from The Pizzuto Group, Inc., ESCNJ COOP - AMCASE contract #ESCNJ 22/23-08, for the installation of cabinets/countertops in C.E. Lawrence Elementary School rooms 111 & 112 in the amount of \$13,340.58. **Account # 11-000-262-420-000-010.**

CEL
Cabinets/
Countertops

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mr. D'Agostino, seconded by Mrs. Dely that the Board award the New Greenhouse at Sussex Middle School bid to Drill Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$195,000.00 for the Base Bid. ***This is to be funded by the American Rescue Plan of 2021 - Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ARP-ESSER) - Account #20-487-400-720-000-000.***

SMS
Greenhouse
Bid Award

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mr. D'Agostino, seconded by Mrs. Dely that the Board approve the Sussex Middle School Fundraising Committee to operate as a Quasi Entity of the Sussex-Wantage Regional Board of Education for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year and for the 2024-2025 school year.

SMS
Fundraising –
Quasi Entity

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Special Services:

Special
Services

Moved by Mrs. Dely, seconded by Mrs. Vallone that the Board approve a Risk Assessment for student # [REDACTED] to be completed by The Center for Evaluation and Counseling for an amount not to exceed \$750.00.

Risk
Assessment

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Dely, seconded by Mrs. Vallone that the Board approve home instruction for student # [REDACTED] for a maximum of ten (10) hours per week, effective immediately, duration TBD.

Home
Instruction

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Dely, seconded by Mrs. Vallone that the Board approve home instruction for student # [REDACTED] for a maximum of ten (10) hours per week, effective immediately, duration TBD.

Home
Instruction

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Dely, seconded by Mrs. Vallone that the Board approve home instruction for student # [REDACTED] for a maximum of ten (10) hours per week, effective immediately, duration TBD.

Home
Instruction

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Dely, seconded by Mrs. Vallone that the Board approve a Psychiatric Evaluation for student # [REDACTED] to be completed by Dr. Bryan Fennelly for an amount not to exceed \$765.00.

Psych Eval

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Dely, seconded by Mrs. Vallone that the Board approve a Psychological Evaluation for student # [REDACTED] to be completed by Sussex County Educational Services Commission for an amount not to exceed \$396.55.

Psych Eval

instruction for student # [REDACTED] for a maximum of five (5) hours per week, effective immediately, duration TBD.
 Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Instruction

Curriculum

Field Trips

Curriculum:

Moved by Mrs. Dely, seconded by Mrs. Space that the Board approve the following field trips:

Date	Grade Level/Teacher	Destination, Purpose, Cost
05/14/24	7-8/Westling	Wantage School Q&A with 5th graders to recruit Chorus students for 2024-2025 school year No cost to students
05/21/24	5/Doherty, Felsen	Sussex Middle School Dress rehearsal for 5th grade Spring Concert No cost to students
06/04/24	1/Schneider	Wantage School End of year culmination with Reading Buddies and visit Scholastic Book Fair No cost to students
06/12/24	6-8/Birnbaum, Whitty	Sparta Box Office Cinema Develop various life, social, executive functioning and math skills No cost to students (paid by Coffee Cart/TREP\$)

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Unfinished Business

- None.

Unfinished
Business

New Business:

- None

New Business

Audience Remarks:

- Faith, Wantage, wanted to know why Nick is still on the Board as his views are not for the children.
- Rebecca Gunther, Wantage, wanted to take the time to thank the teachers. She said that she appreciates and respects the teachers, the aides and the staff of the district.

Audience
Remarks

Moved by Mrs. Vallone, seconded by Mrs. Dely that the Board approve the following resolution:

Long-Term
Student
Suspension

Resolved that, following a hearing before the Board of Education wherein the parents appeared and participated, the Board of Education hereby approves the suspension of student # [REDACTED] for the period beginning Friday, May 17th through Monday, June 17th, 2024.

Carried; Yes 6, No 0, Absent 3

Moved by Mrs. Vallone, seconded by Mrs. Space to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Adjourn-
Ment

Respectfully submitted,



Christina M. Riker
Board Secretary