

Palisades Park Board of Education
Work Session/Regular Business Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 20, 2024 – at 6:30 p.m., Early Childhood Center

A. CALL TO ORDER: Board President

B. FLAG SALUTE

C. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Ms. Soo Chung	☒	☐
Mr. Charlie Shin	☒	☐
Ms. Rebekah Lee	☐	☒
Ms. Sookyung Park	☒	☐
Mr. Aaron Pak	☒	☐
Mr. William Kim	☒	☐
Mr. Anthony Kim	☒	☐
Ms. Boyoung Yu	☒	☐
Ms. Eun Min	☒	☐
Dr. Joseph Cirillo	☒	☐
Busch Law Group	☒	☐

Anthony Kim arrived at 7:10 p.m.

D. STATEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), I hereby state that notice of this **Regular Meeting** has been provided to the public by a written notice dated January 14, 2024 (date of published notice)

The Meeting Notice has been:

1. Emailed to all staff members at the district's 3 school locations.
2. Communicated to at least 1 of the Board's designated newspapers.
3. Filed with the Borough Clerk of Palisades Park.

E. REVIEW AND DISCUSS RESOLUTIONS TO BE VOTED ON AT THE SPECIAL MEETING

F. ADJOURN WORK SESSION: OPEN SPECIAL MEETING

Motion to adjourn work session and open regular meeting

Motion: Charlie Shin

2nd: Aaron Pak

All in favor – aye – 6:58 p.m.

G. REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Soo Chung stated this Saturday, November 23rd there will be a clean community event from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, 275 Broad Avenue. This information has been shared with the schools, as the students can sign up and participate in community service.

H. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- Preschool Expansion

Dr. Cirillo received correspondence from the Tunnels to Towers Foundation expressing gratitude for our contribution. We extend our thanks to everyone who participated in supporting this cause. Additionally, we are excited to share that we have been awarded over \$2 million for preschool expansion. This funding will allow us to proceed with constructing seven new classrooms beneath the parking garage of the town library, a project that has the potential to benefit over 100 students. With Thanksgiving approaching next Thursday, we wish a Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families, and we deeply appreciate all you do for our children. During the discussion, Charlie Shin inquired about the origin of the initial drawings for the seven classrooms. Dr. Cirillo explained that these plans were developed collaboratively by our former architects, Parette Somjen, and the borough architects. Mr. Shin also asked whether the construction of the new classrooms would eliminate the need to use the New Christian Academy. Dr. Cirillo confirmed that this would indeed be the case.

I. REPORT OF THE BOARD ATTORNEY

J. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes – Regular Business Meeting – October 16, 2024

Move that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon recommendation of the Superintendent approves the minutes of the following meeting;

- October 16, 2024, Regular Business Meeting

Moved by: Boyoung Yu

Seconded By: Charlie Shin

All in favor – aye

No objections, no abstentions

COMMITTEE REPORTS

K. FINANCE

Consent Agenda for Items 1-15 – Charlie Shin

1. FOOD SERVICE VOUCHERS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon recommendation of the Superintendent approves Food Service Payment(s) as follows:

VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	COST
Pomptonian, Inc.	9/06/24 – PAL637090624	\$12,343.24
Pomptonian, Inc.	10/18/24 – PAL637101824	\$20,519.42
Pomptonian, Inc.	11/04/24 – PAL637100424	\$9,374.35
Pomptonian, Inc.	10/11/24 – PAL637101124	\$41,327.30
Pomptonian, Inc.	10/25/24 – PAL637102524	\$13,644.31
Pomptonian, Inc.	11/01/2024 – PAL637110124	\$42,021.86
Pomptonian, Inc.	11/08/24 – PAL637110824	\$9,023.12
Jay Hill Repairs	LS Steamer #1030620	\$518.00
Hubert	LS Café #8536321B1	\$18.24
Jay Hill Repairs	LS – Walk in Cooler Repair	\$704.06
Jay Hill Repairs	LS – Bally Walk In	\$2,338.56
Bug Tech, Inc.	LS/HS Café – 10/25/24	\$104.00
Jay Hill Repairs	ECC – Refrigerator Fan	\$244.38

2. SECRETARY’S AND TREASURER’S FINANCIAL REPORTS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park School District Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the Secretary’s and Treasurer’s unaudited 2024-25 financial reports, which are in agreement reflecting the district’s financial activities for the period October 2024.

3. RATIFICATION OF BOARD SECRETARY’S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION – BUDGETARY LINE ITEM STATUS

BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)3, the Board Secretary certifies that as of October 2024 no line-item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line-item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:232.11(a).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)4 that the Palisades Park School District Board of Education certifies that as of October 2024 after review of the Board Secretary’s and Treasurer’s monthly financial report, in the minutes of the Board each month that no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(b).

4. APPROVAL OF PAYROLL – 10/30/2024, 11/15/2024

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.
approves the following payroll amount:

Payroll Date	Amount
10/30/24	\$909,135.24
11/15/24	\$905,716.38

5. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST – NOVEMBER

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the November 2024 bill list in the amount of **\$2,163,182.32**:

- Fund 10 (General/Current Expenses) \$1,546,121.32
- Fund 20 (Special Revenue) \$464,880.16
- Fund 30 (Capital Projects Fund) \$0
- Fund 60 (Food Service) \$152,180.84

6. TRANSFERS

RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve transfers for the month of October 2024.

7. STUDENT ACTIVITIES ACCOUNTS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accepts the financial reports for the High School and the Lindbergh School Activities Accounts, for the month ending 10/31/2024. (on file in BOE Office)

8. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – LEGAL - 2024

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent increase the “not to exceed” amount of Busch Law Group LLC from \$50,000 to \$80,000 through the Board’s 2025 Reorganization Meeting.

9. CHANGE ORDER REQUESTS – LINDBERGH LOCKER ROOM PROJECT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following change order requests for the Lindbergh Locker Room Conversion Project:

Change Order No.	Cost	Description
4	\$33,452.00	● Supply and install 2 double windows
5	\$7,724.64	● Relocate the AHU-01 control panel

10. STAFF MEMBER VISITATIONS/WORKSHOPS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following requests for professional Visitations/Workshops:

Staff Member	Activity	Location	Date(s)	Cost	Account Number
Ricky Santana	Restorative Discipline Workshop	Virtual	11/22/24	\$295.00	20-270-200-300-01
Lisa Yee	School Based SLP – Processing Disorder Workshop	Virtual	12/16/24	\$295.00	20-270-200-300-01
Fadila Addaouki	Nurtured Heart Approach Workshop	Virtual	12/9/24 – 12/13/24	None	N/A

11. GRANT ACCEPTANCE – COMPUTER SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the “Expanding Access to Computer Science High School Courses Grant”, which provides funding directly to local education agencies (LEAs) to develop and implement one or more new high-quality computer science education courses aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Computer Science (NJSLS-CS). The grant amount has been revised from the original \$40,000 award. The revised grant amount is \$45,900.

12. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED CONTRACT 2024-2025 SY

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a contract with the State of New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired for the 2024-2025 School Year. “Education Level 2” services will be provided to Student ID #392296.

Total cost: \$5,775.00

Account #: 11-000-216-320-01

13. APPROVAL OF PROJECT – NETWORK LICENSES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves **Technotime Business Solutions, LLC – (Contract #HCESC-Cat-23-07)** for licenses needed to manage network equipment and extend warranty.

Total cost: \$21,701.91

Account #: 12-000-400-390-01

14. TITLE I SALARIES – FULL TIME STAFF

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following as Title I staff:

STAFF NAME	AMOUNT	ACCOUNT NUMBER
Randi M. Brestin	\$97,350.00	20-231-100-101-01
Janice Mockel	\$87,100.00	20-231-100-101-01
Malinda O'Reilly	\$60,600.00	20-231-100-101-01
Christine Yi	\$59,600.00	20-231-100-101-01
Danielle Bruno	\$64,270.00	20-231-100-101-01

15. GRANTS CARRYOVER 2023-2024

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the submission of a carryover amendment with funds from the 2023-2024 school year as follows:

GRANT NAME	PUBLIC SCHOOL	NON-PUBLIC	TOTAL AMENDMENT
ESEA Title I	\$59,851	\$0	\$59,851
ESEA Title I SIA	\$6,690	\$0	\$6,690
ESEA Title II	\$25,457	\$5,638	\$31,095
ESEA Title III	\$72,697	\$6,580	\$79,277
ESEA Title IV	\$4,330	\$959	\$5,289
IDEA BASIC	\$51,309	\$65,443	\$116,752
IDEA PREK	\$831	\$0	\$831

William Kim inquired regarding #8, "What time period does this cover?" Dr. Cirillo clarified that it spans from the appointment of the Board Attorney to the reorganization meeting. Jonathan Busch further explained that a significant portion pertains to prior-year cases and ongoing negotiations. Eun Min asked about the Cliffside Park bill, specifically, "What time period is this bill for?" The response confirmed that it pertains to the 2024–2025 school year.

Moved to approve Finance Consent Agenda Items #1-15

Moved by: Charlie Shin

Seconded By: Soo Chung

VOTE

Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	N/P	Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	N/P
Soo Chung	☒	☐	☐	☐	Sookyung Park	☒	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Kim	☐	☐	☐	☒	Charlie Shin	☒	☐	☐	☐
Rebekah Lee	☐	☐	☐	☒	William Kim	☒	☐	☐	☐
Eun Min	☒	☐	☐	☐	Boyoung Yu	☒	☐	☐	☐
Aaron Pak	☒	☐	☐	☐					

L. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Consent agenda for Items 1-6 – Rebekah Lee

1. GARDEN STATE KENDO – USE OF FACILITIES – PPHS GYM

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the use of Palisades Park Jr./Sr. High School gymnasium on Saturday, November 23, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to Garden State Kendo for a kendo demonstration.

Number of participants: 100 (Ages 9-18)

Number of Volunteers: 30

Fee amount: \$500 plus custodial overtime

Certificate of Liability Insurance has been provided.

2. LEARN & GROW ACADEMY – HOLIDAY CONCERT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the use of the High School Auditorium by “Learn & Grow Academy” Preschool on Thursday, December 12, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Certificate of Liability Insurance has been provided.

3. PTA – USE OF LINDBERGH FACILITIES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the use of the Lindbergh School Cafeteria on the following dates:

DATE	EVENT	TIME
January 17, 2025	Father/Guardian – Daughter Dance	4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
January 18, 2025	Mother/Guardian – Son Dance	4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
March 28, 2025	Sixth Grade Formal	4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Times are for setup, event, and cleanup after the event.

Certificate of Liability Insurance has been provided.

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY EVALUATION SCHOOL BUILDINGS CHECKLIST 2024-2025

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist Statement of Assurance 2024-2025.

5. PALISADES PARK LITTLE LEAGUE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a request from the Palisades Park Little League organization for the following schedule of events:

- Practices: HS Gym or LS Gym beginning February 2025. Monday through Friday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Try-Outs: HS Gym or LS Gym on 01/12/25, 01/19/25, and 01/26/25 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Outdoor Practices: HS Field or LS Field – During the season (February – June 2025) when available

We realize that HS Basketball and Baseball take precedence during these time frames, and we can adjust our schedule if necessary.

6. ELKS HOOP SHOOT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the use of the High School Gym for ELKS “Hoop Shoot” on Sunday, January 5, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Certificate of Liability Insurance has been provided.

Charlie Shin emphasized the importance of ensuring that the certificate of liability is formal and accurate. He also requested that the district confirm there are no conflicts with the use of the gym. Dr. Cirillo assured him that any school-related function would take precedence. Boyoung Yu asked about the ELKS Hoop Shoot, to which Dr. Cirillo explained that it is a nonprofit organization event typically held on Saturdays. However, hosting it during gym class as part of the school day allows for greater participation. The upcoming event will be for the second round of the competition. Soo Chung inquired about the application for the use of facilities form. Dr. Cirillo noted that in the past an email was considered sufficient, but the new form introduces more checks and balances. If the Board agrees, this updated process will take effect starting January 1, 2025.

William Kim inquired about any further discussions regarding the borough providing financial support for the use of school facilities. Dr. Cirillo suggested that the matter might be explored further with the assistance of the new council member. Soo Chung clarified that the form in question is required for all individuals or groups wishing to use the district's facilities.

Moved to approve Buildings and Grounds Agenda Items #1-6

Moved by: Aaron Pak 2nd: Charlie Shin

All in favor – aye

No objections, no abstentions

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the use of the Early Childhood Center to the PTA on January 10, 2025 for their First Dance.

Moved to approve PTA Use of Facilities at ECC

Moved by: Boyoung Yu Seconded by: Aaron Pak

All in favor – aye

No objections, no abstentions

M. PERSONNEL

Consent agenda for Items 1-10 – Charlie Shin

1. HOME INSTRUCTION TEACHERS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following home instruction:

Staff Member	Student ID	Start Date	End Date
Julia McElroy	392296	10/28/2024	TBD
Samantha Scialabba	392296	10/28/2024	TBD
Stephanie Fiorentino	273441	10/28/2024	TBD
Jodi Burrows	9757	09/16/2024	11/18/2024
Elizabeth Porrino	10730	09/16/2024	10/24/2024

2. HOURLY ADJUSTMENT REQUEST

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the hourly adjustment for Jose Chicas, IT Department, from 10 hours/week to 15 hours/week.

Account No: 11-000-252-104-01

3. VOLUNTEER GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACH

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves Nicolette Costanzo as a volunteer Girls Basketball Coach for the 2024-2025 school year.
Pending fingerprint approval

4. WINTER TRACK COACH

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accepts the resignation of Chris Messina and approves the subsequent appointment of Jordan Coleman as the Head Winter Track Coach for the 2024-2025 school year.

5. BREAKFAST CLUB PROGRAM

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following staff members for the “Breakfast Club” Program at the ECC as Subs:

Isabella Ostuni	Nicole Ostuni
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Amount: \$35.00 per hour

6. REQUEST FOR LEAVE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following leave requests:

Staff ID No.	Effective	Return Date
4154	November 1, 2024	Intermittent
0179	February 12, 2025	September 29, 2025
8804	October 29, 2024	December 1, 2024
1233	March 31, 2025	September 2, 2025

7. ESL CURRICULUM REVISIONS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the appointment of the following staff to update ESL Curriculum:

Amy Munn	Joowon Yim	Michelle Rengifo
Sei-Jung Oh	Laurie Nova	

Rate: \$36.00 per hour – up to 15 hours

Account No: 20-242-200-100-01

Title III Money will be used.

8. APPOINTMENT OF STAFF

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the appointment of the following personnel for the 2024-2025 school year:

Employee Name	Position	Salary	Start Date	Account #	Building
Brigitte Stieglitz	Special Education Teacher	\$60,100 Step 4 BA	TBD	11-213-100-101-01	Lindbergh
Jordan Coleman	Permanent Sub	\$150 per day	TBD	N/A	High School

9. HIGH IMPACT TUTORING GRANT – AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the appointment of the following staff for After School Tutoring:

Staff: Caroline Gannon and Sarah Murtagh

Rate: \$36.00 per hour

Account No: 20-450-100-101-02

High Impact Tutoring Grant money will be used.

10. RESIGNATION OF STAFF

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accepts, with regret, the resignation of the following staff members:

Employee Name	Position	Effective
Victoria McNamara	Special Education Teacher	December 13, 2024

Moved to approve Personnel Consent Agenda Items #1-10

Moved by: Charlie Shin

Seconded By: Boyoung Yu

VOTE

Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	N/P	Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	N/P
Soo Chung	☒	☐	☐	☐	Sookyung Park	☒	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Kim	☐	☐	☐	☒	Charlie Shin	☒	☐	☐	☐
Rebekah Lee	☐	☐	☐	☒	William Kim	☒	☐	☐	☐
Eun Min	☒	☐	☐	☐	Boyoung Yu	☒	☐	☐	☐
Aaron Pak	☒	☐	☐	☐					

N. CURRICULUM

Consent agenda for Items 1-3– Boyoung Yu

1. PRESCHOOL PROJECTED ENROLLMENT 2025-2026 SY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the submission of the Preschool Projected Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year.

2. 2025-2026 THREE YEAR PRESCHOOL PROGRAM PLAN

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the submission of the Division of Early Childhood Services 2025-2026 Three Year Preschool Program Plan, including the Form Survey, Statement of Assurance, and the District Contact Chart.

3. FIELD TRIPS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the following Field Trips:

- Destination: Bergen Community College – Teen Arts Festival
- Date: Friday, May 16, 2025
- Time: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Group: Dance, Drama, Video, Band, Arts, and Creative Writing
- Cost per Student: \$25.00

- Destination: Fairleigh Dickinson - Teaneck
- Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025
- Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Group: Work Based Learning
- Cost per Student: None

- Destination: Catch Air – Hasbrouck Heights
- Date: Friday, November 22, 2024
- Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Group: Prek 3
- Cost per Student: None

- Destination: Catch Air – Hasbrouck Heights
- Date: Monday, November 25, 2024
- Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Group: Prek 4
- Cost per Student: None

- Destination: Palisades Park Pool
- Date: Thursday, June 5, 2025
- Time: 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Group: Senior Advisors
- Cost per Student: None

- Destination: AMC Movie Theater – Ridgefield Park
- Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024
- Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Group: Prek 3 & 4
- Cost per Student: None
- Destination: AMC Movie Theater - Ridgefield Park

- Date: Thursday, December 12, 2024
- Time: 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Group: Grades 7 & 8
- Cost per Student: \$20.00
- Destination: River Auto Service
- Date: Friday, January 24, 2025
- Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Group: Work Based Learning
- Cost per Student: None

Charlie Shin initiated a discussion about the projected increase in student enrollment for preschool and other grades, emphasizing the critical need for additional classroom space to accommodate future growth. Boyoung Yu inquired about the deadline, confirming whether it is November 30.

Moved to approve Curriculum Agenda Items #1-3 with #2 on the condition of the Superintendent's thorough review.

Moved by: Boyoung Yu

Seconded By: Charlie Shin

All in favor – aye

No objections, no abstentions

O. NEGOTIATIONS – William Kim

P. POLICY

Q. NJ SCHOOL BOARDS LIAISON/ALTERNATE – Sookyung Park

R. COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS REP/ALTERNATE – Aaron Pak

S. SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE – Anthony Kim

T. OLD BUSINESS

Soo Chung brought up the topic of discussing the student representative. Dr. Cirillo stated that the existing policy would be revised and a committee formed to address this matter, noting that some students have already expressed interest. Mr. Jonathan Busch agreed with this approach. The current policy will be prepared and distributed to all board members for review regarding the student representative.

U. NEW BUSINESS

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Move to open audience participation

Motion: Charlie Shin

2nd: Sookyung Park

All in favor – aye – 7:11 p.m.

Naomi Rivera of Glen Avenue noted that the PTA's Winter Wonderland event was inadvertently omitted from discussions. Bradley Rivera, also of Glen Avenue, expressed concern over the financial hardship caused by rising costs for families regarding the use of facilities. He highlighted the importance of these programs in helping children build confidence and emphasized the connection between academic achievement and teacher content expertise. Mr. Rivera urged for the resolution of ongoing contract negotiations. In response, William Kim explained that efforts are being made to have the borough shoulder more of the costs. Korrine Sterni reflected on the Board of Education's consistent statements over the past year about valuing teachers. She acknowledged the Superintendent and former Board members for their dedication to achieving a fair contract, sharing a story about Mr. Arrabito as an example of commitment. Mary DeBlasio highlighted Mrs. Farnese's engagement with students during Hispanic Heritage Month in September through a meaningful activity. Rachel Morgese, a special education teacher at the high school, praised her colleague Jane Cho for her hard work and sacrifice. Similarly, Malorie Summer, a special education teacher at Lindbergh, spoke about the annual "Turkey Trot" event, emphasizing that despite the lack of a new contract, staff continue to provide a high-quality learning experience for Palisades Park students. Catherine Clark, an occupational therapist, quoted her colleague Amy Padron and shared remarks about Ms. Menzella. Neris Papoters expressed concern over the ongoing absence of a teacher contract, sharing her child's attachment to Mrs. Maurer and the hope that she would be present for the child's graduation. Jonathan Busch responded on behalf of the Board, affirming that teachers are valued and explaining that the negotiation process is currently in the mediation and fact-finding phase. He clarified that teachers are working under their previous contract and stressed that all parties aim to reach a resolution. Soo Chung expressed gratitude for the comments and commended the teachers for their hard work. Dr. Cirillo reflected on the preschool program's growth, noting that five years ago it began with 30 students, and today, it faces space limitations despite increased demand. He explained that the district has been sending preschool funds to outside programs due to the lack of space but anticipates bringing students back once additional classrooms are built. He noted the consistent increase in graduating class sizes, from 120 to 140 students. Boyoung Yu inquired about strategies to accommodate the district's rapid growth and explore further expansion options.

Motion to close audience participation and adjourn the meeting

Motion: Eun Min

2nd: Sookyung Park

All in favor – aye – 7:35 p.m.

W. CLOSED SESSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion: William Kim

2nd: Aaron Pak

All in favor – aye – 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Aleksandar Kondovski

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary