

Oakland Public Schools
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 7, 2025
7:00 PM

A Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Education was held on January 7, 2025. The meeting was called To order at 7:04 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 December 18, 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. Cooper, Ms. Kilday, Mr. Mazzilli, Ms. Shelkin and Mr. Scerbo.

Also present:

Dr. Gina M. Coffaro, Superintendent of Schools, and 4 members of the public.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Coffaro provided updates on Kindergarten registration scheduled for January

I. MINUTES

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

A. Approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes from December 10, 2024.

B. Approve the Work Session minutes from December 10, 2024.

C. Approve the Executive Session minutes from December 10, 2024.

Upon call of the roll, Mr. Mazzilli Abstained all others voted yes. Motion carried.

II. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

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

A. Approve the safety drill report for the month of December 2024.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Kilday to approve Personnel items A through H as follows:

Board Liaison

- A. Accept the following retirement and resignation:

Name	Position	Location	Effective	Reason
Diana Daleo	Music Teacher TCHR.FL.MUSC.MG.04	Dogwood/Heights	7/1/2025	Retirement
Erin Violetti	ABA Therapist Paraprofessional AIDE.HT.MD.MG.02	Heights	12/23/2024	Resignation

- B. Approve the following reassignment:

Name	New Position/Location	Previous Position/Location	Replacing	Hourly Rate	Effective
Gemma Murrell	Full-time ABA Therapist Paraprofessional/Heights AIDE.HT.MD.MG.03	Part-time Paraprofessional and Playground-Cafeteria Aide/Heights AIDE.HT.RES.MG.05 AIDE.HT.CAFT.MG.01	Alison Radowitz	\$23	On or about 1/8/2025

- C. Approve the following appointment of non-certified staff for the 2024-2025 school year, upon satisfactory completion of all employment obligations.

Name	Position	Replacing	Hourly Rate	Effective
Gemma Murrell	Bus Aide	Kylie Kesenheimer	\$17.50	On or about 1/8/2025

- D. Approve the appointment of Kimberly Salacki as Substitute Title I Paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year at an hourly rate of \$60, upon submission of an approved voucher. This salary will be funded with Title I funds.
- E. Approve Justin O’Flaherty to provide transportation coverage for the 2024-2025 school year to be paid at the approved transportation stipend amounts, upon submission of an approved voucher:
- F. Approve the change in training level and updated salary for each teacher, effective February 1, 2025, as per the attached list.
- G. Approve a \$2,000 non-pensionable stipend for Lewis Thurston to install ball isolation valves in classroom unit ventilators at Dogwood Hill Elementary School and Manito Elementary School after normal business hours, upon submission of an approved voucher.

- H. Approve the appointment of the following as daily substitute personnel for the 2024-2025 school year, upon satisfactory completion of all employment obligations:

Name	Substitute Assignment
Cindy D’Alto	Teacher/Paraprofessional
Christian Parr	Teacher/Paraprofessional
Jake O’Brien	ABA Therapist Paraprofessional/Bus Aide
Jaylyn Ocasio	Bus Aide
Brooke Roughton	Bus Aide
Aliana Trianine	ABA Therapist Paraprofessional/ Paraprofessional/Bus Aide

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. Cooper to approve Regular Education items A and B as follows:

- A. Approve the HIB Report for the period December 11, 2024 through January 7, 2025 as follows:

Number of HIB Investigations	1
Number of Affirmed HIB Incidents	1

- B. Approve the attached list of Valley Middle School afterschool clubs and advisors for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

V. SPECIAL EDUCATION

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

- A. Approve Innovations in Online Education, Inc. for Home Instruction as needed for the 2024-2025 school year at the rate of \$75 per hour.
- B. Approve Roaring Whisper Speech Therapy LLC for a selective mutism district professional development on January 30, 2025 at the cost of \$800.
- C. Approve Dr. Larissa Labay Psy.D. for the 2024-2025 school year for consultation purposes, recommendations and to complete psychiatric diagnostic evaluations as needed for the district at the cost of \$425 per hour.
- D. Approve West Bergen Mental Healthcare to provide individual therapy sessions to one student, whose name is on file in the Superintendent's office, one time per week at the rate of \$130 per session for the 2024-2025 school year.

- E. Approve one student, whose name is on file in the Superintendent's office, to attend Elmwood Park Public Schools effective January 2, 2025.

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. Cooper to approve Finance items A through H as follows:

- A. Approve the December 2024 certified gross (net & agency) payroll in the amount of \$2,153,700.99.
- B. Approve the payment of the attached list of bills in the amount of \$4,376,396.20 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 December 31, 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 2024-2025 Budget appropriation transfers for the month ending December 31, 2024.
- E. Approve the Board Secretary's Financial Report for the month ending December 31, 2024.
- F. Approve the Treasurer of School Monies Report for the month ending December 31, 2024.
- G. Approve staff participation in professional conferences/workshops outside the District, as per the attached.
- H. Approve wire transfer to the NJ Department of Labor for NJ Unemployment Compensation in the amount of \$360.77.

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

XII. ADMINISTRATION

None

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

- A. Approve the list of field trips for students in the Oakland School District for the 2024-2025 school year as per the attached.

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

IX. POLICY

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

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

R 8600 Student Transportation

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

X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Ms. Sedor inquired about the transportation policy that was approved.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Kilday and seconded by Mr. Mazzilli that the meeting be adjourned at 7:25 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Gina M. Coffaro
Superintendent of Schools

All approved policies can be found on the
Oakland Board of Education Website under
Board of Education/Board Policies:

<https://www.oaklandschoolsnj.org/>