

**COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS**  
**COLTS NECK, NEW JERSEY 07722**

**Mission Statement**

*The mission of Colts Neck Township Schools is to empower and inspire students to be confident, creative, self-sufficient learners who maximize their strengths and talents and contribute as responsible participants in their ever expanding world.*

**MINUTES:** For the Meeting of the Board of Education, April 10, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building at 70 Conover Road, Colts Neck, New Jersey 07722

**2023-2024 Colts Neck Township Schools District Goals**

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT** - To implement supplemental intervention programs designed specifically to target areas of student performance in language arts and mathematics for the purpose of yielding results on 2024 Spring NJSLA that restore all tested grade level scores to 2019 pre-pandemic scores or above.

**COMMUNITY & COMMUNICATIONS** - Design and coordinate opportunities for the district to interact and communicate with parents and the community at large for purposes of enhancing the district's public relations and parent engagement.

**FACILITIES:** Continue efforts to provide additional outdoor and indoor spaces to support student learning and the overall development of the whole child.

**STAFF ENGAGEMENT:** Increase and enhance opportunities for staff to participate and contribute to decisions directly impacting them and their work environment.

**Public Participation**

*The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest. Public participation is governed under District Policy 0167 - Public Participation in Board Meetings as follows:*

*Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:*

- 1. A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable;*
- 2. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes' duration;*
- 3. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard; and only then if time constraints and/or the presiding officer allow.*
- 4. All statements, questions, or inquiries shall be directed to the presiding officer; and any questions or inquiries directed by a participant to another Board member or Superintendent shall be redirected to the presiding officer who shall determine if such statement, question, or inquiry shall be addressed by the presiding officer on behalf of the Board or by the individual Board member or Superintendent;*
- 5. It is the expectation of the Board that communications between participants and the Board will remain positive and focused around the best interest of the student(s) and the district as a whole. All communications from all stakeholders shall be conducted with mutual respect and civility. The Board will not condone communications and interactions that can be perceived as harassing, insulting, threatening, or lacking in respect or civility.*

*The presiding officer may:*

- a. Interrupt, warn, and/or terminate a participant's statement, question, or inquiry when it is too lengthy;*

- b. *Interrupt and/or warn a participant when the statement, question, or inquiry is abusive, obscene, or may be defamatory;*
- c. *Request any person to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;*
- d. *Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person prevents or disrupts a meeting with an act that obstructs or interferes with a meeting;*
- e. *Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting; and*
- f. *Waive these rules when necessary for the protection of privacy or to maintain an orderly operation of the Board meeting.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board President John Camera called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Approximately 20 members of the public and Special Counsel Christopher Dasti, Esq. were present.

**ROLL CALL**

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

Board Members Absent: None

**LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING**

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, this meeting has been duly advertised in the Asbury Park Press in a schedule of meetings dated January 11, 2024 notice of which has been filed with the Deputy Clerk for Colts Neck Township and the requirements of posting of notices have been met.

**FLAG SALUTE**

FLAG SALUTE

Board President John Camera led the Flag Salute.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. It was moved by Amy Dimes, seconded by Brenna Dillon and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the Board minutes of the following Meetings:

Meeting
January 3, 2024 Organization and Regular Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

**PRESENTATION**

PRESENTATION

1. Student Representatives to the Board of Education - Comments:
- Christos Churney, 8th Grade - inquired whether there were any remaining funds that the district received, which were used for the purpose of assisting students from COVID-19 learning losses. Dr. Garibay explained that the district received American Rescue Plan (ARP) and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds which were used to create academic-based programs to help students catch up in mathematics, reading, writing, etc. The student further asked whether the teachers that run these programs are paid and whether we have to raise taxes to pay them. Dr. Garibay confirmed that the teachers are paid with the ARP and ESSER funds.
  - Jillian DiSalvatore, 6th Grade - shared her appreciation for the recent program at Cedar Drive Middle School in collaboration with the Jackson Alpha School. She looks forward to seeing more events like these occurring at CDMS.
  - Sophie Winkelmann, 8th Grade - shared her idea for a Crazy Comic Club as a 9-week after school club. This club would allow students to express themselves free of judgment. She also proposed that the transportation policy should dictate that children have bus stops no more than ½ mile from their home, to keep students safe.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

COMMUNICATIONS

Date	From	To	Subject
3/25/24	Dustin Johnson	Board of Education	Submission of a cleaning quote, no obligation, estimate based on districts cleaning expectations and specifications
3/26/24	Lexie Diez	Board of Education	Practicum inquiry - Fall 2024
3/28/24	Michael Gottesman	Board of Education	OPRA request on 3/19/24 due 3/28/24 for any and all documents, emails, letters from Pacific Justice Institute

**REPORT OF PRESIDENT – Mr. John Camera**

PRESIDENT'S  
REPORT

- President Camera reported:
- Excited to be participating at the Middle School Purple Up Breakfast next Monday; this is a great way to honor our military families.
  - Thanked Mrs. Volpe for bringing to his attention that the New Jersey School Board

Association (NJSBA) will be holding an upcoming event in Colts Neck, which he plans to attend.

- Special Counsel to the District, Christopher Dasti, Esq. is in attendance this evening as he will be participating in the Executive Session at the end of the meeting.
- Lastly, he noted that although he has been canceling the second Board meeting of the month for the first part of the year, there will be a second meeting this month, April 24th and there will be two(2) meetings in May, May 7th which is the Public Hearing and Adoption of the '24-25 Budget at the Primary School, and then a regular meeting on May 29th. He anticipates being able to share a synopsis of the results that were obtained from the recently issued RFPs at the April 24th meeting. That meeting will be a work session meeting.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Buildings & Grounds/Safety & Security Committee:

Chairperson: Kevin Walsh

Committee Members: Brenna Dillon, Jason Orrico, Vincent Rugnetta

Administrator: Vincent Marasco

- Kevin Walsh reported that he is working with Dr. Garibay to schedule a tour for the committee of the buildings to acquaint themselves with the status of ongoing projects. Dr. Garibay indicated that she has put three possible dates out to the Committee and is waiting to hear back.

### Communications Committee:

Chairperson: Vincent Rugnetta

Committee Members: Amy Dimes, Jessica Ramirez, Angelique Volpe

Administrator: Philip J. Capasso III

- Vincent Rugnetta reported that he has received feedback indicating that the livestreamed meetings are difficult to hear. He would like to explore possibly having a microphone on each of the tables. Mr. Camera noted he has gotten similar feedback. Mr. Camera thanked the Administration for putting together the livestreaming by utilizing existing equipment, and at no cost.

### Curriculum Committee:

Chairperson: Jessica Ramirez

Committee Members: Amy Dimes, Vincent Rugnetta, Kevin Walsh

Administrator: Dr. Erica Reynolds

- Jessica Ramirez reported that she is working with Administration to set up a meeting to review the curriculum prior to it being adopted at the meeting in May.

### Finance/Negotiations Committee:

Chairperson: Jason Orrico

Committee Members: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Kevin Walsh

Administrator: Vincent Marasco

- Jason Orrico reported that the committee met several times. The committee will be reviewing proposals received for professional services. He is hoping to have recommendations for professional appointments by the May 7th meeting.

Policy Committee:

Chairperson: Jessica Ramirez

Committee Members: Alison DeNoia, Jason Orrico, Angelique Volpe

Administrator: Dr. MaryJane Garibay

- Jessica Ramirez reported that the committee is working with legal counsel to review several policies and regulations that have been recommended by Strauss Esmay, which will appear at an upcoming meeting for approval.
- The committee is also working with Administration to compare Strauss Esmay versus New Jersey School Board Association for the district's policy holdings. She is hopeful that she will have a comparison to present to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

Advocacy & Government Relations Committee:

Chairperson: Angelique Volpe

Committee Members: John Camera, Brenna Dillon, Jessica Ramirez

Co-Administrators: Dr. MaryJane Garibay and Dr. Richard Beck

- Angelique Volpe addressed Governor Murphy's recent nomination of Serena Rice to the State Board of Education. Mrs. Volpe voiced strong opposition to Ms. Rice's nomination, opining that Ms. Rice is politically motivated and has no experience. Mrs. Volpe then proceeded to read various social media posts from Ms. Rice. The first post she read stated that transgender females should be allowed to play sports with biological males. Another post read was one that celebrated claims that mass shootings are not caused by mental health problems, but by white males. Mrs. Volpe shared another social media post from Ms. Rice that supports and celebrates drag queens. Mrs. Volpe expressed her offense by one of Ms. Rice's posts that stated she was deeply bothered by candidates (like herself) that ran on parental rights issues and that wants to keep education on the forefront.
- Mrs. Volpe stated she would like to make a motion for Mr. Camera to draft a letter opposing Ms. Rice's nomination to the State Board, on behalf of the Colts Neck Township Board of Education. Mr. Camera stated that he agrees completely with what Mrs. Volpe has said and remarked that it is "insanity" to allow biological males to play sports against biological females and that transgender girls are not girls. Mr. Camera stated that for protocol reasons, Mrs. Volpe should hold that motion for New Business.
- Mrs. Volpe also stated that the public hearing for Ms. Rice's confirmation will be this Monday, April 15th in Trenton and that she will be attending and hopes to speak against the appointment.
- Mrs. DeNoia requested clarification from Mrs. Volpe asking that if she intends to

speak at the hearing in Trenton on Monday, that she will be representing herself and not the Board of Education. Mrs. Volpe replied “yes”.

- Mrs. Dillon commented that she is very excited to hear that a meeting is scheduled for the Ad-Hoc Committee, however, she said she was unaware that the meeting was scheduled, noting that she is unable to attend. She further noted that normally all the Committee members are consulted before a meeting is set. Mrs. Dillon commented that she hopes that in the future all members of the committee can be looped in prior to setting a meeting.

Ad-Hoc Committee for the Arts, Sports, & Extracurricular Activities:

Chairperson: Vincent Rugnetta  
Committee Members: Brenna Dillon, Jessica Ramirez, Kevin Walsh  
Administrator: Dr. MaryJane Garibay

- Vincent Rugnetta reported that there is a meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 25th with stakeholders and Dr. Garibay and he hopes to gather their feedback in order to get some new ideas in place for the next school year.

Board Member Liaisons:

Brenna Dillon - Parent Advisory Committee:

- A productive meeting with certain Administrators was held. The Administrators were so receptive to the feedback that came from the Parent Advisory Committee. Mrs. Dillon also noted that she has also received feedback from parents who are already seeing changes and feel like their voices were heard. The next step will be to collect feedback from the committee members, summarize the feedback and present the final recommendations at an upcoming Board meeting.

Amy Dimes - Colts Neck PTO:

- The Spring Gala was a success; there were 320 women in attendance, including many staff members. Final numbers are not available yet, but pre-sale raffle tickets were just over \$28,000. In ticket sales and sponsorships they raised a total of \$52,000. The total value of the baskets was \$68,000.
- The PTO is now working on end of year activities, including the upcoming flower sale.

John Camera - Colts Neck Township Committee

- No report

Kevin Walsh - Colts Neck Township Senior Citizens

- No Report

State & County School Boards Association Representative:

Angelique Volpe - On Friday, April 12, the NJSBA is offering a statewide meeting on Board Leadership which will be held at the County College of Morris & Randolph. Mrs. Volpe noted that all Board members are welcome to attend.

On October 21-24, the NJSBA Annual Workshop 2024 will be held in Atlantic City and she encouraged all Board members to attend. Ms. Volpe noted that she will not be

attending the workshop.

Lastly, the School Boards County meeting is May 7th at 7 pm, at the Colts Neck Inn. They will be voting on the next delegate for a three (3) year term. Ms. Volpe indicated that both she and Mr. Camera will be attending.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Garibay reported:

- Welcomed everyone back from Spring Break.
- Noted that Personnel Item # 7 has been administratively removed from the agenda.
- Student activities are in full swing; Congratulations to the Colts Neck PTO on the wonderful Spring Gala.
- Music in Our Schools was in March; the CRES Beginner's Band, the 4th & 5th Grade Band and the Spring Singers from Conover Road Primary School did a wonderful job. Thanked all the staff members who worked on the event.
- Echoed the sentiments of student representative Jillian DiSalvatore on the Alpha School event.
- April is Month of the Military Child; Monday, April 15th is the District's Purple Up Day, a day which the district celebrates and recognizes our military students and their families.
- April is also Autism Awareness Month.
- Welcomed the Partnership with the Monmouth County School for Wellness, which is hosting a symposium on mental health and wellness this Monday, April 15, at 6 pm at Brookdale Community College. This event is designed to bring awareness to mental health and teen suicide prevention.
- Tomorrow night is the final Parent Academy of the school year which is at Cedar Drive Middle School at 7 pm. The topic is "Raising Resilient Youth in Challenging Times." This event is being facilitated by representatives from the Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide. Thanked the Colts Neck PTO and the CNTEA for sponsoring this Parent Academy.
- Preschool and Kindergarten Parent Open House is Thursday, April 11th, at 10 am and 6:30 pm for potential new students.
- Colts Neck Schools first ever Pickleball Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, April 13th, with a rain date on Sunday, and begins at 9:00 am; the cost is \$50 per team and all proceeds this year will be going towards offsetting the cost for students to attend the Stoke's trip.
- Noted Item #6 on the agenda under Finance is an appropriation of NJ Stabilization Aid which the district was awarded through an application process. The aid (approx. \$800,000 in total) will be funding items that the district would otherwise have needed to remove from the budget.
- Recognized the retirement of Lorraine Garrido, Math teacher at CDMS; thanked her for her 20 years of service and dedication to the district.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Superintendent's Report on Enrollment, Fire/Security Drills and Student Suspensions for the 2023-2024 School Year, as of March 31, 2024. [\(Attachment # S-1\)](#)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
2. The Superintendent recommends approval of the amendment to the resolution adopted at the March 13, 2024 Regular Meeting for the reporting on investigations of incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying ("HIB") occurring during the following period commencing February 1, 2024 through February 29, 2024, as indicated below:

AMENDED:  
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS OF HIB INCIDENTS

Incidents	From	To
Number of Investigations Reported	1	2
Number of Investigations where HIB Was Found to Occur	0	0

3. The Superintendent will report on investigations of incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying ("HIB") occurring during the following period:

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS OF HIB INCIDENTS

Period	Number of Investigations Reported	Number of Incidents HIB Was Found to Occur
3/1/24 - 3/15/24	1	1

**COMMENTS FROM ATTENDING CONSTITUENTS – ALL SUBJECTS**

- Student Representative - asked about the upcoming meeting for the Ad-Hoc Committee for the Arts, Sports, & Extracurricular Activities and whether student liaisons assigned to that committee need to attend that meeting. Mr. Rugnetta said they do not have to, but that the students are welcome to attend if they wish. Mr. Camera reminded Board members to make sure all committee members are contacted when meetings are being scheduled.
- Student Representative - mentioned that the Middle School conducted an emergency drill right before Spring Break and thought it could be good to refresh staff on the lesser-used drills for the future.
- Mallory Reardon, 165 Laird Road - commented on Mrs. Volpe's report under her Advocacy & Government Relations Committee report, stating that she found it puzzling that Mrs. Volpe believes that Ms. Rice's social media posts should impact whether or not she should be elected or appointed to a public position. She further commented that Mrs. Volpe has a history of sharing posts that mock and defame the LGBTQ community, and she then read aloud several of Mrs. Volpe's posts. She further noted that Colts Neck Excellence in



Education group has a post sharing screenshots of many of these items that Ms. Volpe has posted, if readers want to see for themselves. She reminded Mrs. Volpe that LGBTQ students exist, whether or not she likes it, and as a Board of Education member, she is elected to represent all students. She requested that Mrs. Volpe stop bringing politics into the District and focus instead on what she can do to make this District better for our students.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. It was moved by Brenna Dillon, seconded by Kevin Walsh and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the acceptance of the Superintendent's Action for the following HIB/Non-HIB incidents as reported to the Board at its meeting of March 13, 2024 and amended at the April 10, 2024 for the period commencing February 1, 2024 through February 29, 2024 wherein two (2) incidents were reported. Zero (0) incident of HIB was found to occur as indicated below:

AFFIRMATION OF  
SUPERINTENDENT'S  
ACTION

Non-HIB Incident No.	Location
2023 - N4	Cedar Drive Middle School
2023 - N5	Cedar Drive Middle School

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

2. It was moved by Brenna Dillon, seconded by Kevin Walsh and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the acknowledgement that there is no Superintendent's Action for HIB/Non-HIB investigations, as reported at its meeting of March 13, 2024, for the period commencing January 16, 2024 through January 31, 2024 wherein no incidents were reported.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
OF NO ACTION BY  
SUPERINTENDENT

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

3. It was moved by Brenna Dillon, seconded by Kevin Walsh and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the following evaluation, as indicated below:

EVALUATION

Student #	Type of Evaluation	Performed By	Cost Not to Exceed
20330140	Neurodevelopmental	Dr. Sell	\$600.00

(Acct. # 11-000-219-320-000)

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

4. It was moved by Brenna Dillon, seconded by Kevin Walsh and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the following resolution:

PROCLAMATION:  
APRIL IS MONTH OF  
THE MILITARY CHILD

Whereas, April is the Month of the Military Child. This awareness month was established to underscore the important role children play in the Armed Forces community. There are approximately 2 million military children, ranging in ages from newborn to 18 years old; 1.3 million military children are school-aged. Care of military children sustains our fighting force, and strengthens the health, security, and safety of our nation's families and communities; and

Whereas, Thousands of brave Americans demonstrate their courage and commitment to freedom by serving in the Armed Forces of the United States both on Active Duty and in the National Guard and Reserves; and There are approximately 2 million children (of whom 1.3 million are school-aged) parents serving the military; and

Whereas, The youth of our service members continue to make significant contributions to family, Schools, communities, the nation and to Naval Weapons Station Earle, despite prolonged and repeated absences of one or both parents; and

Whereas, These children are a source of pride and honor to us all, and it is only fitting that we take the time to recognize their contributions, celebrate their spirit, and let our men and women in uniform know that while they are taking care of us, we are taking care of their children; and

Whereas, The recognition of the "Month of the Military Child" allows us to pay tribute to military children for their commitment, patience, courage and unconditional support of their parents;

NOW, THEREFORE, The Colts Neck Township Board of Education, in partnership with Naval Weapons Station Earle, New Jersey Community, do hereby proclaim APRIL, 2024 as "MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD."

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

5. It was moved by Brenna Dillon, seconded by Kevin Walsh and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the following field trips, as indicated below: FIELD TRIPS

Participants/Location	Trip / Location	Date
Grade 3 students Conover Road Elementary School	Poricy Park Nature Center Middletown, NJ	4/15/24
		4/16/24
		4/17/24
		4/18/24
		5/3/24
		5/7/24
Grade 3 students Conover Road Elementary School	Montrose School House Colts Neck, NJ	4/11/24
		4/12/24 (rain date)
Grade 5 students Conover Road Elementary School	Six Flags Safari Jackson, NJ	4/30/24
Grade 7 students Cedar Drive Middle School	Junior Achievement Biztown Edison, NJ	5/28/24

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/SAFETY AND SECURITY**

1. It was moved by Vincent Rugnetta, seconded by Amy Dimes and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the adoption of the 2024 Summer Bridge Program to be held at the Conover Road Elementary School, from July 8, 2024 through July 25, 2024. The program will run Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. ADOPTION OF THE 2024 SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM DATES

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

**CURRICULUM**

1. It was moved by Alison DeNoia, seconded by Brenna Dillon and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the reimbursable expenses in accordance with REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES

Policy #6471/Regulation #6471. ([Attachment # C-1](#))

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

2. It was moved by Alison DeNoia, seconded by Brenna Dillon and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the appointment of staff members to participate in the additional Spring curriculum writing for the 2023-2024 school year, at an hourly rate of \$52, as indicated below:

ADDITIONAL SPRING  
CURRICULUM  
WRITING 2023-2024  
SCHOOL YEAR

Name	Course	Total Number of Hours Not to Exceed	Total Salary Not to Exceed
Allison Pense	Art Curriculum Writing (Gr. 3-5)	2	\$104
Kathleen Augustin	Being A Reader Curriculum Writing (Gr. K-2)	4	\$208
Taylor Donovan	Being A Reader Curriculum Writing (Gr. K-2)	4	\$208
Alexis Novotny	Being A Reader Curriculum Writing (Gr. K-2)	4	\$208
Laila Tlack	Language Arts Curriculum Writing (Gr. 6-8)	4	\$208
Jennifer Main	Writing Curriculum Writing (K-2)	3	\$156
AnnaRita Dragonetti	Italian Curriculum Writing (Gr. 6-8)	2	\$104
Tatiana Burgos	Spanish Curriculum Writing (Gr. 6-8)	2	\$104
Jennifer Main	Library Curriculum Writing (Gr. K-8)	4	\$208
Suzanne Cooper	Accelerated Mathematics Curriculum Writing (Gr. 6)	4	\$208
Suzanne Cooper	Advanced Mathematics Curriculum Writing (Gr. 6)	4	\$208

Marissa Granato	Algebra Curriculum Writing (Gr. 8)	4	\$208
Marissa Granato	Advanced Algebra I Curriculum Writing (Gr. 8)	4	\$208
Marissa Granato	Geometry Curriculum Writing (Gr. 8)	4	\$208
Kathleen Augustin	Mathematics Curriculum Writing (Gr. K-2)	4	\$208
Taylor Donovan	Mathematics Curriculum Writing (Gr. K-2)	4	\$208
Alexis Novotny	Mathematics Curriculum Writing (Gr. K-2)	4	\$208
Jennifer Main	Science Curriculum Writing (Gr. K-2)	4	\$208

Funded by ESSER III (20-488-221-104-000-100-C)

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

3. It was moved by Alison DeNoia, seconded by Brenna Dillon and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the following school counselor internship assignment for the 2023-2024 school year, as indicated below:

INTERNSHIP:  
SCHOOL  
COUNSELOR

Student/College/ Number of Hours	Cooperating Staff Member/ Position/Location	Effective Date
Kristin Jacoutot/The College of New Jersey/90 hours	Lauren Hums/School Counselor/ Cedar Drive Middle School	2/20/24 - 5/31/24

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

## FINANCE

1. It was moved by Alison DeNoia, seconded by Brenna Dillon and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the transfer of funds for the month of February 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year. ([Attachment # F-1](#))

TRANSFER OF  
FUNDS

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

2. It was moved by Alison DeNoia, seconded by Brenna Dillon and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the Board Secretary's Report as of February 29, 2024. ([Attachment # F-2](#))

BOARD  
SECRETARY'S  
REPORT

RESOLVED, Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, the Board Secretary certifies that as of February 29, 2024, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in the total exceed the amount appropriated by the Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8.1.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, we certify that as of February 29, 2024 the Board Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) did not reflect an over expenditure in any of the major accounts or funds, and based on the appropriation balances reflected on this report and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that the district has sufficient funds available to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

3. It was moved by Alison DeNoia, seconded by Brenna Dillon and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies as of February 29, 2024. ([Attachment # F-3](#))

TREASURER'S  
REPORT

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

4. It was moved by Alison DeNoia, seconded by Brenna Dillon and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the Bill List dated April 10, 2024 in the amount of \$3,325,062.67 and Food Service payments in the amount of \$50,205.66.
- BILL LIST  
FOOD SERVICE  
PAYMENTS

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

5. It was moved by Alison DeNoia, seconded by Brenna Dillon and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the Food Service Financial Report for the month of February, 2024.
- FOOD SERVICE  
FINANCIAL REPORT

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

6. It was moved by Alison DeNoia, seconded by Brenna Dillon and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the appropriation of \$709,885.55 of 2023-2024 NJ State Stabilization Aid to increase the following budgetary accounts, effective April 11, 2024, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3(d):
- APPROPRIATION OF  
2023-2024 NJ STATE  
STABILIZATION AID

Budgetary Account	Description	Amount
12-000-270-733-000-100-S	Purchase 4 buses	\$549,780.00
11-000-266-420-xxx-262-S	Centralizing door access controllers - security	\$ 20,246.30
11-000-266-420-xxx-262-S	10 Add'l security cameras & 3 door access - security	\$ 32,100.00
11-190-100-610-xxx-800-S	75 desktop computers (Windows 11)- purchase	\$ 60,989.25
12-000-261-730-030-200-S	CDMS stage lighting; req'd maintenance	\$ 35,000.00
11-000-266-610-030-200-S	CDMS replacement of 2-way radios - security	\$ 11,770.00
	TOTAL:	\$709,885.55

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico,

Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

7. It was moved by Alison DeNoia, seconded by Brenna Dillon and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the amendment of the resolution adopted at the June 28, 2023 Regular Meeting approving the out-of-district placement for the 2023-2024 School Year (10 Months), as indicated below:
- AMENDED 2023-2024  
SCHOOL YEAR  
OUT-OF-  
DISTRICT  
PLACEMENT

Student #	School	Extraordinary Costs From	Extraordinary Costs To
20291593	Academy Learning Center	\$47,672.50	\$52,297.50

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

POLICY

None

NEGOTIATIONS

None

TRANSPORTATION

None

PERSONNEL

1. It was moved by Kevin Walsh, seconded by Amy Dimes and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the acceptance of the retirement of the following staff member, with regret, as indicated below:
- RETIREMENT

Name	Position/Location	Effective Date
Lorraine Garrido	Teacher/Cedar Drive Middle School	10/1/24



The Board expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Lorraine Garrido for her twenty (20) years of faithful service to the children and the district and further wishes her good health and much happiness during her retirement.

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

2. It was moved by Kevin Walsh, seconded by Amy Dimes and carried on a roll call vote to approve the intermittent family care leave for the following staff member during the 2023-2024 school year, as indicated below:
- FAMILY CARE LEAVE:  
2023-2024 SCHOOL  
YEAR

Name/Position Location	Effective Dates	Familycare Leave
Amy Desmond/ Teacher/Conover Road Elementary School	4/1/24 - 4/30/24	FMLA – Intermittent, paid with healthcare benefits (using sick days 4/1/24 - 4/30/24 )

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Abstain: Vincent Rugnetta

Absent: None

3. It was moved by Kevin Walsh, seconded by Amy Dimes and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the appointment of the following Conover Road Elementary School staff members to serve as advisors to the Conover Road Elementary School Spring After-School Intramural Programs for the 2023-2024 school year, once a week, at an hourly rate of \$47, with each session to run sixty (60) minutes, at an amount not to exceed \$47 per session, as indicated below:
- 2023-2024 SCHOOL  
YEAR SPRING  
AFTER-SCHOOL  
INTRAMURAL  
PROGRAM  
ADVISORS:  
CONOVER ROAD  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

Name	Activity♦	Number of Sessions	Total Amount Not To Exceed
Michelle Gunnell	CRES Morning Scoop	10	\$470
Christine MacLeod	CRES Morning Scoop	10	\$470
Caitlin Saggau	CRES Morning Scoop	10	\$470
Katherine Staron	Crazy 8's Math Club	7	\$329

Allison Klacik	Crazy 8's Math Club	7	\$329
Kimberly Cascone	Kids on the Run Club	7	\$329
Marissa Gammer	Kids on the Run Club	7	\$329
Cheryl Gorman	Lead and Inspire Club	9	\$423
Elizabeth Lowes	Yoga Club - Grade 5	5	\$235
Jennifer Caga-Collett	Spring Arts & Crafts	6	\$282
Anne Rauso	Friendship Bracelet	6	\$282
Anna Capron	Colorful Creations Club	9	\$423
Jessica Romanik	Disney Discussion Club	9	\$423
Jessica Romanik	Bring the Beat	8	\$376
Lisa Mackesy	Lead and Inspire Club	9	\$423

♦ An individual activity will only run if the required minimum number of students sign up for the activity.  
(Acct. # 11-401-100-100-050)

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

4. It was moved by Kevin Walsh, seconded by Amy Dimes and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the appointment of the following Cedar Drive Middle School staff members to serve as advisors to the Cedar Drive Middle School Spring After-School Intramural Programs for the 2023-2024 school year, once a week, at an hourly rate of \$47, with each session to run ninety (90) minutes, at an amount not to exceed \$70.50 per session, as indicated below:

2023-2024 SCHOOL  
YEAR SPRING  
AFTER-SCHOOL  
INTRAMURAL  
PROGRAM  
ADVISORS:  
CEDAR DRIVE  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Name	Activity♦	Number of Sessions	Total Amount Not To Exceed
E. Marc Coe	Robotics	10	\$705
Elizabeth Bufano	Crafting & DIY	7	\$493.50
Tatiana Burgos	Latin Club	7	\$493.50
Tatiana Burgos	Yoga & Pilates	7	\$493.50
Anthony Higuera	Cedar Ambassadors	8	\$564.00
Anthony Higuera	Youth Government	7	\$493.50
Karla Parnagian	Crochet Club	7	\$493.50
Dolores Pollak	Volleyball	7	\$493.50
Steven Ricci	Volleyball	7	\$493.50
Alexandra Vena	Cedar Ambassadors	8	\$564.00
Carrie Zanyor	Eco Explorers	7	\$493.50

♦ An individual activity will only run if the required minimum number of students sign up for the activity.  
(Acct. # 11-401-100-100-030)

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

5. It was moved by Kevin Walsh, seconded by Amy Dimes and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the appointment of the following staff members to serve in the following position listed below, in the After School Remediation/Enrichment Program for the 2023-2024 school year, at an hourly rate of \$52, for a total number of hours not to exceed 714 hours for all staff members combined, for a total amount not to exceed \$37,128 for all staff members combined, as indicated below:
- AFTER SCHOOL  
REMEDICATION/  
ENRICHMENT  
PROGRAM  
INSTRUCTORS:  
2023-2024  
SCHOOL YEAR

Staff Member	Location	Position
Jordan Farley	Conover Road Elementary School	Instructor
Cheryl Gorman	Conover Road Elementary School	Instructor
Alexis Novotny	Conover Road Elementary School	Instructor

\*Funded by ESSER III (20-490-100-101-000-100-0)

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

6. It was moved by Kevin Walsh, seconded by Amy Dimes and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the amendment to the resolution adopted at the February 14, 2024 Regular Meeting for the following staff member to serve as a home instructor for Student #20240025, at an hourly rate of \$52, for a total number of hours per week not to exceed seven (7):
- AMENDED HOME  
INSTRUCTION FOR  
2023-2024 SCHOOL  
YEAR

Name	From:	To:
Suzanne Cooper	9/26/23 - 4/22/24	9/26/23 - 6/21/24

(Acct. # 11-150-100-101-000)

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

7. It was moved by Kevin Walsh, seconded by Amy Dimes and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the appointment of the following staff member to serve as a home instructor for Student #20241021, at an hourly rate of \$52, for the period commencing November 27, 2023 through June 21, 2024, for a total number of hours as indicated below:

HOME INSTRUCTION  
FOR 2023-2024  
SCHOOL YEAR

Name	Total Hours Per Week Not to Exceed
Lorraine Garrido	5 hours

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

8. It was moved by Kevin Walsh, seconded by Amy Dimes and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the granting of thirty-three (33) days from the Colts Neck Township Education Association (“CNTEA” Support Staff ) Sick Leave Bank to Lori Press, Instructional Assistant at Cedar Drive Middle School, for her anticipated absences commencing 3/1/24 through 4/30/24.

CNTEA SICK LEAVE  
BANK REQUEST

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

9. It was moved by Kevin Walsh, seconded by Amy Dimes and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the appointment of the following individuals to the Substitute Teacher list for the 2023-2024 school year, at a salary of \$125 per day on an as needed basis, pending approval of criminal history review.

SUBSTITUTE  
TEACHER:  
2023-2024 SCHOOL  
YEAR

Name	Certification
Kristin Jacoutot	Substitute Credential

(Account # 1-110-100, 11-120-100, 11-130-100)

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: None

## **NEW BUSINESS/WORK SESSION AGENDA**

Mr. Camera commented that several Board of Education members were wearing the t-shirts distributed in the District to celebrate Autism Awareness Month and he congratulated his fellow Board members for getting shirts for the student liaisons to wear.

Mr. Walsh commented that he and Mrs. Dimes have been looking into introducing some new programs, one of which is a field trip for special needs students to Allaire Village. He believes that this would be a great experience for the students to attend and the cost would be \$10 per student. Mrs. Dimes is working with the PTO to fund the trip. They are also exploring the possibility of pet therapy in the schools. Dr. Garibay suggested that they coordinate this idea with Dr. Beck and with the Curriculum Committee. Ms. Ramirez commented that she knows of many colleges that have therapy dogs visit schools during exam times and that she is in favor of the Board exploring this as an option.

Ms. DeNoia commented that she believes the Government & Advocacy Committee should be working on items that will affect all Colts Neck students, such as the New Jersey Student Support Act. This Act which is currently working its way through the Legislature would involve tax dollars being diverted from public schools and redistributed to Charter and private schools. She stated she is opposed to focusing on singular issues that impact a minority of students and believes the Board should focus on the bigger picture and what would happen if tax dollars and state dollars are removed. Mr. Camera stated that he would like to look into the issue. Dr. Garibay indicated that she will share what information she has about the Act.

A Motion was made by Angelique Volpe and seconded by Kevin Walsh to draft a letter opposing the appointment of Serena Rice to the New Jersey State Board of Education.

Mrs. Dimes commented that she knows nothing about Ms. Rice, and while she appreciated the information that Mrs. Volpe shared, she wished that Mrs. Volpe would have shared this information prior to the meeting so that the Board could have had time to review it and do their own research before voting on it. Due to limited information, she is not able to make an informed decision.

Mrs. Volpe asked for clarification on whether she can share an email like this to the entire Board. Mrs. Dimes said that typically, if discussion happens in a Committee, that afterwards, a report summarizing the discussion is shared with the entire Board. Mrs. Dimes said that with the change from a Board of Committees to a Board of a Whole, that we are missing some steps here. Mr. Camera asked Mr. Dasti for confirmation that a topic cannot be discussed via email with the Committee, and then also discussed with a separate group. Mr. Dasti confirmed that information on topics like this should be sent out via email only as an FYI, not as a discussion that goes back and forth, because it creates a quorum.

Mrs. Dillon also commented that she wished that a draft letter had been written and

distributed prior to this vote. She noted that she will be voting “no” because she does not have the language of the letter in front of her to review. Mr. Camera asked for a roll call vote and Mr. Marasco proceeded with taking a roll call vote on the motion on the table.

Yes: John Camera, Jason Orrico, Jessica Ramirez (remote), Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon and Amy Dimes

Absent: None

Mr. Marasco noted that the motion passed.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION (N.J.S.A. 10:4-9,12)**

At approximately 7:25 p.m President Camera announced that the Board would move into Executive Session for approximately twenty (20) minutes to discuss confidential student matters and confidential legal matters. He further announced that action would be taken afterwards and articulated that Executive discussion may be disclosed upon future resolution.

It was moved by Vincent Rugnetta, seconded by Amy Dimes and carried on a unanimous roll call vote in the affirmative to move into Executive session.

President Camera resumed Public Session at 7:45 p.m. The Board Secretary noted that all members with the exception for Jessica Ramirez were present and announced a quorum.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT’S ACTION ITEM - Addendum #1:**

1. It was moved by Angelique Volpe, seconded by Jason Orrico and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2024, the Colts Neck Township Board of Education issued a Notice of Determination of Ineligibility with respect to Student #20301809; and

WHEREAS, the student’s parents were provided with the opportunity to request a hearing before the Board regarding the student’s eligibility; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board finds that the family of Student #20301809 is not domiciled in Colts Neck and therefore, Student #20301809 is not legally entitled to continue to attend the Colts Neck Township Schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Student #20301809 is hereby removed from the rolls of the Colts Neck Township School District, pursuant to law, effective

immediately, and that written notice of this decision and of the parents' right to contest the same before the Commissioner of Education shall be served upon the parents.

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: Jessica Ramirez

## ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 8:00 pm, it was moved by Vincent Rugnetta, seconded by Kevin Walsh and carried on a unanimous roll call vote to adjourn the meeting.

Yes: John Camera, Alison DeNoia, Brenna Dillon, Amy Dimes, Jason Orrico, Vincent Rugnetta, Angelique Volpe and Kevin Walsh

No: None

Absent: Jessica Ramirez

REFERENCE SHEET	
Attachment # S-1	Enrollment, Fire/Security Drills and Student Suspensions as of March 31, 2024
Attachment # C-1	Reimbursable Expenses
Attachment # F-1	Transfers for the Month of February, 2024
Attachment # F-2	Board Secretary's Report as of February 29, 2024
Attachment # F-3	Treasurer's Report as of February 29, 2024

BOARD MEETINGS*			
April 24, 2024	June 26, 2024	August 28, 2024	October 30, 2024
May 7, 2024 (CRPS Cafeteria)	July 10, 2024	September 11, 2024	November 13, 2024
May 29, 2024	July 31, 2024	September 25, 2024	December 11, 2024
June 12, 2024	August 14, 2024	October 9, 2024	December 18, 2024
January 8, 2025 @ 6:00 (Organization Meeting)			

\* All Regular Board Meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building unless otherwise noted and advertised.

2024		
Monday - Tuesday	April 22-23	Passover - Schools/Central Office Closed

Friday	May 24	Short Session Day for Students Full Day for Staff with In-Service After Student Dismissal
Monday	May 27	Memorial Day - Schools/Central Office Closed
Thursday	June 20	Short Session Day for Students Full Day for Staff
Friday	June 21	Last Day of School Short Session Day for Students & Staff CDMS Graduation TBD

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Vincent S. Marasco*  
Vincent S. Marasco  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary