

Palisades Park Board of Education
Work Session/Regular Business Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, April 30, 2025 – 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. William Kim	☒	☐
Mr. Anthony Kim	☐	☒
Ms. Rebekah Lee	☐	☒
Ms. Sookyung Park	☒	☐
Ms. Boyoung Yu	☒	☐
Mr. Aaron Pak	☒	☐
Mr. Jun Yim	☒	☐
Mr. Sergio Calle	☒	☐
Dr. Joseph Cirillo	☐	☒
Busch Law Group	☒	☐
Tyler Jung-Student Rep	☒	☐

Meeting began 6:38 p.m.

D. PUBLIC HEARING – 2025-2026 BUDGET

- Motion to open public hearing

Aaron pak
2nd: William kim
All in favor – aye

- Present the budget to the public
- Accept comment from the public
- Motion to close public hearing

E. 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 March 7, 2025 (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 The Record.
3. Filed with the Borough Clerk of Palisades Park.

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

G. ADJOURN WORK SESSION: OPEN SPECIAL MEETING

Close Work Session Open Regular Session

Aaron Pak

2nd: Jun Yim

All in favor – aye – 7:12 p.m.

H. REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Soo Chung read a statement regarding her speech on April 11th.

I. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- Recognition – Administrator
- Graduation Dates
 - PPHS – 6/18/25
 - Lindbergh – 6/18/25
 - ECC – 6/17/25
- Teacher of the Year
- Chronic Absenteeism – CAP

Tyler Jung, Student Representative, shared several recent and upcoming events taking place at the high school. Students recently had the opportunity to visit the Korean Cultural Center in New York City, where they experienced and learned more about Korean culture. Fundraising efforts have been actively supported by the National Honor Society, helping to raise money for various school and community initiatives. The school also celebrated the end of Marking Period 3 with the Principal's Breakfast, recognizing students for their academic accomplishments and positive contributions. "Bring Your Child to Work Day" was observed, offering students a glimpse into different career paths through firsthand experiences. Additionally, AP students are presenting their projects today in the auditorium, showcasing their hard work and academic growth.

J. REPORT OF THE BOARD ATTORNEY

K. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes Special Business Meeting – March 18, 2025

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

- March 18, 2025 Special Business Meeting Minutes
- March 18, 2025 Executive Meeting Minutes

Soo Chung requested corrections to the regular meeting minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

L. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Consent agenda for Items 1-7 - Aaron Pak

1. “ASK SCHOOL” RENTAL – PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the use of the Palisades Park Jr./Sr. High School by the Presbyterian Church of New Jersey “ASK School” from July 7th – August 8th, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$20,000

2. JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY - PPPD

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a request to host a “Junior Police Academy” at Lindbergh School Field and Cafeteria beginning June 23rd to June 27th between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Approximately 25 – 5th graders will be participating in the program. There will always be four (4) police officers present.

Fee – “Free”

3. GARDEN STATE KENDO

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a request to host a Kendo demonstration for parents/spectators at the high school gymnasium on Saturday, May 31st from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Set up time will begin at 8:00 a.m.

Deposit of \$500 received.

Certificate of Insurance on file at the BOE Office.

4. NJ KOREAN BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a request for practice sessions for the NJ Korean Basketball Association from April – June every Thursday from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. A separate request for Saturday, June 14th from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. was also received.

Deposit of \$500 received.

Certificate of Insurance on file at the BOE Office.

5. TRADITIONAL ART SOCIETY OF KOREA (TASK) – CULTURAL COMPETITION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a request for a cultural competition at the high school auditorium by the Traditional Art Society of Korea (TASK). The event will take place either on Saturday, June 21st or Saturday, June 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

(No paperwork submitted)

Fee – “Free”

6. PUBLIC HEALTH EVENT – HEALTH SCREENINGS/FAIR

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a request for a public health event – health screenings/fair at the Lindbergh School cafeteria on September 27, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. Set up will be on September 26, 2025 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fee – “Free”

7. SHREDDING EVENT – PALISADES PARK RECYCLING DEPARTMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the use of the Lindbergh School parking lot (Roff Avenue) on Saturday, May 10, 2025 and Saturday, September 13, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a “shredding event” sponsored by the Palisades Park Recycling Department.

Fee – “Free”

Approving pending upon submitting the requested documents.

Moved by: Jun Yim

Seconded By: Boyoung Yu

All in favor – aye – 7:18 p.m.

M. COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS REP/ALTERNATE - Anthony Kim

N. EDUCATION

Consent agenda for Items 1-2 – Sookyung Park

1. FIELD TRIPS

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

- Destination: Bowlero
- Date: Tuesday, June 3, 2025
- Time: 9:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Group: 3rd Grade
- Cost per Student: \$27.00

- Destination: Van Saun Park Zoo
- Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2025
- Time: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Group: Pre-k & Kindergarten
- Cost per Student: \$15.00 (Kindergarten), None (Pre-k)

- Destination: The Funplex
- Date: Monday, June 2, 2025
- Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Group: Senior Advisors Class of 2025
- Cost per Student: \$48.00 (Includes admission, lunch, & transportation)

- Destination: Bergen County Technical Schools
- Date: Tuesday, April 29, 2025
- Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Group: Interested Juniors/Seniors
- Cost per Student: None

2. CALENDAR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon recommendation of the Superintendent approves the district calendar for the 2025-2026 school year (attached).

Moved by: Sookyung Park Seconded By: Jun Yim
All in favor – aye – 7:19 p.m.

O. EVALUATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE -- William Kim

P. FINANCE

Consent Agenda for Items 1-14 – Boyoung Yu

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.	02/14/25 – PAL637021425	\$40,255.55
Pomptonian, Inc.	03/07/25 – PAL637030725	\$8,635.33
Pomptonian, Inc.	03/14/25 – PAL637031425	\$47,727.19
Pomptonian, Inc.	03/21/25 – PAL637032125	\$13,840.64
Pomptonian, Inc.	03/28/25 – PAL637032825	\$35,145.47
Pomptonian, Inc.	04/04/25 – PAL637040425	\$15,704.68
Pomptonian, Inc.	04/11/25 – PAL637041125	\$30,891.54
Pomptonian, Inc.	04/18/25 – PAL637041825	\$13,836.01
Jay Hill Repairs	#1037546 – Walk In Cooler Refrigerator Not Cooling	\$575.84

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 March 2025.

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 March 2025 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 March 2025 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 – 03/28/2025, 04/11/2025

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

Payroll Date	Amount
03/28/25	\$970,240.79
04/11/25	\$896,684.12

5. APPROVAL OF THE BILL LIST – APRIL

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the April 2025 bill list in the amount of **\$1,914,471.56**:

- Fund 10 (General/Current Expenses) \$1,414,057.07
- Fund 20 (Special Revenue) \$293,802.24
- Fund 30 (Capital Projects Fund) \$0
- Fund 60 (Food Service) \$206,612.25

6. TRANSFERS

RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve transfers for the month of March 2025.

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 03/31/2025. (on file in BOE Office)

8. 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
Vera Csizmadia	Leadership Institute	East Rutherford, NJ	05/16/25	\$234.00	20-270-200-300-01
Joanna Hali	Legislative Breakfast and Meeting	Paramus, NJ	05/16/25	\$40.00	20-270-200-300-01

9. SYSTEMS 3000 – SOFTWARE LICENSE AGREEMENT RENEWAL

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the renewal of a software license agreement with Systems 3000 Inc, Eatontown, NJ, for the period of 07/01/25 - 06/30/26 at a cost of \$27,360. Systems 3000 is a provider of integrated Accounting, Payroll & Personnel software apps for NJ schools.

10. JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES – AGREEMENT

RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, renews a 2 year contract agreement with Jewish Family & Children's Services, Teaneck, NJ, for the 2025-2027 school years. JFS will implement the "Club ED After School Program" at both the Early Childhood Center and Lindbergh Elementary School. JFS will pay the Board of Education \$20,000 per school year (\$2,000 x 10 months) for the use of facilities in both school buildings.

11. BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS COMPLIANCE PROGRAM – BCDHS AGREEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, enters into a shared-services agreement with the Bergen County Department of Health for the furnishing of health services of a technical and professional nature for the Bloodborne Pathogens Compliance Program for the period July 1, 2025 through June 20, 2027.

FURTHERMORE, the Board agrees to contract for BBP Training and the BBP Administrative Elective - \$25.00 per person.

12. RIVALRY SPORTS MEDICINE – AGREEMENT – 2025-2026 SY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Rivalry Sports Medicine for the 2025-2026 school year to provide substitute athletic trainers when needed.

Rate: \$75.00 per hour, (3) hour minimum, invoiced in 15 minute increments

13. FINAL BUDGET RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Palisades Park Board of Education adopted a tentative budget on March 18, 2025, and submitted it to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval, and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on April 2, 2025, and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was advertised in the legal section of The Record on April 13, 2025, and

WHEREAS, the final budget was presented to the public during a public hearing held in the Early Childhood Center, 270 1st Street, Palisades Park, NJ, on April 30, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education hereby adopts the following final budget for SY 2025-2026:

	Budget	Local Tax
Total General Fund	\$32,176,739	\$27,215,624
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$5,765,017	\$0
Total Debt Service Fund	\$0	\$0
Totals	\$37,941,756	\$27,215,624

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$227,077, the additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefits premiums, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for increased costs of enrollment in the amount of \$88,248, the additional funds are intended to be utilized for supplies and materials necessary for the additional students.

14. TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT 2025-2026

WHEREAS, the Palisades Park Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Palisades Park Board of Education established \$10,000 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$5,550 as of this date; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$10,000 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Rebekah Lee – abstain #12 – same as Boyoung Yu

Moved by: Aaron Pak

Seconded By: Soo Chung

VOTE

Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	N/P	Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	N/P
Soo Chung	☒	☐	☐	☐	Boyoung Yu	☒	☐	☐	☐
Sergio Calle	☒	☐	☐	☐	Sookyung Park	☒	☐	☐	☐
Rebekah Lee	☒	☐	☐	☐	William Kim	☒	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Kim	☐	☐	☐	☒	Aaron Pak	☒	☐	☐	☐
Jun Yim	☒	☐	☐	☐					

Soo Chung had questions regarding the bills list. She will follow up by emailing the Business Administrator for clarification.

Q. NEGOTIATIONS – William Kim

- Board's Statement in response to the PPEA leadership on the website

The Board is working diligently to finalize agreements as promptly as possible while continuing to support both staff and students.

R. NJ SCHOOL BOARDS LIAISON/ALTERNATE – Anthony Kim

S. PERSONNEL

Consent agenda for Items 1-7 – Jun Yim

1. MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE COACH

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the appointment of Rachel Morgese as the Middle School Dance Coach for the 2025-2026 school year.

Stipend - \$2,987 as per contract (pending negotiations)

2. REQUEST FOR LEAVE

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

Staff ID No.	Effective	Return Date
4154	04/02/2025	04/02/2026
4596	09/02/2025	09/01/2026

3. 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	Anticipated Start Date
Elizabeth Porrino	12001	03/17/2025
Sierra Rosa and Michelle Rengifo (replacing Elsa Wajda)	11885	02/04/2025

Up to 10 hours per week
\$35 per hour

4. RESIGNATION OF STAFF

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

Employee Name	Position	Account #	Effective
Jeeyoon Chung	Kindergarten Teacher	11-240-100-101-01	June 30, 2025
Teodora Mezzina	Prek 4 Teacher	11-110-100-101-02	June 30, 2025

5. SALARY ADJUSTMENT – BRANDON KARLOK

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a salary adjustment request as follows:

Brandon Karlok
Present Step/Salary:
Step 3 BA - \$59,600
Adjustment:
Step 3 BA+15 - \$60,300
Effective: 09/01/2025

Based on current salary guide. Salary may change due to negotiations

6. NONRENEWAL OF STAFF

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palisades Park Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the nonrenewal of the following personnel for the 2025-2026 school year:

Leslie Fuentes Pineda
Kenny Gamez Avila

7. 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/Stipend	Start Date	Account #	Building
Jonathan Simon	Part Time Custodian	\$16.50/hr	05/01/2025	11-000-262-101-01	PPHS
Lee Wellington Melara	Part Time Custodian	\$16.50/hr	05/01/2025	11-000-262-101-01	PPHS

Moved by: Aaron Pak

Seconded By: Sergio Calle

VOTE

Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	N/P	Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	N/P
Soo Chung	☒	☐	☐	☐	Boyoung Yu	☒	☐	☐	☐
Sergio Calle	☒	☐	☐	☐	Sookyung Park	☒	☐	☐	☐
Rebekah Lee	☒	☐	☐	☐	William Kim	☒	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Kim	☐	☐	☐	☒	Aaron Pak	☒	☐	☐	☐
Jun Yim	☒	☐	☐	☐					

T. POLICY

Consent agenda for Item 1 – Boyoung Yu

1. BYLAW #9121 – ELECTION AND DUTIES OF PRESIDENT – 2nd READING

BE IT RESOLVED, to ensure the independence of the Board of Education from the external pressures and to ensure the best choices for its members, the Palisades Park Board of Education amends Bylaw #9121 “Election and Duties of President” to **remove** the following language:

No officer may serve more than two consecutive terms.

Moved by: Aaron Pak

Seconded By: Jun Yim

VOTE

Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	N/P	Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	N/P
Soo Chung	☒	☐	☐	☐	Boyoung Yu	☐	☒	☐	☐
Sergio Calle	☒	☐	☐	☐	Sookyung Park	☒	☐	☐	☐
Rebekah Lee	☐	☒	☐	☐	William Kim	☒	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Kim	☐	☐	☐	☒	Aaron Pak	☒	☐	☐	☐
Jun Yim	☒	☐	☐	☐					

U. SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE – Rebekah Lee

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Soo Chung noted that school district employee contracts are available on the district website for public access.

W. NEW BUSINESS

X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Motion to open: Rebekah Lee

2nd: Jun Yim

All in favor – aye – 7:28 p.m.

Paul Albanese – A resident of Palisades Park for 76 years, Mr. Albanese expressed concern that no one addressed what teachers do after 3 p.m. He noted that working in schools has traditionally been considered one of the safest jobs.

Natalie Conoscenti – Responded to a Board of Education speech claiming that the PPEA is using “bullying tactics.” She also raised concerns about large classroom sizes.

Mr. Frank Donahue – With 44 years in education in Palisades Park, Mr. Donahue praised the dedication of teachers and secretaries, sharing that surprise evaluations revealed their high quality. He hopes for a fair settlement with the teachers.

Young Choi – A senior at Palisades Park High School, Young questioned the need to hire substitute athletes, expressing concern that it feels like outsourcing student responsibilities.

Klara Eno – Captain of the Dance Team, Klara emphasized the importance of having a dedicated athletic trainer and highlighted student support for athletic trainer Cody Groncki.

Isabella So – A dedicated athlete at PPHS, Isabella stressed the critical role of the athletic trainer and urged the Board to reconsider the recent termination.

Student (unnamed) – Spoke about the dedication of teachers and the positive impact of athletic trainer Cody Groncki on students' athletic lives.

Christina Gingerelli – Spoke on behalf of Amy Padron, emphasizing that educators are indispensable to the community.

Bradley Rivera – Called for unity, urging for transparency and middle ground in negotiations to avoid animosity.

Sabrina Fernandez – Discussed concerns about her position being eliminated. She highlighted her contributions, including responding to 40% of Lindbergh's cases, and expressed pride in serving as the district's behaviorist.

Amy (resident) – A Palisades Park resident for 22 years, Amy stressed the importance of the behaviorist position for her son's education and urged the Board not to cut it.

Neris Papoters – As a parent, she noted that two teachers have already resigned and urged the Board to take action to prevent further losses.

Dr. Sara Vetter – Psychologist, praised Sabrina Fernandez's work with students and respectfully asked the Board to reconsider removing the behaviorist position.

Jamie Lee – Captain of the Dance Team, noted that students voluntarily came to support the athletic trainer.

Kayla Himenez – Representing the Italian National Honor Society, expressed disappointment that the Board has not clearly explained why the program was removed. Another student also stressed the importance of the National Honor Society.

Parent of behaviorist – Praised the teachers and behaviorist's positive impact on her child.

Anthony Rotundo – Stated that teaching involves care and dedication beyond education. He highlighted how teacher resignations affect both educators and students.

Cody Groncki – Athletic Trainer, questioned who on the Board is a medical professional. Responded to Board member Aaron Pak's comment about having a DC. Described the phrase "when needed" in the resolution as disrespectful and stressed that student athletes can get injured in practice as well as games. He criticized prioritizing money over student health.

Maggie – Praised Ms. Fierro's critical role in helping her son with IEP and 504 Plans.

Diana Castro – Freshman at PPHS, expressed concern about the athletic trainer's termination and reiterated the importance of teachers and their impact on students.

Sheila Nastasi – Teacher at Lindbergh School, stated teachers are prepared to do whatever it takes to have their voices heard and to secure fair contracts.

Harrison – Graduated 10 years ago, criticized the Board's decisions as uneducated and defensive. Called the recent public statement "stupid."

Jennifer Alvarez – Alumni from 2013, urged the Board to consider the town's demographics when reviewing test scores.

Skyla Kim – Captain of the Dance Team, emphasized the safety risks to student athletes without an athletic trainer.

Christopher – Student at PPHS, urged the Board to retain Cody Groncki as athletic trainer.

Ms. Ordieri – Praised teachers as protectors of children, reading "time capsules" from students highlighting positive teacher experiences.

Ms. Gomez – Parent, praised the Child Study Team, emphasizing teachers' roles as mentors and their positive community impact.

Student (Ms. Kim) – Explained the importance of having an athletic trainer.

Michael Brestin – Stated the importance of teachers.

Maria Alvarez – Former Board member of 9 years, expressed concern about removing Italian language from the curriculum and the termination of Cody Groncki.

Philip Han – Lifelong resident of Palisades Park, emphasized the dedication of teachers to students.

Karen Hallack – Stated that despite disagreements from last month's meeting, the public is not pursuing a personal agenda against Mrs. Chung.

Korinne Sterni – Negotiations Chair, criticized the Board's salary ranking data as misleading, clarifying Bergen County has 77 districts, not 63. Stated that the Board's data selection was deceptive.

Rose Lonis – Longtime PTSA member, called the Board a disgrace.

Patricia Cober – Parent of a student at ECC, requested an explanation for the removal of the behaviorist position.

Maureen Tansey – Recalled that eight years ago the district lacked an athletic trainer.

Hutchinson – Noted that students who presented earlier received a standing ovation.

Valerie Ramirez – Junior at PPHS, praised Cody Groncki's constant presence and support at practices and games.

Motion to close audience participation:

Moved by: William Kim

2nd: Aaron Pak

All in favor – aye: 9:23 p.m.

Soo Chung thanked everyone for coming and expressing their opinions. She mentioned that Dr. Cirillo is available to answer questions regarding the Reduction in Force and explained that the removal of the Italian curriculum was due to a lack of student interest. Ms. Chung confirmed that a quorum was present at the April meeting and clarified that the letter she read on April 11th was intended solely to refute a media report circulated by the PPEA, not to diminish anyone's contributions. The Board expressed its deep gratitude for the dedication and service of the teachers. William Kim reminded the public that Board members are unpaid volunteers and shared that negotiations are close to being finalized. Rebekah Lee thanked the teachers and shared her experience as a parent of three children, two of whom were nonverbal when they started school. She expressed hope for a swift conclusion to the teacher negotiation agreement and urged reconsideration of Finance Agenda item #12. Aaron Pak stated that he has some considerations to make, while Jun Yim encouraged everyone to work together to successfully conclude negotiations.

Y. CLOSED SESSION

Motion to move to closed session:

Moved by: William Kim

2nd: Soo Chung

All in favor – aye – 9:50 p.m.

REDACTED

Motion to return to open session:

Moved by: Aaron Pak

2nd: Jun Yim

All in favor – aye – 10:20 p.m.

Motion to approve fee arbitration settlement for Joseph Donahue.

Moved by: Aaron Pak

2nd: Jun Yim

All in favor – aye.

Motion to adjourn:

Moved by: Boyoung Yu

2nd: Jun Yim

All in favor – aye – 10:23 p.m.

Z. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,



Aleksandar Kondovski

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary