North Caldwell Public Schools
North Caldwell, NJ

Board of Education

Public Meeting

September 16, 2025



David Ved
Sapna Malige
Eric Finkelstein
Michael DiGirolomo
Matthew Whitford
Michael Halik
Chris Checchetto

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SESSION
VIA ZOOM MEETING
https://ncboe.zoom.us/j/93606933319?pwd=gzwc4xCmWCFHSD3aOUxEc1XyUlyTX.1
GRANDVIEW SCHOOL CAFETERIA
September 16, 2025
7:30 P.M.
AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**
   In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting has been properly advertised in the designated newspaper and the agenda has been posted at the appropriate locations.
4. **ROLL CALL**
5. **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
   QSAC Report Scores
7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
   OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT (Pursuant to Board Policy 0167 – Public Participation in Board Meetings) During this opportunity to comment, district residents and staff are invited to discuss any area of public concern that may be in respect to the operation of the schools. Board Policy 0167 requires that individuals state their name and address of residence and asks that all remarks be directed to the Board as a whole and not to individuals. (All Zoom guests are required to turn their camera on if participating in public comment) The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Although the Board may not respond to items raised during the public forum, all public comments will be considered and may be discussed tonight under "new business" at this meeting, or at subsequent meetings under "old business," or during a Board committee meeting, if appropriate. Each speaker's statement will be limited to three (3) minutes in duration.

   • **General Resolutions**

   G1. Approve preschool tuition agreement
   G2. Approve ASE facilities use application
   G3. Approve Girl Scouts facilities use application
   G4. Approve WE Cowboys facilities use application
   G5. Approve 3rd Grade Girl Scouts facilities use application
   G6. Approve NCPE facilities use application for Community Cares event
   G7. Approve out of district tuition contract
   G8. Approve residency investigators
   G9. Approve settlement agreement
   G10. Approve out of district tuition contract
   G11. Approve waiver of subscription busing fees for listed student

G12. Approve abolishment of Policy
G13. Approve listed Policies and Regulations

• Business Resolutions

B1. Approve Public and Confidential Minutes
B2. Approve Payrolls
B3. Approve Electronic Check Register
B4. Approve Bills and Claims
B5. Approve transfers for July
B6. Approve Board Secretary Certification for the month of July 2025
B7. Approve Board Secretary and Treasurer's Financial reports for July 2025

• Personnel Resolutions

P1. Approve teacher contract
P2. Approve After School Enrichment aide for listed student
P3. Approve Professional Development for listed staff
P4. Approve Child Rearing Leave for listed staff
P5. Approve lunch/recess supervisors for the 2025-2026 school year
P6. Approve listed substitute teachers
P7. Approve salary guide movement for staff member

OLD BUSINESS

8. **NEW BUSINESS**
9. **ADJOURN TO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION (IF NECESSARY)**

☒ Legal ☐ Attorney-Client Privilege ☒ Personnel
☐ Negotiations ☒ School Security/Public Safety ☒ Student Matter

The next scheduled public meetings of the Board will be held on:

Tuesday, October 14th, 2025, at 7:30 P.M.
Grandview School Cafeteria

Posting: Board Members, Principals, NCPE Co-Presidents, NCEA Co-Presidents, Caldwell Progress Press Member, Board Office, Schools, and Town Hall.

State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO BOX 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

KEVIN DEHMER
Commissioner

August 20, 2025

Dr. Linda Freda, Chief School Administrator
North Caldwell School District
132A Gould Avenue
North Caldwell, New Jersey 07006

Dear Dr. Freda:

Pursuant to the requirements of *N.J.A.C.* 6A:30, the North Caldwell School District has undergone the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) review. The Essex County Executive County Superintendent and team conducted a review of the school district's self-assessment on the District Performance Review (DPR) document to verify the school district's compliance with all five areas of NJQSAC. Based on that review, the school district has been placed on a continuum in the five NJQSAC areas which are, Instruction and Program, Fiscal Management, Governance, Operations and Personnel. The completed NJQSAC county office review resulted in the district receiving the following placement scores for each area listed below:

NJQSAC Areas	Initial Placement (July, 2025)
Instruction and Program	89%
Fiscal Management	100%
Governance	100%
Operations	98%
Personnel	100%

These placement results will be provided to the State Board of Education at an upcoming meeting. Please be advised that NJQSAC regulations require the district board of education to report these placement results at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

I am pleased to inform you that your district has satisfied at least 80% of the weighted indicators in each of the five areas of the NJQSAC review process and has been designated as "high performing." The Commissioner will recommend to the State Board of Education that the district be certified as providing a thorough and efficient system of education, for a period of three years or until the next NJQSAC review. Congratulations on this accomplishment.

Pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:30-4.1, if you believe that any indicators were scored incorrectly, you have seven days from the receipt of this letter to submit a written reconsideration request and supporting documentation. Email your request and accompanying documents to qsac@doe.nj.gov.

Sincerely,

A. Robert Gregory
Executive Director
Division of Field Support and Services

ARG:CS: /initial review
Enclosures
c: Joseph Zarra, Executive County Superintendent



Resolutions
September 16, 2025

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

G1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the Parent Paid Preschool Tuition Agreements, at a rate of $4,200 for the school year 2025-2026, for the following student:

Preschool 3

8006441

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

G2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following facilities use application as per North Caldwell Board of Education Policy 7510:

Organization:	**NCPE**
User Class:	**Class 1**
Activity:	**ASE Afterschool Enrichment**
Facility:	**Grandview & Gould Classrooms and Gymnasiums**
Dates:	**9-22-25 through 12-19-25**
Time:	**3:15-4:30 pm**
Fee:	**No Fee**

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

G3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following facilities use application as per North Caldwell Board of Education Policy 7510:

Organization:	**Girl Scouts -2nd grade Brownies**
User Class:	**Class 4**
Activity:	**Monthly Meetings**
Facility:	**Kindergarten Wing-Oct 6** **Art room- all other meetings**
Dates:	**10/6, 11/3, 12/3, 2/4, 4/15, 5/6, 6/3**
Time:	**5:45-7:15pm**
Fee:	**$75.00**

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

G4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following facilities use application as per North Caldwell Board of Education Policy 7510:

Organization:	**West Essex Cowboys**
User Class:	**Class 2**
Activity:	**Practice during inclement weather**
Facility:	**Grandview and Gould Gymnasium**
Dates:	**9-17-25 through 11-15-25**
Time:	**4:00pm – 8:30pm**
Fee:	**$75.00**

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

G5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following facilities use application as per North Caldwell Board of Education Policy 7510:

Organization:	**Girl Scouts – 3rd Grade Troop 20133**
User Class:	**Class 4**
Activity:	**Monthly Meetings**
Facility:	**Grandview Classroom**
Dates:	**10/8, 11/12, 12/10, 1/14, 2/11, 3/11, 4/15, 5/13**
Time:	**5:00-7:00pm**
Fee:	**$75.00**

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

G6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following facilities use application as per North Caldwell Board of Education Policy 7510:

Organization:	**NCPE**
User Class:	**Class 1**
Activity:	**Community Cares**
Facility:	**Gould Gymnasium**
Dates:	**11-15-2025**
Time:	**9:45 am – 11:45 am**
Fee:	**No Fee**

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

G7. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following tuition contract effective for the 2025-2026 school year to commence on September 5, 2025, for the following student:

SCHOOL	Sawtelle Learning Center
STUDENT ID#	8006457
TUITION AMT	$71,060.40
EXTRAORDINARY SERVICES	$0.00
TOTAL COST	$71,06040
CONTRACT START DATE	9/5/2025
TOTAL SCHOOL DAYS	180

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

G8. **WHEREAS,** the Eligibility of students is determined by board policy 5111 "Eligibility of Resident/Non-Resident Pupils;" and,

WHEREAS, the Board shall admit students eligible to attend school free of charge that are domiciled within the district as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.1 et seq; and,

WHEREAS, domicile is a legal concept defined by New Jersey law. In general terms, "domicile" means the place where a person has his or her true, fixed, permanent home and principal living establishment, and to which, whenever he or she is absent, he or she has the intention of return; and,

WHEREAS, a person may have several residences, however, he or she can have only one legal domicile; and,

WHEREAS, There are circumstances where it may be necessary to verify domicile within the borough of North Caldwell; and,

WEHREAS, The district acknowledges it is beneficial to utilize the assistance of a qualified licensed investigator, experienced in the field of School Board Residency investigations, with knowledge and experience in these matters, to assist in assuring compliance with district policy 5111; and, therefore;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The North Caldwell Board of Education hereby approves the following Investigative Services Firms:

Roberts & Associates
TB Investigators, LLC

to provide residency investigations when necessary, beginning September 17, 2025, through June 30, 2026; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the North Caldwell Board of Education hereby authorizes the district Superintendent and/or Business Administrator/Board Secretary to utilize these services as needed to comply with Board Policy number 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident students.

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

G9. RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the settlement agreement between the Board and the parent of student **#8005393.**

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

G10. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following tuition contract effective for the 2025-2026 school year to commence on September 5, 2025, for the following student:

SCHOOL	The Winston School of Short Hills
STUDENT ID#	8005393
TUITION AMT	$54,750.00
EXTRAORDINARY SERVICES	$0.00
TOTAL COST	$54,750.00
CONTRACT START DATE	9/2/2025
TOTAL SCHOOL DAYS	169

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

G11. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the waiver of Subscription Busing fees for the following student for the 2025-2026 school year:

Student#	Grade	School
8006130	**2**	**Grandview School**

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

G12. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve abolishing the following Policy:

Policy 1648.15 Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings Covid 19

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

G13. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following Policies and Regulations, at first reading:

Bylaws	**0143**	**Board Member Election and Appointment**
Bylaws	**0173**	**Duties of Public School Accountant**
Bylaws	**0174**	**Legal Services**
Bylaws	**0177**	**Professional Services**
Policy	**1570**	**Internal Controls**
Regulation	**1570**	**Internal Controls**
Policy	**1620**	**Administrative Employment Contracts**
Policy	**1636.01**	**Notification of Promotion, New Job, and Transfer Opportunities**
Policy	**2418**	**Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973-Students**
Policy	**2422**	**Statutory Curricular Requirements**
Policy	**5339.01**	**Student Sun Protection**
Policy	**6111**	**Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program**
Regulation	**6111**	**Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program**
Policy	**6220**	**Budget Preparation**
Regulation	**6220**	**Budget Preparation**

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

B1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the **Public and Confidential Minutes of August 13, 2025.**

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

B2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following **Payrolls:**

Payroll Date:	Payroll #	Amount:
August 29, 2025	60	$91,610.26
September 15, 2025	61	$444,351.44

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

B3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following **Electronic Check Register(s):**

Date	Starting check #	Ending Check #	Total Amount
July 1, 2025-July 30, 2025	E02474	E02480	$17,376.80

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

B4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following **Bills and Claims:**

Date	Starting check #	Ending Check #	Total Amount
August 27, 2025	003247	003259	$379,810.19
September 4, 2025	003260	003260	$ 300.00
September 4, 2025	003261	003261	$ 336.77
September 17, 2025	003262	003303	$886,431.79
September 17, 2025	003304	003321	$479,773.63
September 16, 2025	003322	003351	$261,885.05

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

B5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve attached **Transfers for July 2025**:

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

B6. **WHEREAS** pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Board Secretary does certify that as of **July 2025**, no budgetary line-item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district board of education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8.1; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c) 4, the Board of Education does certify that as of **July 2025**, the revised Board Secretary Monthly Financial Report, did not reflect an over expenditure in any Major Account or Fund, and based on the Appropriation Balances reflected on this report and on the advice of District Officials, that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

B7. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the attached revised Board Secretary's and Treasurer's **Monthly Financial Reports** for **July 2025**.

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS

P1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the contract for **Arianna De Martino** at a salary of $62,669.00 (MA Step 2-3).

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

P2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve **Ella Pollio** as an After School Enrichment aide at a rate of $30.00 per hour effective September 22, 2025 to December 12, 2025 for **student # 8006121.**

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

P3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Professional Development Workshops/Conferences costs for the following staff:

Name	Date	Workshop	Cost Not to Exceed
Blackowski, D,	11/16-18	Educational Tech Conference	$925.00
Halik, M.	Various Dates	NJASBO	$1,160.00
Shay, K.	10/28, 1/7/26, 4/20/26	Preschool Series: Legal Requirements & Best Practices for Students w/ Dis	$525.00
Shay, K.	10/29, 11/11, 12/18	Special Ed Litigation Certificate Program	$560.00
Socci, D.	11/19-11/20	ASHA Convention	$459.00
Thomas, C.	10/17	NJIDA Fall Conference	$250.00

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

P4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Child Rearing Leave for **Marissa Milone** effective October 9, 2025 to January 31, 2026.

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

P5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following staff as lunch/recess supervisors at a rate of $30.00 per hour for the 2025-2026 School Year:

Teacher/Lunch/Recess /Study Hall	POSITION	HOURS	RATE	Total hours	Max # Days	Daily Pay	Total Expected Payment
Costigan, Leanne	Lunch Duty	12:00-12:30	$30.00	0.50	168	$15.00	$2,520.00
Foti, Marissa	Lunch Duty	12:00-12:30	$30.00	0.50	168	$15.00	$2,520.00
Gambino, Nicole	Lunch Duty	12:00-12:30	$30.00	0.50	168	$15.00	$2,520.00
Geraci, Anna	Lunch Duty	12:00-1:00	$30.00	1.00	168	$30.00	$5,040.00

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

P6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year pending favorable criminal history review.

Azzato, Katherine	Licensed Nurse	$300.00 per day
Bronsnick, Wendy	Teaching Certification	$145.00 per day

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No:

P7. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve movement on the salary guide effective as of September 1, 2025 for the following staff member:

	From:	To:
Granada-Jeronimo, A.	BA Step 2-3	MA Step 2-3

Moved: Seconded:

Yes: No: