NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SESSION
VIA ZOOM MEETING
https://ncboe.zoom.us/j/99258958246?pwd=C5ioQODcXxkaNzOnVUplVyxJVcDHFU.1
GRANDVIEW SCHOOL CAFETERIA
August 13, 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**
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 Policies
G2. Approve Submission of 2024-2025 School Self-Assessment
G3. Approve 2025-2026 Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan
G4. Approve revised 2025-2026 school calendar
G5. Approve revisions to Principal Job Description
G6. Approve Out of District Tuition Contract
G7. Approve 2025-2026 Bus Routes
G8. Approve Facilities Use Application for Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts
G9. Approve Facilities Use Application for NCPE Saturday Prek Program
G10. Approve Facilities Use Application for Girl Scouts Troop 20538
G11. Approve Facilities Use Application for North Caldwell Recreation
G12. Approve non-resident tuition agreement
G13. Approve Transportation Agreement with Caldwell/West Caldwell

G14. Approve disposal of obsolete Equipment
G15. Approve submission of 2026 ESEA Grant
G16. Approve the 2025-2026 CEP

Business Resolutions

B1. Approve Public Minutes
B2. Approve Payrolls
B3. Approve Electronic Check Register
B4. Approve Bills and Claims
B5. Approve transfers for June
B6. Approve Board Secretary Certification for the month of June 2025
B7. Approve Board Secretary and Treasurer's Financial reports for June 2025
B8. Approve fee proposal for Site Monitor for Classroom Addition

- **Personnel Resolutions**

P1. Approve movement on the salary guide for listed staff
P2. Approve full time aide
P3. Approve Professional Development for listed staff
P4. Approve resignation of listed staff member
P5. Approve termination of listed staff member
P6. Approve student internship
P7. Approve Board member Professional Development
P8. Approve full time custodian

- ***P9.*** **Approve listed Instructional Assistant**
- **INDICATES ADDENDUM**

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, September 16th, 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.

The Board of Education of the Borough of North Caldwell in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in public session on August 13, 2025 in person at the Grandview School Cafeteria as well as via an online Zoom Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Michael Halik, Business Administrator, indicated that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting had been properly advertised and the agenda had been posted at the appropriate locations.

Roll call by the Business Administrator:

Present: Mr. David Ved, President
Mrs. Sapna Malige, Vice President
Mr. Eric Finkelstein
Mr. Michael DiGirolomo
Mr. Matthew Whitford

Also Present: Dr. Linda Freda, Superintendent
Mr. Chris Checchetto, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Michael Halik, Business Administrator / Board Secretary
Mr. Robert Brenneck, Technology Coordinator

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ved reported that fourteen (14) people attended the meeting via zoom. He wished everyone an enjoyable end of summer making wonderful memories.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Freda thanked Mr. Ralph Chappell and the custodial and maintenance staff for all of their hard work in getting the buildings ready for September. She discussed the calendar revisions that the Board will be voting on. The scheduled one sessions days for parent/teacher conferences will now be October 28th through October 30th, and March 24th though March 26th. She stated that the construction on the access driveway is still underway and is expected to be completed in October. Further pick up and drop off instructions would be sent to families from the building principal. She wished everyone a wonderful and relaxing end of summer and a successful school year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

G1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following Policies at second reading.

Policy 2416 Programs for Pregnant Students
Policy 7510 Use of School Facilities

Moved:	Mr. Finkelstein	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

G2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the submission of 2024-2025 School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for Grandview and Gould Schools.

Moved:	Mr. Finkelstein	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

G3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the North Caldwell 2025-2026 Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan.

Moved:	Mr. Finkelstein	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

G4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve revisions to the 2025-2026 school calendar (attached).

Moved:	Mr. Finkelstein	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

G5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the revisions to the **Principal** job description.

Moved:	Mr. Finkelstein	Seconded:	Mrs. Malige
Yes:	5	No:	0

G6. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following tuition contract effective for the 2025-2026 school year to commence on September 4, 2025 for the following student:

School	Student id#	TUITION AMT	AIDE COSTS	TOTAL COST	CONTRACT START DATE	TOTAL SCHOOL DAYS
ECLC/Chatham	8005401	$74,100.60	$56,000.00	$130,100.60	4-Sep-25	200

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G7. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the attached bus routes for the 2025-2026 school year.

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G8. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following facilities use application as per North Caldwell Board of Education Policy 7510:

Organization:	**Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts**
User Class:	**Class 4**
Activity:	**Boy Scout & Cub Scout Meetings**
Facility:	**Grandview & Gould Cafeteria**
Dates:	**9-3-25 through 6-18-26 *see attached list**
Time:	**Grandview 6:30-8:30pm Gould 7:00-9:00pm**
Fee:	**$325.00 + Pinewood Derby Custodial Fees**

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G9. 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:	**Saturday Pre-K Program**
Facility:	**Grandview Kindergarten Classrooms**
Dates:	**10/25, 11/15, 12/13, 1/10, 2/7, 3/14, 4/18**
Time:	**9:00am – 12:00pm**
Fee:	**No Fee**

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G10. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following facilities use application as per North Caldwell Board of Education Policy 7510:

Organization:	**Girl Scouts Troop 20538**
User Class:	**Class 4**
Activity:	**Monthly Meetings**
Facility:	**Gould Art Room 3:15-4:30 pm**
Dates:	**9/15, 10/6, 11/17, 12/1, 2/9, 3/9, 5/4** **Gould Field: 6/2/2026-**
Time:	**5:00-7:00pm**
Fee:	**$75.00**

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G11 RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following facilities use application as per North Caldwell Board of Education Policy 7510:

Organization:	**North Caldwell Recreation Department**
User Class:	**Class 2**
Activity:	**Soccer Practice Grades K-8**
Facility:	**Gould School Fields**
Dates:	**9-3-25 – 10-30-25**
Time:	**M-F 5:00-7:00 pm**
Fee:	**$300.00**

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G12. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the tuition (non-resident) Pupil Agreements between the North Caldwell Board of Education and Lori and Ryan Winter effective September 3, 2025, through June 30, 2026, in the total amount of $20,335.00.

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G13. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the Student Transportation Agreements with Caldwell-West Caldwell Board of Education for the following students for the 2025-2026 school year:

Student	**School**	**Fee**
8005862	**New Beginnings**	**$ 25,491.00**

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G14. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the disposal of obsolete equipment (see attached list).

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G15. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the acceptance and Submission of the 2026 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Grant in the following amounts:

Title I	**$25,858.00**
Title II - A	**$7,808.00**
Title IV Part A	**$10,000.00**

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

G16. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the 2025-2026 Comprehensive Equity Plan. (attached)

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

B1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the **Public Minutes of July 16, 2025.**

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 4 No: 0

Abstain: Mrs. Malige

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

Payroll Date:	Payroll #	Amount:
July 31, 2025	**58**	**$144,906.87**
August 15, 2025	**59**	**$148,601.66**

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 No: 0

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

Date	Starting check #	Ending Check #	Total Amount
June 1, 2025-June 30, 2025	**E02301**	**E02418**	**$6,374,762.01**

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 No: 0

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

Date	Starting check #	Ending Check #	Total Amount
August 13, 2025	**003208**	**003244**	**$989,402.98**
August 13, 2025	**003245**	**003246**	**$1,164.15**

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 No: 0

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

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 No: 0

B6. **WHEREAS** pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c) 3, the Board Secretary does certify that as of **June 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 **June 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: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 No: 0

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

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 No: 0

B8. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the fee proposal 24-118 with DiCara/Rubino Architects to provide **Site Observation Services** for the **Classroom Addition Project at the Grandview Elementary School** billed hourly.

Not to exceed: $32,500.00

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mr. Whitford

Yes: 5 No: 0

PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS

P1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve movement on the salary guide effective September 1, 2025 for the following staff member:

	From:	**To:**
Rooney, Danielle	BA 15 Step 14	BA 30 Step 14
Worrall, Sophia	BA Step 4	BA 15 Step 4

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mr. Finkelstein

Yes: 5 No: 0

P2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve **Leanne Costigan** as an aide at a salary of $30,527.00 (Aide Step 2-4) effective September 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mr. Finkelstein

Yes: 5 No: 0

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
Checchetto, C.	9/25	Annual Inter-rater Reliability Refresher & Recertification	$235.00
Bifulco, F.	9/25	Annual Inter-rater Reliability Refresher & Recertification	$235.00
Castiglia, N.	10/3, 1/9, 3/5, 4/22	Conquer Mathematics	$800.00
Egan, E.	10/18	NJIDA Fall Conference	$250.00
Linden, L.	9/11, 9/18, 9/25	New Administrator 3-Day Series	$705.00
Linden, L.	10/1	HIB Training Program	$200.00
Newman, T.	10/17	NJIDA Fall Conference	$250.00
Schneider, K.	10/15, 11/17	Conquer Mathematics	$400.00
Shay, K.	9/11, 9/18, 9/25	New Administrator 3-Day Series	$705.00
Shay, K.	10/17	NJIDA Fall Conference	$250.00

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mr. Finkelstein

Yes: 5 No: 0

P4. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the resignation of **Mary Lawshe** effective August 18, 2025.

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mr. Finkelstein

Yes: 5 No: 0

P5. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the termination of Employee **#1377,** as per the thirty (30) day notice provision in the employee's Contract, effective August 31, 2025.

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mr. Finkelstein

Yes: 5 No: 0

P6. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Seton Hall University graduate school counseling internship for **Victoria Fuentes** pending favorable criminal history review.

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mr. Finkelstein

Yes: 5 No: 0

P7. **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) provides valuable professional development opportunities for board members through its Annual Workshop and other events, according to the NJSBA; and

WHEREAS, attending such events allows board members to enhance their knowledge of educational best practices, legal and policy updates, and effective governance, ultimately benefiting the school district and the educational welfare of students; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24 and 24.1 of the School Ethics Act require that expenditures for attendance at conventions or meetings must be fiscally prudent and directly related to the duties of the board member or employee and promote the delivery of instruction or the furtherance of the efficient operation of the school district;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Caldwell Board of Education approves the following attendance and/or workshop related expenses for the NJSBA Workshop 2025:

Board Member Name	Date	Workshop	Location	Cost not to exceed
David Ved	10/20/25-10/23/25	NJSBA	Atlantic City	$1,275.00
Sapna Malige	10/20/25-10/23/25	NJSBA	Atlantic City	$1,275.00
Eric Finkelstein	10/20/25-10/23/25	NJSBA	Atlantic City	$1,275.00
Chris Checchetto	10/20/25-10/23/25	NJSBA	Atlantic City	$1,275.00
Michael Halik	10/20/25-10/23/25	NJSBA	Atlantic City	$1,275.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves the attendance as work-

related, within the scope of the attendees' responsibilities, fiscally prudent, and compliant with N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24 and 24.1 of the School Ethics Act.

Moved:	Mrs. Malige	Seconded:	Mr. Finkelstein
Yes:	5	No:	0

P8. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve **Joseph Leyendecker** as a full time custodian at a prorated salary of $50,785.00 (Cust Step 1) effective September 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Moved:	Mrs. Malige	Seconded:	Mr. Finkelstein
Yes:	5	No:	0

P9. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve **Necole Gambino** as an Instructional Assistant at a salary of $34,830.00 (Instructional Assistant Step 5) effective September 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Moved:	Mrs. Malige	Seconded:	Mr. Finkelstein
Yes:	5	No:	0

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Halik updated the Board on busing that bus passes are being sent out end of August. He stated that bus routes are also being uploaded to the Genesis portal for parents to view. He announced that the Gould buses have reached capacity.

The following resolution was called at approximately 7:36 pm.

RESOLVED that in accordance with section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, the Board has the authority to adjourn to closed session to discuss matters pertaining to: Legal, Personnel, and Student Matter. Said matters will be made public upon their disposition.

Moved:	Mrs. Malige	Seconded:	Mr. Finkelstein
Yes:	5	No:	0

As there was no further business to discuss, the Board adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Halik

Michael Halik
Business Administrator / Board Secretary