The Board of Education of the Borough of North Caldwell in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in public session on September 16, 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: Mr. Chris Checchetto, Superintendent
Mr. Michael Halik, Business Administrator / Board Secretary
Mr. David Blackowski, Network and Operations Specialist

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ved reported that fifty-one (51) people attended the meeting in person and on zoom. He welcomed everybody back and stated that the students and families started the school year strong and wished everyone a great school year.

Mr. Ved gave an update on the driveway project at Grandview School. He reported that the project should be completed soon, and they are currently working with the North Caldwell Police Department to determine the optimum traffic flow as well as the timeline for traffic and safety signage.

Mr. Ved discussed the expansion at Grandview School, stating it has zero tax impact on residents, and due to the failed referendum, was still necessary to meet the demands of the increased population. He stated that recess will be moved to the back of the school when it is safe to do and will incorporate additional equipment for the students. He thanked the parents and staff for their patience while navigating the construction.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Checchetto welcomed the staff and students back to school and was excited about their enthusiasm and energy for learning. He thanked Mr. Ralph Chappell and the entire custodial and maintenance staff for their hard work in getting the buildings ready for

September. He thanked the NCPE for the wonderful lunch for the staff on the first day back to school. He reported that he met with the North Caldwell Police Department for their input on safety and security to review best practices and is meeting with the Office of School Security to review safety plans and procedures.

Mr. Checchetto thanked parents for adhering to the pickup and drop off procedures at each school. He stated that he, Mr. Finkelstein, and Mr. Ved attended the Color Run as well as the September 11th ceremony and was pleased to see so many students, their families and community members attending these events. He enjoyed distributing awards to student winners at the Color Run.

He discussed the newly instituted communications posted on the website home page, www.ncboe.org displaying the latest information for construction updates, virtual backpacks and "Coffee and Conversations" with the Superintendent in which the first will be held on October 1st.

Mr. Checchetto reported that the district has been designated as a High Performing District based on the QSAC Scores. NJ QSAC stands for New Jersy Quality Single Accountability Continuum. QSAC is a comprehensive review, to ensure a thorough and efficient education for all. It measures the public-school district's compliance with the weighted quality performance indicators in the five identified areas of school district effectiveness. *N.J.A.C. 6A:30.*

1. Instruction and Program
2. Fiscal management
3. Governance
4. Operations
5. Personnel

PUBLIC COMMENT

Victoria Kahn, 17 Shenendoah Drive- Mrs. Kahn talked about the location of recess at Grandview School and presented a Petition to Mr. Ved.

Abigail and Tim Martin, 5 Hill Street- Mr. and Mrs. Martin spoke about having class III officers for Grandview and Gould Schools.

Josephine Gonnella, 21 Cypress Avenue- Mrs Gonnella spoke about having Class III officers at both schools.

Crista Governara, 4 Squire Hill Road- Mrs. Governara spoke about having Class III officers at both schools.

Kalyn Cedrowski, 64 Beachmont Terrace- Mrs. Cedrowski spoke about having Class III officers at both schools.

Ana Mats, 494 Mountain Avenue- Mrs. Mats talked about the safety of recess at Grandview School and suggested additional Question and Answer session answering parent questions.

Amy Parsol, 6 Hamilton Drive South- talked about students' exposure to dust and disruption from noise during construction while understanding the need for increased space. She requested clear updates on the progress of the construction.

Anthony Picciuto, 7 Highfield Terrace- Mr. Picciuto talked about having an officer on school grounds. He stated that he appreciated the improvements which were already implemented for Grandview recess to make it safer.

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

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

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: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

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: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

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: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

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: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

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: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

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

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

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: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

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: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

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: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

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

G14. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following field trip location:

Brookhollow's Barnyard

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

G15. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following facilities use application as per North Caldwell Board of Education Policy 7510:

Organization:	**Girl Scouts Grade 6**
User Class:	**Class 4**
Activity:	**Monthly meetings**
Facility:	**Gould Cafe**
Dates:	**9/30, 10/21, 11/18, 12/16, 1/20, 2/24, 3/31, 4/28, 5/19**
Time:	**3:15-4:45 pm**
Fee:	**$75.00**

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

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

Moved: Mr. Whitford Seconded: Mr. Finkelstein

Yes: 5 No: 0

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: Mr. Whitford Seconded: Mr. Finkelstein

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
July 1, 2025-July 30, 2025	**E02474**	**E02480**	**$17,376.80**

Moved: Mr. Whitford Seconded: Mr. Finkelstein

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 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: Mr. Whitford Seconded: Mr. Finkelstein

Yes: 5 No: 0

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

Moved: Mr. Whitford Seconded: Mr. Finkelstein

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 **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: Mr. Whitford Seconded: Mr. Finkelstein

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 **July 2025**.

Moved: Mr. Whitford Seconded: Mr. Finkelstein

Yes: 5 No: 0

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: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

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: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

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**
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
Bifulco, F.	***9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28***	***School Safety Specialist Training***	***$520.00***

Moved: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

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: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

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: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

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: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

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: Mr. Finkelstein Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

OLD BUSINESS

Boiler project at Grandview School is on schedule and the new boiler is expecting be up and running by Oct 15th.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ved expressed that the Board will be discussing the parent's request for Class III officers at school with the community, while exploring various avenues of available funding, and working with Chief of Police. He also commented about the planning and safety measures that went into place for the Grandview Construction.

The following resolution was called at approximately 8:17 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:	Mr. Whitford	Seconded:	Mr. Finkelstein
Yes:	5	No:	0

As there was no further business to discuss, the Board adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Halik

Michael Halik
Business Administrator / Board Secretary