

Palisades Park Board of Education
Work Session/Regular Business Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, September 17, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.
Early Childhood Center, 270 First Street, Palisades Park, NJ

A. CALL TO ORDER: Board President

B. FLAG SALUTE

C. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Ms. Soo Chung	☒	☐
Mr. Anthony Kim	☐	☒
Ms. Rebekah Lee	☐	☒
Ms. Sookyung Park	☒	☐
Ms. Boyoung Yu	☒	☐
Mr. Aaron Pak	☒	☐
Mr. Jun Yim	☒	☐
Mr. Sergio Calle	☒	☐
Mr. Carl Albano	☒	☐
Busch Law Group	☒	☐
Tyler Jung - Student Rep	☒	☐

D. 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 January 15, 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.
4. Posted on District Website.

E. CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Education convened in Closed Session in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)*, for the purpose of discussing:

- Negotiations
- Personnel

No action was taken in the Closed Session.

Motion to go into Closed Session.

Moved by: Jun Yim

Seconded by: Aaron Pak

All in favor – aye – 6:45 p.m.

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

Motion to open work session.

Moved by: Jun Yim

Seconded by: Sergio Calle

All in favor – aye – 7:47 p.m.

Personnel: Ms. Boyoung Yu inquired about the salary of the previous payroll employee in comparison to the candidate being recommended. Mr. Carl Albano responded that the former salary, including benefits, was \$93,825, while the proposed salary with benefits is \$104,655—an increase of approximately \$11,000.

Finance: Ms. Soo Chung clarified that the bills list up for approval includes the period from July to the present, not solely the month of September.

G. ADJOURN WORK SESSION: OPEN SPECIAL MEETING

Motion to close work session.

Moved by: Jun Yim

Seconded by: Aaron Pak

All in favor – aye – 8:00 p.m.

H. REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Board President Ms. Soo Chung thanked all staff for a smooth school opening, with special recognition to the board office administration for their hard work. Although former board member William Kim was unable to attend tonight's meeting, Ms. Chung had invited him to accept a small gift in appreciation of his service, acknowledging his meaningful contributions and example as a board member.

Ms. Chung noted that Mr. Kim's vacancy will be filled in accordance with Policy 91-13, unlike past practices. The Board will advertise the open seat on the district website and through appropriate media such as *The Record*. Interested individuals may apply, with details to be posted next week. Applications will be interviewed in a public session, and the Board aims to vote on the appointment at the October 15 meeting.

I. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Carl Albano echoed Ms. Chung's comments on the smooth school opening, noting it was a significant achievement, given there were over 40 vacancies in the summer. He thanked those involved in recruitment and shared that while some positions were still being filled, others were covered by teachers taking on sixth periods.

He visited all three schools and was pleased to see students happy and engaged. He thanked the PD department for staff safety training and noted improved traffic and safety protocols. Families were reminded to avoid double/triple parking and blocking driveways; enforcement will increase after the initial weeks.

He thanked the teachers' union for ratifying the MOA and noted upcoming discussions to finalize contract language and salary schedules.

Mr. Albano also mentioned the district's upcoming QSAC review and shared that the County has agreed to place the district later in the timeline to allow more preparation.

As a member of the Library Board, he met with Ella Lee and looks forward to supporting ongoing improvements to the facility and furnishings.

Student Representative Tyler Jung shared upcoming school events, including Picture Day on October 12 and Back-to-School Night on October 5 from 6–8 PM. He also highlighted events planned for next month: the Dance Team's Gertrude Hawk hot chocolate sale beginning October 1, Financial Aid Night on October 6 from 6–8 PM, the Pep Rally on October 10, the College Fair on October 4 from 9–11 AM in the gym, and Drama Club's Movie Night from 5–8 PM.

J. REPORT OF THE BOARD ATTORNEY

K. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**1. Approval of Minutes****Special Business Meeting – August 27, 2025**

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

- August 27, 2025 Special Business Meeting Minutes
- August 27, 2025 Executive Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Aaron Pak Seconded By: Soo Chung
All in favor - aye
No objections, no abstentions

COMMITTEE REPORTS**L. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

Consent agenda for Item 1 – Aaron Pak

1. LEASE AGREEMENT WITH NEW MERCY PALISADES CHURCH

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

1. A retroactive rental payment of \$3,000 per month from New Mercy Palisades Church for use of the High School Auditorium during the 2024–2025 school year; and
2. A renewed lease agreement for the 2025–2026 school year at a rental rate of \$3,100 per month.

Moved by: Aaron Pak Seconded By: Jun Yim
All in favor - aye
No objections, no abstentions

M. PERSONNEL

Consent agenda for Items 1-16 – Jun Yim

1. RESIGNATION OF STAFF

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education accepts the following resignations:

Employee Name	Position	Effective
Stephanie Fiorentino	PPHS Math Teacher	10/28/2025

2. 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 2025-2026 school year:

Employee Name	Position	Salary/Stipend	Start Date	Building
Silvia Ivette Alfaro	Payroll Coordinator	\$89,000	10/20/2025 (or sooner if available)	Central Office
Brianna Nora Campoverde	1.0 FTE Kindergarten Teacher	BA+15, Step 3	9/18/2025	ECC
John Sarcone	1.0 FTE Vice Principal	\$113,000	10/13/2025	Lindbergh

3. AMENDMENT TO RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE DATE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amends the effective date of resignation for Eimy Padron-Rodriguez, originally approved at the August 12, 2025 Board of Education meeting, from August 12, 2025 to September 19, 2025.

4. BREAKFAST CLUB PROGRAM

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following staff members to serve in the “Breakfast Club” Program for the 2025-2026 school year, at a rate of \$45.00 per hour:

Staff Member	Building
Rosemarie Carbone	ECC
Cheryl Menzella	ECC
Isabella Ostuni (Substitute)	ECC
Christopher Messina	Lindbergh
Ive Pavin	Lindbergh

5. 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
Jodi Burrows	254047	9/8/2025
Elizabeth Porrino	11664	9/8/2025
Elizabeth Porrino	9695	9/15/2025

Up to 10 hours a week
\$50 per hour

6. APPOINTMENT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL COACH

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of Amanda Roper as the Middle School Volleyball coach for the 2025-2026 school year.

7. APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS FOR TEACHERS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following assignment of teachers to teach sixth period classes and zero period labs for the 2025-2026 school year, with compensation as outlined in the teachers' contracts.

Semester 1 - Sixth Period Classes

Teacher	Class
Thomas Pecorelli	Contemporary Issues and Global Affairs
Lauren Perez	Contemporary Issues in Literature
Marisa Deodino	Job Skills

Full Year - Sixth Period Classes

Teacher	Class
William Hutchinson	Math Lab A
Rachel Morgese	Geophysical Science
Elizabeth Porrino	Biology 10

Zero Period Labs

Teacher	Class
Henry Agecha	Honors Chemistry Lab
Henry Agecha	AP Chemistry Lab
Robert Biagiotti	AP Biology Lab
David Cho	AP Physics Lab
Joseph Kim	Honors Biology Lab

8. APPROVAL OF STUDENT TEACHERS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the placement of the following student teachers at Lindbergh Elementary School for the 2025–2026 school year:

Student Teacher	University	Cooperating Teacher	Grade / Subject
Eoin Glynn	William Paterson University	Jessica Janiec	Grade 4
Irene Ochoa	William Paterson University	Karla Campos	Grade 1 Bilingual
Chaeyeon Joo	Rutgers Graduate School of Education	Olga Tatta	Grade 5 Mathematics

9. WEIGHT ROOM SUPERVISORS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Joe Galeazza and John Wiseman as “Weight Room Supervisors” for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$45 per hour.

10. APPOINTMENT AND TITLE CHANGE OF CONFIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD SECRETARY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby appoints Grace Lee to the position of Confidential Administrative Assistant to Superintendent of Schools and Board Secretary, in place of Board Secretary, effective September 18, 2025, for an annual salary of \$83,000.

11. APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the employment contracts for the following individuals for the 2025–2026 school year:

- Amanda Vecharello
- Christian Guerrero
- Ryan VanAlstine
- Ken Jordan
- Grace Lee

12. NEWCOMER COMMITTEE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following staff as part of the Newcomer Committee to screen new students for ESL/Bilingual eligibility.

Staff Name	Amount	Hours per Month	Total per Month	School
Michelle Rengifo	\$36.00 per hour	Not to exceed- 10	\$360	PPHS
Jackie Oh	\$36.00 per hour	Not to exceed- 10	\$360	Lindbergh
Laurie Nova	\$36.00 per hour	Not to exceed- 10	\$360	ECC

13. ESEA GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS – 2025-2026 SY

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Palisades Park Board of Education hereby approves the appointment of the following individuals as 2026 ESEA Grant Program Administrators, the costs of which are to be reimbursed through the grant as indicated below:

Name	Rate	Not to Exceed
Laura Pieratos	\$130/hour	\$10,000
Jillian Romero	\$130/hour	\$10,000
Amanda Vecharello	Hourly rate	\$5,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the total cost shall not exceed **\$35,000**, which shall be reimbursed through the 2026 ESEA Grant.

14. APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH TEAMSTERS LOCAL 97 OF NEW JERSEY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Memorandum of Agreement between the Board and Teamsters Local 97 of New Jersey, covering the period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the preparation and execution of a successor collective negotiations agreement consistent with the terms of the ratified Memorandum of Agreement.

15. APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER FOOTBALL COACH

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of Xavier Gulley as a volunteer Football coach for the 2025-2026 school year, pending the submission of required fingerprints and certifications.

16. APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY PAYROLL / BENEFITS CLERK

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby appoints Silvia Alfaro to the position of Part-Time Temporary Payroll/Benefits Clerk for the period September 17, 2025 through October 19, 2025 at an hourly rate of \$75.00, not to exceed 25 hours (\$1,875 total).

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	☒	☐	☐	☐	Jun Yim	☒	☐	☐	☐
Sergio Calle	☒	☐	☐	☐	Boyoung Yu	☒ *	☐	☐	☐
Rebekah Lee	☐	☐	☐	☒	Sookyung Park	☒	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Kim	☐	☐	☐	☒	Aaron Pak	☒	☐	☐	☐

*Ms. Boyoung Yu voted yes to all except items #2 and #10

N. FINANCE

Consent agenda for Items 1-6 – Boyoung Yu

1. SCHOOL ALLIANCE INSURANCE FUND COMMISSIONER

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Palisades Park, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that Emidio D’Andrea is hereby appointed as the School Alliance Insurance Fund Commissioner.

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the following:

1. Emidio D’Andrea (Fund Commissioner)
2. School Alliance Insurance Fund

2. ESEA GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS – 2025-2026 SY

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Palisades Park Board of Education hereby approves the appointment of the following individuals as 2026 ESEA Grant Program Administrators, the costs of which are to be reimbursed through the grant as indicated below:

Name	Rate	Not to Exceed
Patrick Phalon	\$130/hour	\$10,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the total cost shall not exceed **\$35,000**, which shall be reimbursed through the 2026 ESEA Grant.

3. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP REVIEW AND TITLE SEARCH AUTHORIZATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education approves Rivkin Radler, Special Counsel of Palisades Park Board of Education, to investigate Palisades Park Board of Education’s ownership of certain buildings and land in the Palisades Park School District, including to the extent necessary retaining title search professionals to perform a title search and obtain deeds and other documentation, including with respect to the following schools:

- Early Child Center - \$150 to update title search
- Lindbergh Elementary School - \$1,500 for a full title search
- Palisades Park Jr. and Sr. High School - \$1,500 for a full title search

4. 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
Aryadne Valadao	Fall Conference for Case Managers	The Marigold Franklin Township, NJ	10/29/25	\$0
Jennifer Tennant	QSAC District Performance Review	Bergen Community College	9/29/25	\$0
Catherine Clark Sara Vetter Sylvia Yoo	Fall Conference for Case Managers	West Orange, NJ	10/14/25	\$0

Joanna Hali	County Special Services Meetings	Bethany Community Center	9/18/25, 10/22/25, 11/20/25, 12/17/25, 1/28/25, 2/25/25, 3/25/25, 4/29/25, 5/27/25	\$0
Joanna Hali	Social Media Seminar for School Threat Assessments	Bergen County Law & Public Safety Institute Mahwah, NJ	9/29/25	\$0
Joanna Hali	Education Law Workshop and Training	McLoone's Boathouse West Orange, NJ	10/7/25	\$0
Joanna Hali	Tour, Training, and Workshop at an OoD Placement	Sage Alliance Rochelle Park, NJ	10/17/25	\$0
Emily Kline	Conference to assist with Child Study Team Skills	The Wilshire Grand West Orange, NJ	10/14/25	\$0
Amy Munn	NJPSA FEA: Multi Lingual Learners Summit	Monroe Township, NJ	10/6/2025	\$0
Debra Youshikian	QSAC Instruction and Programming	Bergen Community College / Meadowlands Campus	9/29/25	\$0
Soo Chung Sookyung Park Anthony Kim Carl Albano Emidio D'Andrea Christian Guerrero Grace Lee	NJSBA Workshop 2025	Atlantic City, NJ	10/20/25 - 10/23/25	Group Discount Rate (\$2,200), plus associated costs
Jodie Kamvosoulis	AMTNJ Fall Conference	Brookdale Community College Lincroft, NJ	11/21/2025	\$185
Mary DeBlasio	Workshops for Instructional Material	Montclair State University	10/17/2025	\$80

5. TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following tuition reimbursement requests:

Staff Member	College/University	Course Name	Credits
Ive Pavin	American College of Education	Curriculum & Instructional Design	3
Ive Pavin	American College of Education	Teacher Leadership	3
Diana Hong	NJ Center of Teaching and Learning	Learning and Teaching Algebra 1	4
Ashleigh Mulligan	William Paterson University	Intro to Special Education	3

6. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER BILL LIST

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the September bill list in the amount of \$2,642,004.83

- Fund 10 (General/Current Expenses) \$2,299,462.82
- Fund 20 (Special Revenue) \$304,555.41
- Fund 30 (Capital Projects Fund) \$0
- Fund 60 (Food Service) \$37,986.60

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	☒ *	☐	☐	☐	Jun Yim	☒	☐	☐	☐
Sergio Calle	☒	☐	☐	☐	Boyoung Yu	☒	☐	☐	☐
Rebekah Lee	☐	☐	☐	☒	Sookyung Park	☒	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Kim	☐	☐	☐	☒	Aaron Pak	☒	☐	☐	☐

*Ms. Soo Chung voted yes to all except for her own workshop attendance in Item #4

O. CURRICULUM

Consent agenda for Items 1-3 – Sookyung Park

1. EMERGENCY VIRTUAL PLAN 25-26 SY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the “Emergency Virtual Plan” for the 2025-2026 SY.

2. FIELD TRIPS

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

- Destination: New Jersey Performing Arts Center
- Date: Wednesday, November 05, 2025
- Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Group: Grade 5
- Cost per Student: \$20.00

- Destination: Camp Michikamau, Harriman State Park
- Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 (Rain Date: October 29, 2025)
- Time: 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Group: Physical Education 11/12
- Cost per Student: \$30.00

- Destination: Tranquility Farms
- Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025
- Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Group: Grade 3
- Cost per Student: \$28.00

3. CURRICULUM ADOPTION – 25-26 SY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent does hereby adopt and/or reaffirm the adoption of all course textbooks for courses of study listed for the Pre-K through Grade 12 curriculum aligned to New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLs).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby affirms and establishes the curriculum and courses of study for all district programs and grade levels during the 2025-2026 school year.

Moved by: Aaron Pak Seconded By: Sookyung Park
All in favor - aye
No objections, no abstentions

P. NEGOTIATIONS – TBD

Q. COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS REP/ALTERNATE – Anthony Kim

R. EDUCATION – Sookyung Park

S. EVALUATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE – TBD

T. NJ SCHOOL BOARDS LIAISON/ALTERNATE – Anthony Kim**U. POLICY – Boyoung Yu****V. SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE – Rebekah Lee****W. UNFINISHED BUSINESS****X. NEW BUSINESS****Y. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Motion to open meeting to public participation.

Moved by: Jun Yim

Seconded by: Aaron Pak

All in favor – aye – 8:16 p.m.

Ms. Rivera - Expressed concern about the \$83,000 allocated for a title change, stating that school secretaries are overworked without additional compensation. They also shared concerns about fairness to existing staff. Additionally, the speaker noted that Spanish-speaking parents felt their voices were not heard and left due to the length of the closed session, which ran over an hour. They requested that future closed sessions be kept timely to allow more community participation.

Anthony Rotundo - Thanked Superintendent Carl Albano for acknowledging teachers, especially those taking on sixth and zero period classes. He raised concerns about the recent title change and salary adjustment for the Board Secretary position, questioning the need for the change given ongoing budget constraints. He noted that while cuts are being made, some positions are receiving increased compensation, and requested more information regarding the rationale behind the title and salary changes.

Neris Papoters - Inquired about when the high school will have a Vice Principal and raised concerns about the school's financial priorities. They questioned the \$89,000 salary for a payroll coordinator while some teachers cover their own travel expenses and students lack resources, such as a coach for the softball team. The speaker emphasized the need for funds to be directed toward student support and activities.

Peter Longo - Expressed concern about overspending and inquired about the selection process, background, and experience of the new Vice Principal for Lindbergh. They also asked when the high school Vice Principal position is expected to be filled.

Nicole Ostuni - noted that the Breakfast Club stipend was increased to \$45, but suggested it should have been adjusted from \$35 to \$50 in accordance with the new contract.

Motion to close public participation.

Moved by: Aaron Pak

Seconded by: Jun Yim

All in favor – aye – 8:25 p.m.

Ms. Soo Chung responded to Ms. Rivera's comment regarding the length of the executive session, explaining that the meeting must be opened publicly before proceeding to closed session.

Mr. Carl Albano addressed concerns regarding salary and compensation, explaining that the total number of central office staff remains at five and the budget for salaries and benefits is nearly \$700,000. He acknowledged concerns about resource availability for students but noted many vacancies had to be filled under challenging timing. He stated that the district is actually saving approximately \$88,500 compared to last year's central office payroll costs. Mr. Albano emphasized the necessity of having a qualified payroll and benefits coordinator due to the scarcity of candidates and the importance of maintaining effective and competent payroll operations while ensuring staff pay and benefits are protected.

Regarding the vice principals, Mr. Albano shared that approximately 30 candidates applied for the Lindbergh Vice Principal position. Although the timing was not ideal, the applicant pool was strong. After initial screenings, 6–7 candidates were interviewed, with 3 semi-finalists meeting with the administrative team. The selected candidate, Mr. Sarcone, has experience as a teacher, acting administrator, and worked with an educational software company called Link. Ms. Pieratos played a key role in the selection, and Mr. Albano expressed confidence that Mr. Sarcone is the best fit for the role.

For the high school Vice Principal position, 25–28 applications were received. Mr. Cipriano is leading the search, with semi-finalist interviews scheduled for next week. A final candidate is expected to be presented to the Board next month.

Regarding finances of the district, Mr. Albano explained that Mr. D’Andrea, the new Business Administrator, started two weeks ago, and the district was without a BA for most of the summer due to a shortage of qualified candidates. Mr. D’Andrea brings over 30 years of experience to the role. At this time, a strong financial analysis is not yet available, but the district is preparing for the annual audit soon. Following the audit, there will be a public presentation to share the district’s financial status, which will lead into the next budget cycle.

Mr. Albano noted that while changes cannot be made to the current budget, future discussions will consider areas that may be underfunded. The administration is open to hearing concerns and will try to address immediate needs when possible. As an example, he shared that although a K–5 ELA program was not originally in the budget, after a review, funds were identified to support a program that will benefit 800–900 students.

Regarding the Breakfast Club stipend, Mr. Albano noted that he was not part of the original negotiation discussions regarding stipends. He explained that there are two stipend rates: \$50 for instructional roles (such as home instruction) and a lower rate for non-instructional supervision. Since Breakfast club involves supervision, not teaching, they fall under the non-instructional rate. He acknowledged being new to the district and asked for patience, adding that he will meet with the union on Monday to review the contract language and make corrections if needed.

Ms. Soo Chung noted that the Board shared some of the same questions raised by the public and held a committee meeting prior to the Board meeting to discuss them. She stated that Mr. Albano made a strong effort to hire the right staff and that there is an \$88,000 savings in central office staffing, which meant there must have been additional work for the current central office staff. She acknowledged the hard work of all CSA office employees and expressed confidence in Mr. Albano’s selection of candidates.

Ms. Boyoung Yu stated that while she understands the importance of hiring the best candidates, it is also necessary to remain cost-conscious. She expressed concern that starting salaries at higher levels could lead to budget issues over time due to annual increases.

Z. CLOSED SESSION

Motion to go into Closed Session.

Moved by: Aaron Pak

Seconded by: Soo Chung

All in favor – aye – 8:38 p.m.

The Board of Education convened in Closed Session in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)*, for the purpose of discussing:

- Superintendent Evaluation/Annual Goals for 2025-2026 School Year
- Legal Matters

No action were taken in the Closed Session.

Motion to close executive session and open back to public.

Moved by: Aaron Pak

Seconded by: Jun Yim

All in favor – aye – 9:25 p.m.

AA. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Aaron Pak

Seconded by: Soo Chung

All in favor – aye – 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Grace Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Grace Lee
Board Secretary