NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SESSION
VIA ZOOM MEETING
https://ncboe.zoom.us/j/98088377753?pwd=CqfUzapNLO6pHZEchVnZas3R8Ke5WU.1
GRANDVIEW SCHOOL CAFETERIA
November 18, 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 bus evacuations drills
G2. 2025-2026 Memorandum of Agreement
G3. Approve Policies & 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
B6. Approve Board Secretary Certification for the month of September 2025
B7. Approve Board Secretary and Treasurer's Financial reports for September 2025
B8. Approve Aide in Lieu Payments

B9. Approve Health and Safety Evaluations Checklists
B10. Approve Pal-Pro change order proposal GC-#05
B11. Approve 2025-2026 Budget Calendar

- **Personnel Resolutions**

P1. Approve Child Rearing Leave for listed staff member
P2. Approve additional period to teach for listed staff member
P3. Approve Professional Development for listed staff members

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

2026-2027 School Calendar

10. 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, December 9th, 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 November 18, 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. Robert Brenneck, Technology Coordinator
Mr. David Blackowski, Network and Operations Specialist

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ved reported that ten (10) people attended the meeting in person and on zoom. Mr. Ved updated the Board that the kindergarten playground has been fully completed. He thanked the NCPE for their continued financial support and Mr. Frank Bifulco for his effort securing a grant, both of which were instrumental in the renovation of the playground.

Mr. Ved thanked Jenny and Scott Daly for organizing the Community Cares event. He said it was incredible for so many of our students and families come together to create thank you cards for first responders.

He stated that the Board is in the process of interviewing applicants for the Class III officers. He reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee met wit the architects to discuss the Gould School space constraints.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Checchetto congratulated Mrs. Kallanxhi and her family on the birth of their daughter and wished them well. He thanked the NCPE for hosting a fantastic Healthy Harvest Day at Grandview and Gould Schools and for the wonderful lunch for the staff during parent teacher conferences. He expressed his gratitude to the NCPE for their generous funding

towards the renovation of the Grandview Kindergarten Playground and Mr. Bifulco for his efforts in securing a grant for the playground.

Mr. Checchetto stated that two strong candidates emerged from the interviews with the applicants for the Class III Officers.

Mr. Checchetto attended the North Caldwell Veterans Day Ceremony at Borough Hall and thanked the amazing Gould School chorus that had the privilege of performing "America the Beautiful." He was proud to have the student council members and several of the Boy Scouts participate in the event. In addition, all sixth-grade students visited Firemen's Hall, where they viewed memorabilia and artifacts generously shared by local veterans—a meaningful experience that helped connect our students to the legacy of service within our community.

Mr. Checchetto stated the Board will be discussing the school calendar and voting on it at the next meeting. He announced his next session of Coffee and Conversation is scheduled for December 3rd, 2025. He wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

G1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the Grandview and Gould school bus emergency evacuation drills on October 10, 2025.

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

G2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the 2025-2026 Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials.

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

G3. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following Policies and Regulations, at first reading:

Policy	**2530**	**Resource Materials**
Regulation	**2530**	**Resource Materials**

Policy	**2535**	**Library Material**
Regulations	**2535**	**Library Material**
Policy	**9130**	**Public Complaints**
Regulation	**9130**	**Public Complaints**

Moved: Mrs. Malige Seconded: Mr. Finkelstein

Yes: 5 No: 0

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

B1. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the **Public and Confidential Minutes of October 14, 2025.**

Moved: Mr. Whitford Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

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

Payroll Date:	Payroll #	Amount:
October 15, 2025	**63**	**$459,278.79**
October 31, 2025	**64-65**	**$422,292.03**
November 14, 2025	**66**	**$456,317.78**

Moved: Mr. Whitford Seconded: Mrs. Malige

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
Sept. 1, 2025 – Sept 30, 2025	**E02594**	**E02599**	**$62,740.40**

Moved: Mr. Whitford Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

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

Date	Starting check #	Ending Check #	Total Amount
October 29, 2025	**003433**	**003441**	**$297,983.28**
November 18, 2025	**003442**	**003559**	**$997,705.25**

Moved: Mr. Whitford Seconded: Mrs. Malige

Yes: 5 No: 0

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

Moved: Mr. Whitford Seconded: Mrs. Malige

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 **September 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 **September 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: Mrs. Malige

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 **September 2025**.

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

B8. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following **Aide in Lieu** Payments for transportation in the amount of $1,177.00 per student for the 2025-2026 school year for students attending the following private schools:

Al Hikmah Elementary
Golda Och Academy
Kent Place School
Montclair Cooperative School
Montclair Kimberly Academy
Newark Academy
Oak Knoll School
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Our Lady of the Lake School
The Peck School
Pioneer Academy
Pingry School
St. Catherine of Siena
Trinity Christian School
Total Expected Payment **$45,903.00**

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

B9. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the attached Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklists and authorizes the submission of the Statement of Assurance for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

B10. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following change order:

WHEREAS, Pal-Pro Builders, LLC. was awarded the bid for the Classroom Addition at Grandview School; and

WHEREAS, Pal-Pro Builders, LLC. has submitted the following change order proposal which has been approved by the architect:

Change Order Proposal – **GC #05**
Third party testing conducted by Atlas Technical Consultants LLC per invoice dated 10/28/25 in the amount of $6,417.00 to be deducted from the Allowance #9

The Total Contract value will not change; Total Contract sum $5,310,000.00

AND WHEREAS, DiCara Rubino Architects has verified that these changes are necessary based upon the need to rectify unforeseen conditions uncovered during construction pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-4.9;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves this change order and the contract amount is revised to reflect this change.

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

B11. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the attached 2025-2026 Budget Calendar.

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

PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS

P1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Child Rearing Leave for **Christina Kallanxhi** effective November 14, 2025, to March 31, 2026

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

P2. **RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve **Samantha Calabrese** to teach an additional period at rate of $42.00 per period as per Article IV, section E of the negotiated agreement between the North Caldwell Education Association and the North Caldwell Board of Education effective October 21, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

Moved: Mr. Whitford Seconded: Mrs. 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**
Keating, S.	12/8/2025	Pharmacology w/ Children and Adolescents	$60.00
Norton, L.	1/23/2026	Helping Your Struggling Readers	$295.00

Moved: Mr. Whitford Seconded: Mrs. Finkelstein

Yes: 5 No: 0

OLD BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS
Mr. Halik and Mr. Checchetto discussed possible future changes to the school calendar, including one session day on Halloween when it occurs on a school day, and also noted next year school starts prior to Labor day as its later in the month next year. Mr. Halik asked the Board to report any 2026 dates that may conflict with the setting up the Board Meeting Calendar for 2026.

The following resolution was called at approximately 7:45 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, and School Security. 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 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Halik

Michael Halik
Business Administrator / Board Secretary