

**REGULAR SESSION  
ALLENDALE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Monday, January 29, 2024**

The Regular Session of the Allendale Board of Education was held in the Brookside School Learning Commons on Monday, January 29, 2024. On motion by Mrs. Rosner and seconded by Mrs. Gundersen; the meeting reconvened the meeting to at 6:59 pm.

The flag salute was led by Mrs. Gundersen.

Mrs. Engeleit announced that, "The public has been duly informed of this meeting in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 by posting at least 48 hours' prior notice on the District website, bulletin boards in Brookside School and Hillside School and by like 48 hours' prior notice to the Borough Clerk, the designated newspapers, and interested parties requesting such notification."

<b>Roll Call</b>	<u>Present:</u>	Mrs. Gundersen, President Mrs. Rosner, Vice President Mr. Verbel Mr. Fliegel
	<u>Absent:</u>	none
	<u>Also Present:</u>	Dr. Michael Barcadepone, Superintendent and Mrs. Maria Engeleit, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Mrs. Gundersen informed the public of Bylaw 0167 procedures regarding the Open Public portion of the meeting also available on the website.

Mr. Goodman inquired about the Hillside books that are being donated or discarded. He asked if there was no prior donation site if the 8<sup>th</sup> grade could have them.

**BOARD PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Mrs. Gundersen said she was happy to see so many people at the meeting. She indicated that the Board interviews would take place under New Business.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

The district's Student Safety Data System was presented. Dr. Barcadepone gave a report on HIBs in the district. There were five at Brookside and seven at Hillside, all were unfounded. There were staff training sessions conducted as well; three at Brookside and six at Hillside. There were four assemblies at Brookside and seven at Hillside, with one of them being the recent presentation by Joe Beckman. There were 19 restraints at Hillside, 100% of which were in specialized program, and there were no seclusions. Dr. Barcadepone also reviewed the Bus Drill Report for September 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. The district did not have any field trips where buses were used so there were no evacuation drills. Dr. Barcadepone explained how the district does the evacuation drills as transportation is not part of a regular school day in Allendale. He also commended the Brookside students on how well they've worked with Hillside on the design of their new backyard space. He indicated that it is School Board Recognition Month. He acknowledged how much behind the scenes work regularly occurs. On behalf of the administration, staff and students, he thanked the Board of Education. He stated it was good to see so many people who were interested in being a member, and said he was looking forward to working with them.

Mr. Verbel asked about restraint situations. Dr. Barcadepone explained who would perform these restraints, and how and when this would happen.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Buildings & Grounds: Mr. Verbel indicated the committee did not meet.  
Policy: Mrs. Gundersen indicated the committee did not meet.  
Finance: Mrs. Rosner indicated the committee did not meet  
Education: Mrs. Gundersen indicated the committee did not meet  
Technology: Mr. Verbel indicated the committee did not meet  
Negotiations: Mr. Fliegel indicated the committee did not meet

**MINUTES:**

On motion by Mrs. Rosner and seconded by Mr. Verbel and carried by roll call vote, the Board approved the following resolution as amended:

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the following meeting:

January 3, 2024 Reorganization Meeting  
January 3, 2024 Executive Session  
January 3, 23024 Regular Session

**PERSONNEL**

On motion by Mrs. Rosner and seconded by Mr. Fliegel and carried by roll call vote, the Board approved the following resolution:

1. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year:

Ellen Vengraitis	{Teacher}
Ava Ebnetter	{Teacher}
Jill Blum	{Teacher}

2. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Ms. Olivia Singletary as a Full-Time Special Education Aide in the Allendale School District the 2023-2024 school year at a salary of \$27,185, Step 4 in the Salary Guide for Full-Time Special Education Aides {pending receipt of criminal background check} starting on or about February 1, 2024.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to the following staff members for attending the Kindergarten Orientation on January 31, 2024 {Snow Date: February 1, 2024}, as follows:

Name	Hourly Rate	Hours per Participant	Total Amount
L. Heitman	\$40.00	1	\$40.00

4. BE IT RESOLVED, to approve additional payment to Mauricio Souza, Art Teacher, for an extra ten {10.0} hours on 2/5/24 through 2/16/24 for working on the new Allendale Community Mural project, at his current hourly rate of \$66.12/hour {Total: \$661.20}, as per the approved Supplemental Payment Request.
5. WHEREAS, a non-certificated employee whose name is on file in the Board office was issued an employment agreement for the 2023-2024 school year which contained a thirty-day (30) notice of termination provision; and

WHEREAS, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education desires to invoke the notice of termination provision of the employment agreement;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby invokes the notice provision of the non-certificated employee's employment agreement and authorizes the Board Secretary to provide written notice to the employee that his/her employment agreement has been terminated, effective January 26, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the non-certificated employee shall not be required to perform his/her duties during the notice period and shall be suspended with pay through February 29, 2024.

### **EDUCATION**

On motion by Mrs. Rosner and seconded by Mr. Verbel and carried by roll call vote, the Board approved the following resolution:

1. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following:

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2024 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, The Allendale Board of Education is one of more than 580 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, The Allendale Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, school boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of Education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Allendale Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2024 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Allendale Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staffs toward the advancement of our children's education.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the HIB decision for the following case:

HIB Case #:257506\_HS\_01022024 January 2024

HIB Case #:257500\_HS\_01022024 January 2024

3. BE IT RESOLVED, in order to be in compliance with the Student Safety Data System Reporting of violence, vandalism, and harassment, intimidation and bullying to the District Board of Education for Report Period I, September 1 through December 31, 2023, the Chief School Administrator has reported the following: there was zero incidents of violence and vandalism, and there were 7 unfounded HIB incidents.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, in order to be in compliance with the Student Safety Data System Reporting of HIB Training and Program Reporting, The Chief School Administrator has confirmed the Trainings and Programs which took place during Report Period I, September 1 through December 31, 2023.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, to affirm that all reporting information, as outlined in Resolutions 3 and 4 above, was submitted to the NJ State Department of Education, as per Education Attachment I.
6. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Bus Drill Report for Period I: September 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, as per Education Attachment II.
7. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the request for Amanda Leonard, a student from Fordham University, to intern under Dr. Carlea Dries, District Psychologist, to attend meetings and evaluations, starting February 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024.
8. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to School Based Therapy Services, Inc., to conduct an Occupational Therapy evaluation, at a cost of \$300, for the Student X001303, as recommended by the 504 Committee
9. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to School Based Therapy Services, Inc., for Occupational Therapy services twice per month at a cost of \$190/month for student X000413, as recommended by the 504 Committee.
10. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following field trip:

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Date(s) of Trip</b>	<b>Cost Per Student</b>	<b>Curricular Goals</b>
5	Arena STEM {GSP Mall}	March 19, 2024	~ \$41.00 ~	<i>STEM ARENA ~ classes relate to our science curriculum and our MARS unit Study.</i>

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

On motion by Mr. Fliegel and seconded by Mr. Verbel and carried by roll call vote, the Board approved the following resolution:

1. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to Region V for bilingual social, speech & language, and psychological evaluations at a cost of \$637 Bilingual (includes 7% admin fee for non-Region V) for Student #001916, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a contract with Bergen County Special Services Board of Education for tuition at the prorated amount of \$66,960.00 for Student #001418 at HIP - MP Godwin for the 2023-2024 school year, services to commence on January 16, 2024, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to Luke Zottoli for providing Home Instruction services for Student #001025, not to exceed five hours, at the rate of \$40/hour, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to Bergen County Special Services for three additional hours of Augmentative Communication Consultation during the 2023/2024 school year for student #001025, at a cost of \$600, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
5. Administratively Withdrawn
6. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to School Based Therapy Services, Inc., for a change in Occupational Therapy services from 1x weekly group to 1x weekly individual, at a cost of \$49/session, for Student #001414, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
7. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to School Based Therapy Services, Inc., for five 30 minute Occupational Therapy consultations, at a cost of \$245, for Student #000110, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
8. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to School Based Therapy Services, Inc., to conduct (15) fifteen 15 minute consultations of Occupational Therapy, at a cost of \$367.50, for Student #001022, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
9. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to School Based Therapy Services, Inc., to conduct an Occupational Therapy evaluation, at a cost of \$300, for Student #001204, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
10. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to Dr. Carlea Dries for two and one half hours (2:30) at her contracted hourly salary for a student risk assessment, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
11. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to School Based Therapy Services, Inc., to conduct an Occupational Therapy evaluation, at a cost of \$300, for Student #001212, as recommended by the Child Study Team.

12. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to School Based Therapy Services, Inc., for Occupational Therapy services 1x weekly individual, at a cost of \$49/session, for Student #000710, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
13. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to Life Insight, LLC for Student #000203 to conduct a psychological evaluation, not to exceed \$1,000 as recommended by the Child Study Team.
14. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to Bergen County Special Services for up to 5 hours of Audiological Services during the 2023/2024 school year for student #001403, not to exceed \$940, as recommended by the Child Study Team.

**BUSINESS OFFICE/FINANCE**

On motion by Mrs. Rosner and seconded by Mr. Fliegel and carried by roll call vote, the Board approved the following resolution:

1. BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Bills List dated January 29, 2024 in the amount of \$346,795.21 as per Business Attachment I.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Food Services Bill List for the months of November and December in the amount of \$46,005.66 and \$36,992.51 respectively, as per Business Attachment IA.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Report of the Treasurer for the months of November and December 2023, as per Business Attachment II.
4. BE IT RESOLVED to approve the Report of the Secretary to the Board of Education for the months of November and December 2023, as per Business Attachment III.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the budgetary transfers for the months of November and December 2023 as per Business Attachment IV.
6. BE IT RESOLVED, as per N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, A district board of education, after review of the school business administrator/board secretary's and treasurer's monthly financial reports and upon consultation with the appropriate school district school officials hereby certifies that no fund has been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
7. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve unavoidable travel and costs as related in this resolution which are educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and are related to and within the scope of the employee's current responsibilities and promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district. The reimbursements listed in this resolution are in compliance with state travel reimbursement guidelines as established by the Department of the Treasury and Board of Education policy in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et. seq. for the following seminars or workshops:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Conference Title</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Date of Trip</b>	<b>Total Estimated Expenses*</b>
J. Costanza S. Bailey	NJECC 2024 Annual Educational Technology Conference	Montclair, NJ	March 12-13 2024	\$20.00

\*Does not include mileage and sustenance as they are contractual

8. BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the donation and/or disposal of library books, with a zero current net book value, from Hillside School, as per Business Attachment V.
9. BE IT RESOLVED to approve a contract for residency review services with TrueView BSI, LLC. In an amount not to exceed \$2500.
10. BE IT RESOLVED to approve the Brookside School HVAC Replacements project, State Project # 02-03-0040-101-23-R501, SDA # 0040-010-23-G5AE, G5-6408, utilizing capital reserve funds in the amount of \$3,597,950 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget with an approved Grant amount of a 40% reimbursement to the District, and to authorize Business Administrator to advertise for bids as needed for this same project.
11. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve unavoidable travel and costs as related in this resolution which are educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and are related to and within the scope of the employee's current responsibilities and promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district. The reimbursements listed in this resolution are in compliance with state travel reimbursement guidelines as established by the Department of the Treasury and Board of Education policy in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et. seq. for the following seminars or workshops:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Conference Title</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Date of Trip</b>	<b>Total Estimated Expenses*</b>
P. Gomez S. Kanderis C. Dries	RealTime User Group Meeting	Parsippany Hilton Parsippany, NJ	February 7, 2024	~ \$0~

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

On motion by Mrs. Rosner and seconded by Mr. Verbel and carried by roll call vote, the Board approved the following resolution:

1. BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the USE OF FACILITIES REQUEST submitted by Cub Scout Pack 59 & 252 for a pack meeting on February 9, 2024 in the Hillside All Purpose Room from 6pm to 8:45 pm.
2. BE IT RESOLVED authorizing the execution and delivery of the Grant Agreement for State Project # 02-03-0040-101-23-R501, SDA # 0040-010-23-G5AE, G5- 6408, Brookside School HVAC Replacements.
3. BE IT RESOLVED to approve the delegation of authority to the School Business Administrator for supervision of the school facilities project, State Project #02-03- 0040-101-23-R501, SDA # 0040-010-23-G5AE, G5-6408, Brookside School HVAC Replacements.

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Board President will inform the public of Bylaw 0167 procedures.

Mr. Rich Levine, 15 Oak St, read a statement on behalf of five families regarding concerns with the Pre-Top Program at Hillside School. Specifically, they stated concerns regarding lack of transparency and communication between the school and the parents. On September 18th, the parents were notified that the main teacher would not be returning. Since that point there has been no constant communication or ability to track students' progress with the program. They stated other concerns including having no main teacher permanently in the classroom and use of long term substitutes. There was a zoom meeting with Mrs. Goodell where she advised the class the limits of substitute teachers and the difficulty of finding a “qualified teacher”. It was during this meeting that the parents were told that Ms. Corrigan, the District’s Behaviorist, was splitting her time between supervising PreTop and her other obligations to the District. The parents also expressed concern with the use of the Federal aid provided for this program. The parents demanded a meeting with Dr. Barcadepone to discuss their concerns. Dr. Barcadepone responded to certain points including the job posting and the Department of Education’s requirement of multiple certifications for the teacher in this classroom. He advised the parents of when and where he has reached out to find a replacement teacher and agreed that this is not the ideal situation. He offered to meet with the families weekly if needed and apologized for them not receiving more regular communication. Dr. Barcadepone is having surgery tomorrow and advised he will contact them as soon as he is able to. Carolyn Koporada expressed shock and awe in the lack of communication and asked for Dr. Barcadepone help. Correspondence from January 20th that was received from the parents made it seem like it was “no big deal”. The parents indicated they want to be part of the solution and expressed thanks for listening. Mrs. Gundersen thanked the families as well and promised to look into the situation. Ms. Anna Lafosca said her son is in regular PreK with Ms. Valente, but did not get the zoom invite. She does not know who is working with the ABA and her son and stated she did not know that the original teacher is not in the classroom. She indicated that a substitute teacher greeted her in the parking lot and remarked she did not know her son was autistic. She is very happy with Ms. Valente and is meeting with Ms. Corrigan tomorrow. She wants an ABA teacher, not just an ABA behaviorist. She stated like she “fell through the cracks” because he is not a full-time student in PreTop. She said she has another child in Hilltop with Mrs. Santiago and she continuously updates the parents and is wonderful with her other son.

**NEW BUSINESS**

On motion by Mrs. Rosner and seconded by Mrs. Gundersen and carried by roll call vote, the Board approved the following resolution:

1. BE IT RESOLVED to approve the USE OF FACILITIES REQUEST submitted by the Holiday Observers for a meeting on February 7, 2024 at the Brookside Learning Commons at 8pm.

The Board conducted interviews with eight candidates for the vacant Board position. Each Board Member asked the candidates a specific question pertaining to their desire and reasons thereof for becoming a member of this Board.

The Board entertained a motion to adjourn the open meeting and go into Executive Session to deliberate the results of the Board candidate interviews. No action will be taken during Executive Session. The topics to be discussed are within the exemptions, which are permitted to be discussed and acted upon in private session, pursuant to P.L. 1975, Chapter 231. The Board will disclose the information as soon thereafter as possible once the reasons for nondisclosure no longer exist.



On Motion by Mr. Fliegel and seconded by Mr. Verbel, and unanimously carried by voice vote, the Board entered an Executive Session at 9:42pm to conduct deliberations on the selection of a new Board Member.

On Motion by Mr. Fliegel and seconded by Mrs. Rosner, and unanimously carried by voice vote, the Board reconvened at 10:11pm

On motion by Mr. Fliegel and seconded by Mr. Verbel and carried by roll call vote, the Board approved the following resolution:

2. BE IT RESOLVED to appoint Mrs. Lori Shekari to the open position on the Allendale Board of Education vacated by the resignation of Mrs. Natalie Capano for the term ending December 31, 2024.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Mrs. Rosner and seconded by Mr. Fliegel, and unanimously carried by voice vote, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maria Engeleit  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary