

**REGULAR SESSION
ALLENDALE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, March 20 2024**

The Regular Session of the Allendale Board of Education was held in the Brookside School Learning Commons on Wednesday March 20, 2024. On motion by Mr. Fliegel and seconded by Mr. Verbel; the meeting reconvened at 7:00pm.

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."

Roll Call

Present: Mrs. Gundersen, President
Mrs. Rosner, Vice President
Mrs. Shekari
Mr. Verbel
Mr. Fliegel

Absent: none

Also Present: 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.
No Comments

BOARD PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mrs. Gundersen welcomed all those present, and any teacher representatives from AFEE. \$130,000 was raised at the auction. She expressed appreciation for all their hard work and teacher participation in the silent auction. She wished everyone a great break and to enjoy this time with their families.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Barcadepone introduced Vittorio "Vic" LaPira, District Counsel, Fogarty & Hara who presented Board Member Ethics Training. Mr. LaPira then gave his presentation. Then Dr. Barcadepone introduced Mayor Amy Wilczynski for the Mayor's Presentation. Mayor Wilczynski spoke about bringing together the community, art and history. She introduced a photo of an original mural which is now painted over. The mayor discussed a new mural in a "pocket park" with the same theme, discussed options on where to place the new mural. She offered that the "pocket park" would have a 10 year lease with the Borough. She explained how the new mural will be created using Bas-Relief by the creator/resident Simon. The design thoughts come from a community group of residents, the Borough Historical Society and others. The thought was to have a mural that would resonate with all residents regardless of their age. Mayor Wilczynski explained the production process, showed Hillside and Brookside students working on individual elements that would be part of the final project. She stated how impressed she was with the impact this has had on the kids and comments the students made during interviews

for the video. A Board discussion ensued on funding, including who would be holding the funds and the total cost of \$160,000. The Board stated that there is not much schools can do financially but we can send out communications to families per Board of Education policies. Dr. Barcadepone also reminded everyone that Chitty Chitty Bang Bang will be performed this weekend, and strongly encouraged everyone to attend. He also recognized Maria Keenan for her years of services and noted that she will be hard to replace. Mrs. Gundersen concurred.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings & Grounds - Mr. Verbel indicated the committee did not meet.

Policy - Mrs. Gundersen indicated the committee did not meet.

Finance - The Finance Committee last met and discussed the 2024-24 budget and the potential tax levy. As reported at the February 28, 2024 BOE meeting, the committee had determined at that time to increase the tax levy by the standard 2%, which does not require voter approval. They also determined that based on current and projected enrollment, Allendale Schools did not need to take an enrollment adjustment which was taken for the 2023-24 school year, or any other adjustments. The business office learned of an increase in healthcare costs year over year from 2023-24 to 2024-25. In 2022-23, healthcare costs decreased by .54%; however, in 2023-24 healthcare costs increased by 15.1%, generating a potential budget adjustment of \$333,403. When reviewing the budget for the 2023-24 school year, the Finance Committee recommended to the Board, that we not utilize that potential adjustment. For the 2024-25 school year, healthcare costs again increased 11.75%. This increase generated an allowable healthcare adjustment for the 2024-25 school year of \$144,698, to be utilized as part of the annual school budget. Given healthcare costs are anticipated to rise again in January of 2025 since benefit costs increase on the calendar year, the Finance Committee and District administration are recommending that the Board take this adjustment. This adjustment of \$144,698 combined with the 2% tax levy increase of \$352,664; increases the total levy by 2.82% to \$18,130,562. As this is an allowable adjustment, voter approval is not required.

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

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

February 28, 2024 Regular Session
February 28, 2024 Executive Session

PERSONNEL

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

1. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an unpaid leave of absence for Employee #4518 effective March 15, 2024; Employee #4518 anticipates returning to the District on or about April 6, 2024.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Christina Jasper, Hourly BCBA for up to ten (10) hours per week at the rate of \$105/hour for the remainder of the 2023/2024 school year, as recommended by the Child Study Team.

3. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept with regret the March 12, 2024 notice of retirement received from Kathy Imhoff, Math Teacher at Brookside School, effective June 30, 2024.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointments for the 2023-2024 stipend positions; payment will be in accordance with the rates as shown, as per Personnel Attachment I.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to Patricia Bonan, 1st Grade Teacher, for an additional two (2.0) hours for Curriculum Writing on March 21, 2024, at the curriculum hourly rate of \$40.00 p/hour, {\$80.00 in total}.
6. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept with regret the March 18, 2024 notice of resignation received from Lauren Natoli, 2nd Grade Teacher at Hillside School, effective June 30, 2024.

Mrs. Gundersen recognized the teachers who are leaving especially Ms. Imhoff and Ms. Natoli. Many of the Board members children had them as teachers and it will be a huge loss for the district and leaves big shoes to fill. She wishes them all the best.

EDUCATION

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

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

Grade Level	Destination	Date(s) of Trip	Cost Per Student	Curricular Goals
1	James A. McFaul Environmental Center	May 16, 2024 and May 17, 2024	~ \$17.00 ~	<i>Students will experience Science through hands on learning. Classes will support learning targets including senses and plants.</i>

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

HIB Case #: 261232_HS_02282024
HIB Case #: 261476_BS_02162024
HIB Case #: 260466_BS_03012024

3. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the first reading of the following Policies and Regulation from Alert No. 232, as per Education Attachment I.

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

Michele R. Dwelle	{Lunch/Playground Aide}
Carole McElroy	{Teacher}
Jennifer O'Connor	{Teacher}

5. BE IT RESOLVED, to acknowledge receipt of the Code of Ethics material forwarded to the District by the NJ School Boards Association; and as present by Board Counsel, Fogarty and Hara; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to discuss N.J.A.C. 18A: 12-24.1; each Board Member will be asked to sign the ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT of the Code of Ethics for School Board Members, as per Education Attachment II, and to forward the form to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

6. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the revised 2023-2024 District Calendar to reflect an early dismissal {12:45P} on Monday, April 8, 2024, due to the Solar Eclipse, as per Education Attachment III.

Dr. Barcadepone explained the astronomer's presentation and that AFEE is purchasing glasses for all the students. Early dismissal is for safety and family viewing this unique experience. Mrs. Gundersen stated it is not easy to pick a random time to dismiss school if they selected another time other than 12:45. It was also stated that the Lee Library has more glasses to give out.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

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

1. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to Tate Hegarty PT Corporation for Physical Therapy Services at the rate of \$140/hour for a total of 3x45 minutes per week through the end of the school year for Student #001025.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a contract with Supreme Consultants for translation services, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment of \$104.00 for two hours of translation services for the non-English speaking parents of Student #000004, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to Supreme Consultants for a Social History of non-English speaking parents of Student #000004, at a rate not to exceed \$800.00, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
5. 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 #001403, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
6. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to School Based Therapy Services, Inc., to conduct an Occupational Therapy Re-Evaluation, at a cost of \$300, for Student #001807, 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., to conduct an Occupational Therapy evaluation, at a cost of \$300, for Student #000305, 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 an Occupational Therapy evaluation, at a cost of \$300, for Student #000004, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
9. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to Rickard Rehabilitation Services for a Physical Therapy Evaluation for Student #000305 at a cost of \$470.00, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
10. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to Rickard Rehabilitation Services for a Physical Therapy Evaluation for Student #001418 at a cost of \$470.00, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
11. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to Speech and Hearing Associates for a CAP test for Student #001403 at the rate of \$650.00, as recommended by the Child Study Team
12. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to Dr. Hugh Bases, for a Developmental Pediatric Evaluation at a rate of no more than \$800 for Student #000001 as recommended by the Child Study Team.
13. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to Dr. Hugh Bases, for a Developmental Pediatric Evaluation at a rate of no more than \$800 for Student #000015 as recommended by the Child Study Team.
14. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to Preferred Home Health Care & Nursing Services, to provide a licensed Registered Nurse to accompany Student #001025 for the entirety of his school day, at the rate of \$70/hour, up to 8 hours per day, five days per week, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
15. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve placement and a contract for payment of tuition for Student #001025 for the 2023-2024 school year at CTC Academy-Oakland, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
16. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to Region V for a Social History of Student #000111, at the Region rate of \$520, plus 7% out of region fee, as recommended by the Child Study Team.
17. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to School Based Therapy Services, Inc., to provide additional OT services for up to 18:30 hours through the remainder of the 23/24 School Year for Student #000501 as recommended by the Child Study Team.
18. BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve payment to School Based Therapy Services, Inc., to provide additional Speech and Language services for up to 24:30 hours through the remainder of the 23/24 School year for Student #000501 as recommended by the Child Study Team.
19. 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 #000015, as recommended by the Child Study Team.

BUSINESS OFFICE/FINANCE

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

1. 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:

Name	Conference Title	Place	Date of Trip	Total Estimated Expenses *
Maria Engeleit	NJ ASBO Annual Conference	Ocean Casino Resort, Atlantic City	June 4 th – June 7 th	\$700

*Does not include mileage and sustenance as they are contractual

2. BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the Bills List dated March 20, 2024, in the amount of \$232,651.24 as per Business Attachment I.
3. 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 II.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the use of Capital Reserve funds in the amount of \$3,597,950 for the Brookside Middle School Replacement of Mechanical Equipment project to be budgeted in the 24-25 fiscal year. This is a DOE approved project and has received a ROD grant in the amount of 40% of its Final Eligible Costs.
5. WHEREAS, the 2024-2025 Budget is due to be submitted for review and approval by the Bergen County Office of the Department of Education on or before March 20, 2024; now

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Allendale Board of Education, County of Bergen, approves the Preliminary 2024-2025 School Year Budget as follows:

General Current Expense (Funds 11) \$21,224,827
Capital Outlay (Fund 12) 7,008,243

TOTAL GENERAL FUND \$28,233,070

Special Revenue (Fund 20) 202,800
Debt Service (Fund 40) 358,975

TOTAL EXPENDITURES/APPROPRIATIONS \$28,794,845

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this budget includes in its General Fund revenues, in accordance with 18A:7F-38, the use of the adjustment for the increase in health care costs in the amount of \$144,698; the use of Maintenance Reserve, in the amount of, \$125,000; and the use of Capital Reserve, in the amount of, \$6,597,950.

WHEREAS, 6A:23A-7.3 provides that the Board of Education shall establish in its annual school budget a maximum travel expenditure; an amount that may be allotted for such, which is \$8,250, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Allendale Board of Education established a 2023-2024 maximum travel budget of \$17,250, with an amount spent as of February 29, 2024 of \$1785; now

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the GENERAL FUND tax levy of \$18,130,562 and DEBT SERVICE tax levy of \$236,923 be approved to support the 2024-2025 school year budget.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

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

1. BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the USE OF FACILITIES REQUEST submitted by Girl Scout Troop 98538 and 98623 for use of Hillside All Purpose Room on the May 14th for Daisy Day Recruitment.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Board President will inform the public of Bylaw 0167 procedures.

No Comments

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board will entertain a motion to adjourn the open meeting and go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and negotiations. No action will be taken. 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.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mrs. Rosner and seconded by Mr. Verbel, and unanimously carried by voice vote, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Engeleit
Business Administrator/Board Secretary