

**Regular Meeting
January 19, 2021
6:10 P.M.**

The Regular Meeting of the Kearny Board of Education was held via teleconference on the evening of the above date.

President Paris called the meeting to order and announced that in accordance with Chapter 231, Laws of 1975, Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of the meeting was provided to the Jersey Journal and the Star Ledger. Notice of the meeting was filed with the Office of the Town Clerk and posted on the District's website.

ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following members were present: Mr. Granelli, Ms. Lindenfelser, Mr. Mc Kenna, Mrs. Sherry, Mr. Soares, Mr. Viscuso, Mr. Zapata, President Paris.

Mrs. Patricia Blood, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Richard Rosenberg, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Kenneth J. Lindenfelser, Jr., Esq., Board Attorney, Esq., were also present.

MOTION RE: CLOSED SESSION

The following resolution was introduced by Mr. Zapata, moved Mr. Mc Kenna on and seconded by Mr. Granelli:

Resolved: by the Board of Education of the Town of Kearny, in the County of Hudson, that in accordance with Chapter 231, Laws of 1975, Open Public Meetings Act, the Board will enter into Closed Session at this time to discuss District personnel matters, negotiations, and/or pending/ongoing litigation.

When the matters under consideration have been completed, any necessary action will be disclosed to the public.

On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Mrs. Davidson, "aye", Mr. Granelli, "aye", Ms. Lindenfelser, "aye", Mr. Mc Kenna, "aye", Mrs. Sherry, "aye", Mr. Soares, "aye", Mr. Viscuso, "aye", Mr. Zapata, "aye", President Paris, "aye".

There being nine votes in the affirmative, the motion was carried.

BOARD ENTERS CLOSED SESSION

The Board entered into Closed Session at 6:13 p.m.

BOARD RETURNS TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Davidson, Mr. Granelli, Ms. Lindenfelser, Mr. Mc Kenna, Mrs. Sherry, Mr. Soares, Mr. Viscuso, Mr. Zapata, President Paris.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Paris led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MOTION RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved Mr. Mc Kenna and seconded by Mr. Soares that the minutes of the following meetings be hereby approved:

Regular Meeting, December 21, 2020 at 6:04 P.M.
Closed Session, December 21, 2020 at 6:05 P.M.

On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Mrs. Davidson, "not voting", Mr. Granelli, "aye", Ms. Lindenfelser, "aye", Mr. Mc Kenna, "aye", Mrs. Sherry, "aye", Mr. Soares, "aye", Mr. Viscuso, "aye", Mr. Zapata, "aye", President Paris, "aye".

There being eight votes in the affirmative and one member "not voting", the motion was carried.

MOTION RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Soares, seconded by Mr. Granelli and unanimously carried that the minutes of the following meeting be hereby approved:

Reorganization Meeting, January 7, 2021 at 6:05 P.M.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Personnel Committee was the only committee to meet this month; Chairperson Lindenfelser acknowledged for the record the following retirement notices: Ann Marie Coppola, Gail Giantomasi, and Lynn Sansone.

OBSERVERS RE: AGENDA ITEMS

Karen Ferguson, Kearny, inquired regarding the status of the Cheering activities; Mrs. Blood responded that the topic was still being reviewed by the Athletic Director to determine compliance with NJSIAA guidelines.

PRESENTATION – 2019/2020 ANNUAL AUDIT

Ms. Liz Shick, Lerch Vincci and Higgins, presented the results of the 2019/2020 Annual School Budget Audit

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT – Mrs. Blood

PART I – PERSONNEL ITEMS

The following resolutions, Items "A" through "K", were moved by Mrs. Davidson, seconded by Mr. McKenna and unanimously carried:

A. RETIREMENTS

The following retirement notices have been accepted, with regret:

Ann Marie Coppola, Secretary, Technology Department, after 19 years of service to Kearny Public Schools, effective March 1, 2021;

Lynn Sansone, Secretary, School-Based Youth Services Program, after 19 years of service to Kearny Public Schools, effective May 1, 2021;

Gail Giantomasi, Teacher of Physical Education at Franklin School, after 20 years of service to Kearny Public Schools, effective July 1, 2021.

B. RESIGNATIONS

Ariana Jorge, Teacher of Bilingual/ESL, has resigned her position effective 60 days from her letter dated December 21, 2020, or sooner if a replacement is appointed.

Erika Blumenfeld, Teacher of Physical Education, has resigned her position effective 60 days from her letter dated January 15, 2021, or sooner if a replacement is appointed.

C. RESCISSION OF APPOINTMENT

The appointment of Molly Tague as Special Education/Resource teacher at Lincoln Middle School, approved at the December 21, 2020 meeting, has been rescinded.

D. APPOINTMENTS

I. Additional Hours of Compensation - Translators

The Board has granted approval of 7.5 additional hours of compensation for the following staff members for oral and written translations. Remuneration will be in accordance with the 2020/21 KEA Agreement at \$40.00 per hour. The program is funded by Title III monies.

Portuguese:

Matias, Adelia

Spanish:

Gomez, Lissette
Varela, Cindy

H. CORRECTIONS TO EQUIVALENCIES

The Board has approved the following corrections to equivalencies approved at the December 21, 2020 meeting:

1. The base salary for Patricia Da Silva is corrected to **\$65,340** (Step 8) and not \$66,420 (Step 9) as reported.
2. The stipend amount for Kimberly Seeley is corrected to **\$1,800** and not the \$1,700 amount reported.

I. EQUIVALENCY

The Equivalency Board of Review has recommended granting the following equivalencies:

Effective September 1, 2020:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Equivalency</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>2020/2021 Base Salary</u>
Cabrera, Joan.....	BA+16	\$1,800	\$ 93,295
Coleman, Dana	MA+32	8,000	83,320
Mc Cole, Lisa.....	MA	4,300	65,440

Effective February 1, 2021:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Equivalency</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>2020/2021 Base Salary</u>
Adamski, John.....	MA+32	\$ 8,000	\$ 96,070
Hester-Fearon, Patricia.....	MA	2,200	97,595
Peso, Susanna	MA	6,100	83,570

J. INTERNSHIPS

The Board has approved the following internships:

Vanessa C. Almeida, Seton Hall University student, to perform her internship under the guidance of Amalia Digravina, Teacher of Speech.

Danielly Colon, Seton Hall University student, to perform her internship under the guidance of Nolene Mendes, Teacher of Speech.

K. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION

The Board has accepted a \$500.00 donation to Lincoln Middle School from the Kearny Avenue Exxon Service Station.

PART II – NON-PERSONNEL ISSUES

The following resolutions, "A" through "E", were moved by Mr. Viscuso, seconded by Mr. Soares and unanimously carried:

A. RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Board of Education, which adopts the administrative code to implement state education law, has established rigorous standards through its promulgation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which set the expectations of academic achievement for nearly 1.4 million public schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's locally elected and appointed boards of education play a vital role in ensuring that their local school districts meet state standards and adhere to all code provisions, with the goal of providing an outstanding education to prepare all students for college and the workplace and to enable them to compete in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 non-partisan local board of education members and charter school trustees are public servants who dedicate their time, without pay or benefit, to the oversight of school district operations, sound financial practices, comprehensive policies, curriculum, staffing, and the well-being and academic achievement of all students in the district; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of local boards of education, in conjunction with state education officials and local educators, have built a foundation of success that has led to New Jersey's status as a leader in student achievement, as evidenced by the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores; and

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January 2021 to be School Board Recognition Month; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes the contributions of our state's local boards of education to the academic success of its public school students and expresses its sincere appreciation to local board of education members for their continued focus on the achievement of children throughout New Jersey; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education encourages qualified New Jersey citizens to consider serving as members on their local school boards.

B. RAMSEY EDUCATION, FOUNDATIONS DIGITAL CURRICULUM

The Board has granted approval to accept the offer of the National Guard to sponsor and fund the use of the Ramsey Education, Foundations Digital curriculum in the amount of \$2,000 (up to 250 students) for use as a supplement in our High School **Personal Finance** course for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year. In return, the National Guard has requested the opportunity to meet with students using the curriculum once during the semester (either in person or through a Zoom meeting).

C. APPROVAL OF WEBSITE PLATFORM

The Board has approved the use of the platform **Scoir.com**, a customized, secure website that supports post-secondary, college and career planning, which is designed to assist students and their parents/guardians to make informed decisions about college opportunities and career choices. This online resource allows high school students the ability to research colleges, view statistical and historical data, build a resume, take a career interest inventory, etc. This platform provides many enhancements that will benefit our high school students to better navigate their college admissions process. This program is available to the district at no cost as the High School is a Title I eligible school.

D. BOARD POLICY

(a) The following policies have been adopted upon second reading:

<u>Policy #</u>	<u>Title</u>
1620	Administrative Employment Contracts (M) Revised
2431	Athletic Competition (M) Revised
2451	Adult School (M) Revised
2464	Gifted and Talented Students (M) Revised
5330.05	Seizure Action Plan (M) New
6440	Cooperative Purchasing (M) Revised
6470.01	Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification (M) New
7440	School District Security (M) Revised
7450	Property Inventory (M) Revised
7510	Use of School Facilities (M) Revised
8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations (M) Revised
8561	Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs (M) Revised

Restart and Recovery Policies:

1648	Restart and Recovery Plan (M) Revised
1648.02	Remote Learning Options for Families (M) New
1648.03	Restart and Recovery Plan- Full Time Remote Instruction (M) New

(b) **BYLAW 0164.6 - Remote Public Board Meeting during a Declared Emergency**

The Kearny Board of Education has approved the suspension of Bylaw 0131, which requires two (2) readings to adopt a Bylaw or Policy and adopt the mandated Bylaw 0164.6 with one (1) reading to be in compliance with the emergency regulations regarding remote meetings held during a Governor-declared emergency, NJAC 5:39-1.1 through 1.7, promulgated by Department of Community Affairs.

E. PROFESSIONAL DAYS

The Board has granted approval of the listing of Professional Days, as well as reimbursement for travel and related expenses, where such travel and related expenses have been previously reviewed by the building principal/supervisor and the Chief School Administrator.

REPORT OF THE INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY – Mr. Rosenberg

The following resolutions, "A" through "H", with the exception of "F", were moved by Mrs. Sherry, seconded by Mr. Soares, and unanimously carried:

PART I - FINANCE

A. CASH RECEIPTS – December, 2020

The Kearny Board of Education hereby approves the following Report of Cash Receipts for the month of December, 2020:

12/01/2020	STATE OF NJ-CHAPTER 192	\$ 1,344.00
12/01/2020	STATE OF NJ-CHAPTER 193	1,314.00
12/01/2020	STATE OF-NON-PUBLIC NURSING	3,810.00
12/04/2020	STATE OF NJ-FICA NOV 2020	153,618.61
12/04/2020	STATE OF NJ-FICA NOV 2020	154,250.59
12/08/2020	STATE OF NJ-STATE AID	2,320,172.00
12/18/2020	STATE OF NJ- SEMI 2012	4,374.19
12/18/2020	STATE OF NJ- SEMI 2012	4,715.95
12/21/2020	STATE OF NJ-MAC FY20 Q2 REIMB	7,775.78
12/22/2020	STATE OF NJ-STATE AID	2,320,171.00
12/23/2020	STATE OF NJ-IDEA BASIC	6,462.00
12/23/2020	STATE OF NJ-IDEA BASIC	284,287.00
12/23/2020	STATE OF NJ-IDEA PRESCHOOL	7,920.00
12/23/2020	STATE OF NJ- CARES ACT	1,064,431.00
12/29/2020	TOWN OF KEARNY	4,649,311.00
12/29/2020	STATE OF NJ-SBYS 10-20/1-21	46,962.00
12/29/2020	STATE OF NJ-SBYS 10-20/1-21	45,564.00
12/30/2020	STATE OF NJ-CHAPTER 192	1,523.00
12/30/2020	STATE OF NJ-CHAPTER 193	1,315.00
12/31/2020	OTHER REVENUES	70,528.27
12/31/2020	MEDICAL COPAY	397,575.79
12/31/2020	INVESTORS- INTEREST-N/P AGENCY, ETC	283.77
12/31/2020	INVESTORS-GENERAL OPERATING	<u>1,286.01</u>
		\$ 11,548,994.96
12/31/2020	INTEREST-CAPITAL RESERVE	100.60
12/31/2020	INTEREST- MAINTENANCE RESERVE	265.14
12/31/2020	INTEREST-CAPITAL PROJECT	24.27
12/31/2020	INTEREST- UNEMPLOYMENT FUND	<u>138.69</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 11,549,523.66</u>

B. APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFERS

The Kearny Board of Education, based upon the recommendation of the Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary, hereby approves the list of transfers as per the attached for 2020/2021 school budget.

C. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY (A-148)

The Kearny Board of Education hereby accepts the monthly Report of the Interim Secretary to the Board of Education for the month ending December 31, 2020 based upon the Interim Board Secretary's certification that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which, in total, exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a). And be it further

Resolved: That for the record it be noted that after having reviewed the appropriations section of said report and also having consulted with the appropriate district officials, hereby certifies that no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 (b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the 2020/2021 School Year.

D. REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF SCHOOL FUNDS (A-149)

The Kearny Board of Education hereby accepts the monthly Report of the Treasurer of School Funds to the Board of Education for the month ending December, 2020.

E. INVESTMENTS – JANUARY 19, 2021 BOARD REPORT

The Kearny Board of Education hereby confirms the action of the Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary in having made investments through The Investors Bank during the month of December, 2020. And be it further

Resolved: That for the record it be noted that the interest earned on said investments amounted to \$2,098.48 for The Investors Bank bringing the year-to-date interest to \$12,661.71.

G. ATHLETIC OFFICIALS ACCOUNT BILLS

The Kearny Board of Education, based upon the recommendation of the Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary, hereby approves the Athletic Officials Account Report for the month of December, 2020, in the total amount of \$989.50.

H. HORIZON BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD OF NEW JERSEY

The Kearny Board of Education has approved the wire transfer in the amount of \$1,133,705.14 for January, 2021 which represents health insurance and prescriptions.

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Sherry and seconded by Mr. Soares:

F. PAYMENT OF BILLS

The Kearny Board of Education, based upon the representation of the Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary that he has examined, audited, and certified in writing that the attached bill list is correct in the total amount of \$2,114,350.02 covering the period of 12/15/2020/ to 1/13/21, hereby orders same to be paid, in accordance with NJSA 18A:19-4.1.

On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Mrs. Davidson, "aye", Mr. Granelli, "aye", Ms. Lindenfelser, "aye, with the exception of check #8839", Mr. Mc Kenna, "aye, with the exception of check #8797", Mrs. Sherry, "aye, with the exception of check #8840", Mr. Soares, "aye", Mr. Viscuso, "aye", Mr. Zapata, "aye", President Paris, "aye, with the exception of check #8840".

There being nine votes in the affirmative, the motion was carried.

The following resolution was moved by Ms. Lindenfelser, seconded by Mrs. Sherry and unanimously carried:

PART III - PERSONNEL

A. MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR FOR SCHOOL BASED YOUTH SERVICES

The Kearny Board of Education hereby approves Jeannie Mac Conchie for the position of Supervisor/Consultant/Mental Health Counselor for the School Based Youth Services Program for the Kearny School District.

PART IV- NON-PERSONNEL

The following resolutions were moved by Ms. Lindenfelser, seconded by Mrs. Sherry and unanimously carried:

A. COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT/AUDIT

WHEREAS, the district has prepared the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the 2019-2020 school year, and

WHEREAS, the audit of the financial records of the school district for the 2019-2020 school year has been made, according to the requirements of Title 18A, by the firm of Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the 2019-2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the report of the independent auditors, which includes the audit recommendations which were read aloud and discussed at the public board meeting of January 19, 2021.

B. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT #1 TO CARES EMERGENCY RELIEF ACT

The Kearny Board of Education hereby approves Amendment #1 of the CARES Emergency Relief Act for \$97,987.00.

C. GRANT RITE MANAGEMENT

The Kearny Board of Education hereby accepts the proposal from Grant Rite Management to provide grant writing and grant consulting services for State & Federal Grant Applications as well as FEMA Disaster Grants from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 at a total not to exceed \$80,000.

D. PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT

The Kearny Board of Education hereby approves Fallon Pacheco Architects, LLC as the Architect-of-Record for the district.

REPORT OF THE BOARD ATTORNEY – Mr. Lindenfelser

Mr. Lindenfelser stated that his report was discussed in Closed Session.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Blood discussed several items pertaining to a tentative plan for the reopening of schools. Several Board members expressed their thoughts on the proposal, in particular the timeline for the return of staff and students.

OBSERVERS

The following residents addressed the topic of the reopening of schools:

Alvarez, Fabiana; Atwell, Kelly; Bicudo, Rosalie; Conklin, Mary; Darmetko, Daniel; Dyl, Melissa; Estremera, Cathy; Fisher, Marcy; Gomes, Patricia; Kelly, Bevin; Lavelle-Mazol, Mandy; Laverde, Maria; Linares, Adrian; Llagos, Claudio; Salwan, Diane; Sansone, Samantha; Sullivan, Kelly; Zapata, Juan

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - ADDENDUM

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Sherry, seconded by Mr. Soares and unanimously carried:

1. PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE DAYCARE SERVICES

The Board of Education hereby approves the proposal to expand participation with Right-at-School to include daycare services for children of all district staff members at no cost, contingent upon the receipt of additional CARES stimulus funds and the reallocation of budgetary monies.

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Soares and seconded by Ms. Lindenfelser:

2. APPROVAL OF REOPENING PLAN

The Board has granted approval of a revised reopening plan, pushing back the previously-approved reopening date of January 19, 2021, with the following provisions:

- Grades 6-12 will move to four (4) structured days and one (1) flex day
- Grades PK–5 will continue with three (3) structured days and two (2) flex days until February 1, when those students will move to four (4) structured days and (1) flex days.
- All office workers and custodians will return to their regular working schedule on February 1, with the exception of Wednesdays remaining a remote workday.
- February 16 will be the mandatory return to work of **ALL** employees (individual accommodations may be available with medical documentation that will be reviewed for exceptions).
- Free childcare will be provided for employees' children 4 years of age and older, if needed, at one of our five elementary Right-at-School locations.

- Schools will **tentatively** reopen for students in 3 phases beginning the week of February 22, and continue to Phases II and Phase III on the following two Mondays.
- Individual schools will notify their students of specific dates, times, and COHORT assignments once reopening dates are finalized.

And be it further resolved: Implementation of the following plan is contingent upon continued decrease in positivity/infection rate and vaccine distribution availability.

On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Mrs. Davidson, "no", Mr. Granelli, "no", Ms. Lindenfelser, "aye", Mr. Mc Kenna, "aye", Mrs. Sherry, "no", Mr. Soares, "aye", Mr. Viscuso, "aye", Mr. Zapata, "aye", President Paris, "aye".

There being six votes in the affirmative and three votes in the negative, the motion was carried.

MOTION RE: ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Lindenfelser, seconded by Mr. Soares and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Rosenberg

Interim Business Administrator/
Board Secretary