

**Regular Meeting
February 16, 2021
6:05 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: 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 Ms. Lindenfelser and seconded by Mr. McKenna:

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: Ms. Lindenfelser, "aye", Mr. Mc Kenna, "aye", Mrs. Sherry, "aye", Mr. Soares, "aye", Mr. Viscuso, "aye", Mr. Zapata, "aye", President Paris, "aye".

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

BOARD ENTERS CLOSED SESSION

The Board entered into Closed Session at 6:07 p.m.

BOARD RETURNS TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mrs. Davidson and Mr. Granelli were unable to attend the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Paris led the assembly in a moment of silence in memory of Lenny Cuba, Custodian, who passed away over the weekend.

MOTION RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mrs. Sherry, seconded by Ms. Lindenfelser and unanimously carried that the minutes of the following meetings be hereby approved:

Regular Meeting, January 19, 2021 at 6:10 P.M.
Closed Session, January 19, 2021 at 6:13 P.M.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ATHLETICS – Mr. Viscuso

Mr. Viscuso reported on the Athletes of the Week – Owen O’Callaghan (Ice Hockey) and Maci Covello (Girls Basketball).

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION – Mrs. Sherry

Mrs. Sherry reported on the main topic of the Committee meeting which discussed a revision to the current Sheltered Instruction procedures.

FACILITIES – Mr. Zapata

Mr. Zapata deferred to Mr. Bruscano for an update of facilities events. Mr. Bruscano stated the Business Office is working on the ESSA and Cares Act grants, and have accepted bids for planned energy-saving projects.

FINANCE – Mr. Soares

Mr. Soares deferred to Mr. Rosenberg, who stated that the Committee discussed the process for the building of the 2021/2022 budget.

PERSONNEL – Ms. Lindenfelser

Ms. Lindenfelser stated that all topics discussed are being presented for approval on the Superintendent’s Report, and recognized staff members upon notice of their retirements: Kelly Lindenfelser and Nancy Marques.

BOARD POLICY – Mr. Mc Kenna

Mr. Mc Kenna reported that the policies discussed during Committee are being presented for a first reading.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT – Mrs. Blood

PART I – PERSONNEL ITEMS

The following resolutions, Items “A” through “G”, excluding “C-3”, were moved by Ms. Lindenfelser, seconded by Mr. McKenna and unanimously carried:

A. RETIREMENTS

The Board has accepted the following retirement notices, effective July 1, 2021, with regret:

Kelly Lindenfelser, Director of Special Services, after 35 years of service to Kearny Public Schools;

Nancy Marques, Teacher of Medical Assisting at Kearny High School, after 26 years of service to Kearny Public Schools.

B. RESIGNATION

Scott Dailey, Teacher of the Handicapped at Franklin School, has resigned his position effective 60 days from his letter dated February 3, 2021, or sooner if a replacement is appointed.

C. APPOINTMENTS

I. Professional Staff – Regular Contract

The Board has granted approval to appoint the following new teaching staff member for the 2020/2021 school year, pending criminal history review, background checks as required by law, and ability to obtain appropriate New Jersey certification:

NAME	POSITION	LOCATION	STEP	CERT	SALARY	REPLACE/ NEW
Mojena, Yvonne	Swimming/ Phys Ed	LMS	I	BA+64	\$60,775 (prorated)	Blumenfeld

2. Bookkeeper – Payroll

The Board has approved the appointment of Johayra Baez to the position of Bookkeeper – Payroll, STEP 1 of the 2019/202 K.E.O.P. Salary Guide, which is an annual salary of \$53,455.00 (prorated), effective March 8, 2021.

D. LEAVE(s) OF ABSENCE

The following leave of absence requests have been granted:

Name	School	Family Leave	Dates	Leave of Absence	Dates	Return to Work
Caserta-Smith, Jennifer ¹	LMS	X	11/25/20 to 3/12/21			3/15/21
Livingstone, Natasha	Garfield	X	5/13/21 to 6/25/21			9/2021
Severino, Keith	LMS	X	3/1/21 to 5/21/21			5/24/21
Sleece, Matthew ²	Franklin	X	3/15/21 To 4/9/21			4/12/21

E. SUBSTITUTES

I. Addition to Annual Listing of Substitute Teachers

The individual listed below will be substituting in the Kearny Public Schools this year. This is in addition to those listed in previous Board reports:

Fahey, Joanne

F. AIDES

I. Anniversary Salary Increase

The Board has granted approval of an hourly salary increase for the following Aides upon attainment of their 10-year employment anniversary, in conformance with the salary guide adopted in August, 2017:

Afzal, Syeda Date of Hire: 2/3/2011 Increase to \$13.00/hour
 Flaherty, Mary Date of Hire: 2/3/2011 Increase to \$13.00/hour

The Board has granted approval of an hourly salary increase for the following Aide upon attainment of her 15-year employment anniversary, in conformance with the salary guide adopted in August, 2017:

Freile, Doris..... Date of Hire: 1/23/2006 Increase to \$14.50/hour

G. COACHES/ADVISORS

I. 2020/2021 Appointments

The Board has granted approval of the following Coaches/Advisors appointments, which are contingent upon the Spring sports season taking place:

<u>COACH/ADVISOR</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>LONGEVITY</u>
Baseball-Head.....	Smart, David.....	\$ 10,038	+1,000
Baseball-Assistant.....	Caputo, Jeffrey *.....	6,154	
Baseball-JV.....	Furino, Michael.....	6,154	
Baseball-Frosh.....	Bush, Nicholas.....	6,154	
Crew-Boys-Head.....	Tsimbalov, Egor *.....	10,038	
Crew-Boys-Assistant.....	Gomez, Lissette.....	6,154	

¹ Extension to Date of Return

² Revision to Original Request

<u>COACH/ADVISOR</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>LONGEVITY</u>
Crew-Girls-Head.....	Paskiewicz, David	\$ 10,038	+1,000
Crew-Girls-Assistant	Mc Shane, Christopher	6,154	+500
Softball-Head	Pickel, James	10,038	+800
Softball-Assistant	Hoch, Caroline.....	6,154	
Softball-JV	Lowry, Caitlin.....	6,154	
Softball-Frosh	Capelao, Michael.....	6,154	
Tennis-Boys-Head.....	Silpoch, Michael	7,032	
Track-Outdoor-Head.....	Perez, Al	10,038	+800
Track-Outdoor-Assistant.....	Weaver, Scott *.....	6,154	
Track-Outdoor-Assistant.....	Donovan, Karen	6,154	
Track-Outdoor-Assistant.....	Kryzanowski, John.....	6,154	+500
Volleyball-Boys-Head.....	Mullins, William.....	10,038	+500
Volleyball-Boys-JV	Savage, Jordan.....	6,154	
Volleyball-Boys-Frosh	Mullins, Jacqueline	6,154	
Weight Room.....	Andrews, Stephen *.....	5,716	
Intramurals-Soccer-Boys	Millar, Scott.....	1,822	

*Non-Staff Member

2. Coaching Vacancy Appointments

John Kryzanowski to be appointed to the vacant position of Swim Coach for the 2020/2021 school year at the stipend amount of \$7,032.

3. Addition of Longevity

The previously-approved appointment of Vasiliki Zicoupoulos as Girls JV Basketball Coach to include longevity in the amount of \$500.00.

H. INTERNSHIPS

The following internships have been approved:

Lauren Cross, New Jersey City University student, to perform her internship under the guidance of Allison Ricca.

Robin Mc Laughlin, Montclair State University school counseling student, to perform her internship (100 hours) under the guidance of Paul Measso, Director of Guidance.

PART II – NON-PERSONNEL ISSUES

The following resolutions were moved by Ms. Lindenfelser, seconded by Mr. Mc Kenna and unanimously carried:

A. OUTSIDE PLACEMENT

The Board has granted approval of the following outside placement requested by the Director of Special Services:

Student "G.T." to be placed at Little Friends at the weekly tuition of \$100.00, effective January 13, 2021.

B. PROPOSAL TO RESTRUCTURE THE K-5 ESL/BILINGUAL PROGRAM FOR SY 21-22

The district currently utilizes High Intensity ESL and Part-time Bilingual Program (Spanish) program models to meet the needs of our English language learners (ELLs). For school year 21-22, the district will replace the High Intensity ESL model with the Sheltered Instruction model for grades K-5 and will continue to offer the Part-time Bilingual Program.

C. APPROVAL OF DISTRICT COORDINATOR – HEALTH & WELLNESS JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board has approved the job responsibilities for the proposed position of District Coordinator – Health and Wellness.

D. BOARD POLICY

The Board has approved the **first reading** of the following Board policies:

<u>Policy/Reg #</u>	<u>Title</u>
P 0145	Board Member Resignation and Removal (M)
R 1642	Earned Sick Leave Law (M)
P 1643 *	Family Leave – New (M)
P & R 5330.01	Administration of Medical Cannabis (M)
P & R 7425	Lead Testing of Water in Schools (M)

Policy 7430 “School Safety” abolished - already incorporated inside other policy/regulations

*** Revised Policy 1643 abolishes Policies 3431.1, 4431.1, 3431.3, and 4431.3**

E. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION

The Board has accepted the generous donation of two (2) HP laptop computers to Lincoln Middle School from the Mid Realty Agency.

F. 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.

RETURN TO PART I – PERSONNEL ISSUES

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

C. 3. District Coordinator – Health and Wellness

Jennifer Mead has been appointed to the position of “District Coordinator – Health and Wellness” for the 2020/2021 school year, retroactive to February 1, 2021. Remuneration for this position shall be \$10,038.00 annually and shall be added to the K.E.A. bargaining agreement under **Schedule E**.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT – ADDENDUM

A. ASSISTANT BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

The Board has approved that the job title for Juan Faciolince be changed from Comptroller to Assistant Business Administrator/Board Secretary, effective February 17, 2021. Mr. Faciolince's annual salary will be revised to \$90,000.00, (prorated), subject to approval of the Hudson County Superintendent.

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

PART I - FINANCE

The following resolutions, “A through H”, excluding “F”, were moved by Mrs. Sherry, seconded by Ms. Lindenfelser and unanimously carried:

A. CASH RECEIPTS – JANUARY, 2021

The Kearny Board of Education hereby approves the following Report of Cash Receipts for the month of January, 2021:

1/06/2020	STATE OF NJ-SUMMER ADM 11/2020	\$ 7,818.71
1/06/2020	STATE OF NJ-SUMMER FOOD 11/2020	93,038.72
1/08/2021	STATE OF NJ-FICA DEC 2020	150,510.42
1/08/2021	STATE OF NJ-FICA DEC 2020	151,491.26
1/08/2021	STATE OF NJ-STATE AID	2,320,172.00
1/15/2021	STATE OF NJ-DEBT SERVICE TYPE II	15,992.00
1/20/2021	STATE OF NJ-SBYSB MOD#1 02/21/21	11,741.00
1/22/2021	STATE OF NJ-STATE AID	2,320,171.00
1/25/2021	STATE OF NJ-SBYSB MOD#1 02/21/21	11,392.00
1/25/2021	TOWN OF KEARNY	4,649,313.00
1/29/2021	STATE OF NJ-TITLE I	451,137.00
1/29/2021	STATE OF NJ-TITLE IIA	26,330.00
1/29/2021	STATE OF NJ-TITLE III	37,550.00
1/29/2021	STATE OF NJ-TITLE III	380.00
1/29/2021	STATE OF NJ-TITLE III IMMIGRANT	320.00
1/29/2021	STATE OF NJ-IDEA BASIC	55,556.00
1/29/2021	STATE OF NJ- IDEA PRESCHOOL	7,920.00
1/29/2021	OTHER REVENUES	22,271.88
1/29/2021	MEDICAL-COPAY	321,043.69
1/29/2021	INVESTORS- INTEREST-N/P AGENCY, ETC	320.15
1/29/2021	INVESTORS-GENERAL OPERATING	<u>1,607.62</u>
		\$ 10,656,076.45
1/29/2021	INTEREST-CAPITAL RESERVE	100.89
1/29/2021	INTEREST- MAINTENANCE RESERVE	265.91
1/29/2021	INTEREST-CAPITAL PROJECT	24.34
1/29/2021	INTEREST- UNEMPLOYMENT FUND	<u>139.09</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 10,656,606.68</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 January 31, 2021, 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 January, 2021.

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 January, 2021. And be it further

Resolved: That for the record it be noted that the interest earned on said investments amounted to \$2,436.35 for The Investors Bank bringing the year-to-date interest to \$15,098.06.

G. ATHLETIC OFFICIALS ACCOUNT BILLS

The Kearny Board of Education, based upon the recommendation of the Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary, does hereby approve the Athletic Officials Account Report for the month of January, 2021, which is totaling \$388.00.

H. HORIZON BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD OF NEW JERSEY

The Kearny Board of Education has approved the wire transfer in the amount of \$1,334,191.66 for February, 2021 which represents health insurance and prescriptions.

The following resolution was moved by Ms. Lindenfelser 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 \$2,017,456.60 covering the period of 1/13/21 to 2/9/21, hereby orders same to be paid, in accordance with NJSA 18A:19-4.1.

On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Ms. Lindenfelser, "aye, with the exception of check #9002", Mr. Mc Kenna, "aye"; Mrs. Sherry, "aye, with the exception of check #9003", Mr. Soares, "aye", Mr. Viscuso, "aye", Mr. Zapata, "aye", President Paris, "aye, with the exception of check number 9003".

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

PART III- NON-PERSONNEL

The following resolution 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves the Corrective Action Plan responding to the recommendations of the auditor and that a copy of the Corrective Action Plan be submitted as required, to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools.

B. CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

The Kearny Board of Education, based upon the recommendation of the Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary, hereby certifies that the Corrective Action Plan for the Kearny Board of Education for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020 has been completed.

C. AUTHORIZATION OF QUASI ENTITIES AS KEARNY BOARD OF EDUCATION ADDITIONAL INSURED

The Kearny Board of Education, based upon the recommendation of the Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary and pursuant to requirements advised by the School Alliance Insurance Fund (SAIF), hereby authorizes the following Board-sponsored quasi entities to be added to the Kearny School District's insurance coverage as "Additional Insureds":

**Kearny Girls Softball Booster Club
Second River Rowing, Inc.
Kearny Rowing Association**

REPORT OF THE BOARD ATTORNEY – Mr. Lindenfelser

Mr. Lindenfelser stated his reported was covered during Closed Session.

NEW BUSINESS

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

SUSPENSION OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS

The Kearny Board of Education has suspended the uniform mandate for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year, making the wearing of uniforms optional when schools reopen.

DISCUSSION – REOPENING OF SCHOOLS

The topic of the timeline for the reopening of schools was discussed, contingent upon the number of COVID cases reported by the Kearny Board of Health:

- March 1** Teachers return to schools - one week before the return of any students
- March 8** Special education, self-contained students return to schools
- March 15** Regular education students return to schools
- March 22** First *full* week of hybrid schedule
- March 29** 4 days of hybrid schedule – Good Friday holiday - Week before Spring Break
- April 5-9** Spring Break
- April 12-16** All Virtual Instruction
- April 19** Return to schools; follow hybrid schedule

OBSERVERS

The following attendees addressed the Board regarding matters related to the reopening of schools:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Atwell, Kelly | Hemphill, Jennifer |
| Bayer, Michael | Kennedy, Allyson |
| Bing, Robert | Ricca, Allison |
| Brower, Cynthia | Sansone, Samantha |
| Burke, Elizabeth | Smeragliuolo, Tracey |
| Dyl, Melissa | Solinski, Tracy |
| Fisher, March | Suleiman, Monica |

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

SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN

The Kearny Board of Education hereby agrees to continue with the plans for the reopening of schools under the current parameters set forth by the Superintendent of Schools.

On roll call, the following vote was recorded: 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 one vote in the negative, the motion was carried.

DISCUSSION

Mrs. Blood reported that a recent Executive Order issued by the Governor will now allow two (2) spectators per athlete at athletic events, noting that this would only be permissible for up to two parents, and only applicable to varsity athletic events.

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 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Rosenberg

Interim Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

**Closed Session
February 16, 2021
6:07 P.M.**

A Closed Session of the Kearny Board of Education was held in the Conference Room, 172 Midland Avenue, 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 Star Ledger and the Jersey Journal. Notice of the meeting was posted on the District website and filed with the Office of the Town Clerk.

Resolution was unanimously carried at the Regular Meeting held immediately prior to this Closed Session as follows:

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 ongoing/pending litigation.

ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following members were present: 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, Esq., Board Attorney, were also present.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Rosenberg informed the Board of important dates relative to the 2021/2022 budget. Mark Bruscano discussed plans for Board members to participate in a building walkthrough to illustrate how school buildings have been prepared for students' return.

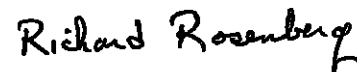
The Superintendent discussed a proposed job title that will also encompass the duties of the head nurse. Also discussed were several clerical personnel matters.

Those present discussed the return of teaching staff, as well as staff members who have requested to delay their return.

BOARD RETURNS TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Interim Business Administrator/
Board Secretary