

**FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**March 13, 2024**  
**MINUTES**

The In-Person Regular Meeting of the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education was called to order in conformance with the “Sunshine Law” by the Board Vice President at 6:00 p.m.

In accordance with the State's Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by sending a notice of the time, date, location and, to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting on January 11, 2024 to the Hunterdon County Democrat and The Courier-News. Copies of the notice also have been placed in the Board Office and in each of the district schools, posted on the District website and filed with Flemington Borough Clerk and the Raritan Township Clerk.

Ms. Dawson took Roll Call

Members Present

Jaclyn Arce  
William Bentley  
Ryan Birkenstock  
Jeffrey Cain  
Lilian Colpas  
Gina Criscitiello  
Tiffany Jarrett  
Laurie Markowski

Members Absent

Michelle Hurley

Attorney Present

Douglas Silvestro

On the motion of Ms. Criscitiello, seconded by Dr. Bentley, the Board adopted the following resolution to meet in Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. viva voce.

**SUNSHINE RESOLUTION**

**Sunshine Resolution**

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act authorizes Boards of Education to meet in executive session under certain circumstances;

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting to go into private session;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Flemington-Raritan School District Board of Education that it is necessary to meet in executive session to discuss certain items involving:

- ✓ Matters of personal confidentiality rights, including but not limited to, staff and/or student discipline matters, and specifically: HIB
- Matters in which the release of information would impair the right to receive government funds, and specifically: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matters which, if publicly disclosed, would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy, and specifically: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matters concerning negotiations, and specifically: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matters involving the purchase of real property and/or the investment of public funds, and specifically: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matters involving the real tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public, and specifically: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matters involving anticipated or pending litigation, including matters of attorney-client privilege, and specifically: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matters involving personnel issues, including but not limited to, the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion, or discipline of any public officer or employee, and specifically: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matters involving quasi-judicial deliberations, and specifically: \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public as soon as feasible. The minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board ~~will~~/will not return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session.

The Board returned to public session at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Jarrett read the District Mission Statement.

As a Community of One, WE:

Foster social, emotional, and academic growth within a connected learning community  
Respect, honor and embrace diverse family and community values by building collaborative partnerships  
Strengthen opportunities that nurture creative and critical thinkers  
Develop and inspire personal excellence.

**Every Student - Every Day - Every Opportunity**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. McGann provided an update on preschool expansion which included the history of where preschool started, the vision for the future of preschool expansion and how the District is going to meet the needs of preschool students. Dr. McGann spoke about the benefits of high quality preschool, how it ties into the strategic plan/goals and highlighted the partnerships the District has formed with First Friends and Norwescap for this school year and expanding to Precious Gems next year along with new preschool classrooms at Frances A. Desmares and Barley Sheaf. Ms Dawson provided information on preschool expansion award funding and noted that as the program expands, the funding will increase. Ms. Dawson reviewed the details of the preschool budget, the allocations for the 2024-25 school year which included an increase in State aid of \$990,944 and offered comparisons to the 2023-24 school year.

Dr. McGann presented the 2024-25 preliminary budget, she highlighted the budgeting philosophy, projected enrollment and State aid trends, budget priorities for 2024-2025 and how they tie into strategic goals. Dr. McGann outlined increases in the budget for special education, security, health benefits and transportation. In addition, Dr. McGann reviewed items that may not be included in next year's budget like support for social emotional health that were previously funded by ESSER funds, Class III officers in all 6 schools and spoke about possible reductions in staff or programs District wide but noted that the District remains committed to the delivery of core curriculum, to maintain the integrity of the arts and maintain class sizes to meet District regulations. Ms. Dawson shared details of the budget, the anticipated tax levy implications for Flemington Borough and Raritan Township and noted that costs are predominantly made up of fixed costs for salaries, services for students with specific needs, and transporting students.

Approval of Minutes – Executive Session – February 29, 2024  
Regular Meeting - February 29, 2024

Ms. Arce asked for any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes. Hearing none, Ms. Arce announced that the meeting minutes were approved as written.

## **CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD**

The public is invited to respectfully share their concerns, comments, and suggestions according to the Board's policy and by-laws. Please be aware that this portion is your opportunity to comment on items of concern regarding the agenda only. The second public comment is for comment on any issue. Each speaker will have 3 minutes and the total session will be 30 minutes. The public is requested to sign the register and to state their name, municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable. While all comments will be considered, Board Members will not respond to speakers at this time.

Ms. Arce set the session to 30 minutes with 3 minutes for each person.

Aileen Marsh, FREA President - Shared concerns on the budget.

Valerie Bart, Raritan Township - Spoke about ways to increase revenue and shared concerns for the budget and the impact to taxpayers.

**THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL:****PERSONNEL**

Gina Criscitiello, Chairperson, Next Meeting – March 25, 2024

Ms. Criscitiello shared an update on the personnel committee which last met on March 4th. Dr. McGann informed and sought approval from the committee on all resignations, new hires, and open positions the district is facing. Committee approved all recommendations. Next, the committee discussed the possible longevity payments for two district employees, and based on evidence presented both employees meet longevity requirements, so the committee approves. Committee was given the dates to when local physicians will be in our district next school year to offer staff and faculty a flu vaccine, if they wish to do so. No board approval is necessary. This was for information only. The committee approved the job description revision for Student Data Manager. A revision was needed to change the reporting structure. Previously, the Student Data Manager reported to the Assistant Superintendent, and now the position will report to the Director of Technology, Student Data and Assessment. The next meeting is scheduled for March 25th.

**Personnel Item(s) 1-10, including the two #4's were approved under one motion made by Ms. Criscitiello, seconded by Dr. Bentley.**

<b>Aye:</b>	<b>Ms. Arce</b>	<b>Ms. Colpas</b>	<b>Nay:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Dr. Bentley</b>	<b>Ms. Criscitiello</b>				
	<b>Mr. Birkenstock</b>	<b>Ms. Jarrett</b>				
	<b>Mr. Cain</b>	<b>Ms. Markowski</b>				

**Certified Staff – Appointments, Resignations & Leaves of Absence**

1. Approval was given to accept the resignation of the following staff member(s) for the 2023-2024 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position	Purpose	Effective Date
1.	Roll	Jeanne	JPC	Resource Center/In Class Support	Resignation	June 30, 2024

2. Approval was given for district staff member(s) to take a leave of absence or amend their leave during the 2023-2024 school year.
3. Approval was given to update the salary of the following staff member(s) to include an increase or addition of Longevity per FREA contract for the 2023-2024 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position	Total Longevity Amount
1.	McPeck	Jessica	RH	Grade 1	\$650
2.	Miller	Jennifer	JPC	Resource Center/ ICS Grade 8	\$1,000

4. Approval was given to employ the following leave replacement(s) for the 2023-2024 school year, pending certification, fingerprints, background check, and health exam, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position/Replacing	Salary/Degree/ Step	Effective Dates	Certification /College
1.	Gonzalez	Cassandra	RFIS	Science & Social Studies Grade 6 / R. Jones	\$60,540 (prorated) /BA/1	March 24, 2024 - June 3, 2024	Teacher of Social Studies(CE Pending)/ SubstituteCertification/ University of Arizona

**Non-Certified Staff – Appointments, Resignations & Leaves of Absence**

4. Approval was given to adopt a revised job description for the position of Student Data Manager

5. Approval was given to accept the resignation of the following staff member(s) for the 2023-2024 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position	Purpose	Effective Date
1.	Givand	Laurie	RFIS	Teacher Assistant	Resignation	March 22, 2024

6. Approval was given to employ the following staff member(s) to assist with extracurricular activities during the 2023-2024 school year, pending fingerprints, background check, and health exam, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Position	Max # of Hours	Rate	Effective Dates
2.	Stine	Richard	JPC	JV Boys Baseball	108 hrs.	\$36.00/hr	March 2024 - June 2024

#### All Staff – Additional Compensation

7. Approval was given to amend the August 28, 2023 motion:

to confirm the employment of the following staff member(s) for extra compensation during the 2023-2024 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Purpose	Max # of Hours	Rate
169.	Connelly	Kathleen	JPC	Learning Lab Club Advisor	50 shared	\$36.00/hr

to read:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Purpose	Max # of Hours	Rate
169.	Connelly	Kathleen	JPC	Learning Lab Club Advisor	<b>6 hours</b>	\$36.00/hr

8. Approval was given to confirm the employment of the following staff member(s) for extra compensation during the 2023-2024 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Purpose	Max # of Hours	Rate
1.	Ellenberg	Kelley	JPC	Chaperone - Spring Musical 2/23/24	2.5 hours	\$36.00/hr.
2.	Gardner	Elizabeth	JPC	Chaperone - Spring Musical 2/23/24	2.5 hours	\$36.00/hr.
3.	Ellenberg	Kelley	JPC	Chaperone - Spring Musical 2/24/24	2.5 hours	\$36.00/hr.
4.	Gardner	Elizabeth	JPC	Chaperone - Spring Musical 2/24/24	2.5 hours	\$36.00/hr.
5.	Geist	Marissa	JPC	Learning Lab Club Advisor	14 hours	\$36.00/hr.
6.	Logan	Jonathan	JPC	Girls Varsity Lacrosse	132 hrs.	\$36.00/hr.
7.	Boelhouwer	Peter	JPC	Boys Varsity Baseball	132 hrs.	\$36.00/hr.
8.	Hall	Bryce	JPC	Boys Varsity Lacrosse	132 hrs.	\$36.00/hr.
9.	Mantineo	Bethaney	RFIS	Class coverage - 1/30/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
10.	Smith	Elizabeth	RFIS	Class coverage - 2/9/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr.
11.	Vallecilla	Amelia	RFIS	Class coverage - 2/9/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
12.	Vala	Susan	RFIS	Class coverage - 2/29/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr.
13.	Elford	Avery	RFIS	Class coverage - 3/1/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
14.	Passero	Nicole	RFIS	Class coverage - 3/1/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
15.	Bartley	Jeanne	RFIS	Class coverage - 3/6/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
16.	O'Leary	John	RFIS	Class coverage - 3/6/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
17.	Weitz	Jodi	RFIS	Class coverage - 3/6/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
18.	Corson	Seth	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/26/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
19.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/26/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
20.	Decker	Joshua	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/26/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
21.	Faherty	Heather	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/26/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
22.	Genito	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/26/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
23.	Gilmurray	Mindi	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/26/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
24.	Hand	Gina	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/26/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
25.	Kircher	Jennifer	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/26/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr

26.	McAnlis	Melissa	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/26/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
27.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/26/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
28.	Miller	Jennifer	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/26/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
29.	Miller	Robert	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/26/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
30.	Pacholick	Mindy	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/26/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
31.	Sladky	Samantha	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/26/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
32.	Soltis	Amy	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/26/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
33.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/27/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
34.	Decker	Joshua	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/27/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
35.	Gilmurray	Mindi	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/27/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
36.	Healey	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/27/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
37.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/27/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
38.	Miller	Jennifer	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/27/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
39.	Piro	Catherine	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/27/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
40.	Pirog	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/27/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
41.	Sladky	Samantha	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/27/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
42.	Vargas	Johnny	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/27/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
43.	Gilmurray	Mindi	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/28/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
44.	Marsigliano	Amy	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/28/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
45.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/28/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
46.	Obregon	Maria	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/28/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
47.	Pacholick	Mindy	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/28/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
48.	Pinola	Megan	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/28/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
49.	Piro	Catherine	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/28/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
50.	Pirog	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/28/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
51.	Agabiti	Joseph	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/29/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
52.	Connelly	Kathleen	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/29/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
53.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/29/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
54.	Hand	Gina	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/29/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
55.	Handren	Marisa	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/29/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
56.	Healey	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/29/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
57.	Horowitz	Steven	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/29/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
58.	Miller	Jennifer	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/29/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
59.	Piro	Cathy	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/29/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
60.	Roll	Jeanne	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/29/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
61.	Sewall	Catherine	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/29/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
62.	Sladky	Samantha	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/29/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
63.	Vita	Matthew	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/29/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
64.	Wagner	Lauren	JPC	Class Coverage - 2/29/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
65.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/1/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
66.	Pirog	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/1/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
67.	Bubeer	Julie	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/4/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
68.	Connelly	Kathleen	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/4/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
69.	Decker	Joshua	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/4/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
70.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/4/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
71.	Miller	Jennifer	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/4/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
72.	Decker	Joshua	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/5/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
73.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/5/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
74.	Pacholick	Mindy	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/5/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
75.	Piro	Catherine	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/5/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
76.	Corson	Seth	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/6/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
77.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/6/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
78.	Healey	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/6/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr

79.	Miller	Jennifer	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/6/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
80.	Pacholick	Mindy	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/6/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
81.	Pagano	Flor	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/6/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
82.	Pinola	Megan	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/6/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
83.	Piro	Catherine	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/6/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
84.	Soltis	Amy	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/6/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
85.	Squicciarini	Therese	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/6/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
86.	Bocutti	Nora	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/7/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
87.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/7/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
88.	Decker	Joshua	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/7/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
89.	Gardner	Elizabeth	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/7/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
90.	Kircher	Jennifer	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/7/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
91.	Krukowski	Megan	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/7/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
92.	Membreno	Ada	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/7/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
93.	Miller	Robert	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/7/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
94.	Piro	Catherine	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/7/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
95.	Soltis	Amy	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/7/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
96.	Vargas	Johnny	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/7/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
97.	Buttgereit	Erin	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/8/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
98.	Connelly	Cathy	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/8/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
99.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/8/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
100.	Healey	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/8/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
101.	Maguire	Anna	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/8/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
102.	Marsigliano	Amy	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/8/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
103.	Miller	Jennifer	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/8/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
104.	Pacholick	Mindy	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/8/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
105.	Pagano	Flor	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/8/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
106.	Pinola	Megan	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/8/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
107.	Piro	Catherine	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/8/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
108.	Sorrentino	Giorgianna	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/8/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
109.	Vita	Matthew	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/8/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
110.	Connelly	Kathy	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/11/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
111.	Creighton	Kimberly	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/11/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
112.	Miller	Jennifer	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/11/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
113.	Nagy	Rosemary	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/11/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
114.	Pinola	Megan	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/11/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr
115.	Pirog	Michelle	JPC	Class Coverage - 3/11/24	40 minutes	\$36.00/hr

### Substitutes

9. Approval was given to confirm the employment of the following applicant(s) as substitute(s) pending fingerprints, background check and health exam, during the 2023-2024 school year, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name
1.	Chrisman	Lauren
2.	Penaloza	Ana
3.	Valentine	Alyce

### Field Placement

10. Approval was given for the following volunteers for the following sport(s), during the 2023-2024 school year, pending fingerprints and health exam, at no cost to the district, as follows:

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Supervising Coach/Sport	Effective Date
1.	Gambrill	Jay	JPC	Jonathan Logan/ Boys Lacrosse	March 18, 2024 - June 30, 2024
2.	MacRitchie	Graham	JPC	Bryce Hall/ Girls Lacrosse	March 18, 2024 - June 30, 2024

## INSTRUCTION AND PROGRAM

Lilian Colpas, Chairperson, Next Meeting – April 15, 2024

Ms. Colpas shared an update on the Instruction and Programming Committee which last met on March 4, 2024. The Committee welcomed Dr. Michelle Cook to speak about Mentor Texts and discuss and share several novels with the Committee. We reviewed and approved additional compensation for class coverage for teachers and substitute teachers, workshops, professional development, students from HC Polytech to observe classes under observation and a STEM grant. We approved various donations including several by Frances A. Desmares and Robert Hunter PTOs, Walmart, Sparks Industries, Robert Hunter parents, author Felicia Chernesky and the Church World Services Organization for emergency blankets and hygiene kits. The Committee is appreciative of the various donations to the District, for details and a full list of the donations please go to page 6 of today's board agenda. The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for April 15th.

**Instruction and Program Item(s) 1-6 were approved under one motion made by Ms. Colpas, seconded by Ms. Criscitiello.**

<b>Aye:</b> <b>Ms. Arce</b> <b>Dr. Bentley</b> <b>Mr. Birkenstock</b> <b>Mr. Cain</b>	<b>Ms. Colpas</b> <b>Ms. Criscitiello</b> <b>Ms. Jarrett</b> <b>Ms. Markowski</b>	<b>Nay:     0</b>  <b>Abstain: 0</b>
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- Approval was given to confirm the following staff member(s), or their alternate(s), for additional compensation during the 2023-2024 school year. If alternates are necessary, their employment will be confirmed as replacements at no additional cost.

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Purpose	Max. # of Hours	Rate
1.	Severino	Susan	RH	Title I Project Enrich Substitute	2 hrs.	Hourly not to exceed \$55/hr.
2.	Thoden	Kimberly	RFIS	Class Coverage High Intensity	40 hrs	\$36/hr.

- Approval was given to employ the following staff member(s), or their alternate(s), for additional compensation during the 2023-2024 school year. If alternates are necessary, their employment will be confirmed as replacements at no additional cost.

Item	Last Name	First Name	Loc.	Purpose	Max. # of Hours	Rate
1.	Severino	Susan	RH	Title I Project Enrich Substitutes	42 hrs.	Hourly not to exceed \$55/hr.
2.	Thoden	Kimberly	RFIS	Class Coverage High Intensity	120 shared hrs.	\$36/hr.
3.	Harris	Stacey	SS	Prepare and Present Foundational Skills: Unlock the Power of Word Study Workshop	8 hrs.	\$45/hr.
4.	Rowe	Kari	FAD	Prepare and Present Foundational Skills: Unlock the Power of Word Study Workshop	8 hrs.	\$45/hr.
5.	Starke	Colleen	RFIS	Prepare and Present Foundational Skills: Unlock the Power of Word Study Workshop	8 hrs.	\$45/hr.

- Approval was given to accept the following curriculum, professional development, and/or technology-related donation(s) for the 2023-2024 school year.

Item	Donation	Donor	Value	Location
1.	Help with Creation of Pollinator Garden	Julia Whitley, RH Parent	\$0	RH
2.	Emergency blankets (50) and hygiene kits (50) to offer support for immigrant children and families	The Church World Services Organization	\$0	District

3.	SchoolMate School Planners for Grade 3 students for the 2024-2025 school year	PTO Grant	\$511	FAD
4.	School Specialty School Planners for Grade 2 and Grade 4 students for the 2024-2025 school year	PTO Grant	\$692	FAD
5.	Books donated by a local Flemington author	Felicia Sanzari Chernesky	\$101.94	RH
6.	Books purchased from the book fair for use in the library	PTO	\$100.95	RH
7.	Book purchased from the book fair for use in the library	Tania Sigalas, RH Parent	\$47.99	RH
8.	Gaga Pit and Mat	PTO	\$7095.50	RH
9.	Landscaping for Gaga Pit	PTO	\$1700	RH
10.	Outdoor classroom: 2x8 cedar garden boxes	Walmart	\$399.81	RH
11.	Outdoor classroom: approx 2 yards of topsoil	Sparks Industries LLC.	\$120	RH
12.	"You Are Gardener" Assembly	PTO Grant	\$500	FAD

4. Approval was given to dispose of items that are no longer usable and are not required as a trade-in or a replacement purchase for the 2023-2024 school year.

Item	Description	Location
1.	Library Book Surplus	CH

5. Approval was given of the following travel expenditures for staff member(s) or their designated alternate to attend professional development conferences/workshops. This travel is deemed educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and all travel expenditures shall be directly related to and within the scope of the staff member's current responsibilities and professional development plans.

Item	Last Name	First Name	Workshop/Conference	Dates	Includes (see below)	Max. Amount
1.	Accardi	Jaclyn	New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA) Conference, Atlantic City, NJ	May 9-10, 2024	R,M,L	\$500
2.	Wiegartner	Melissa	New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA) Conference, Atlantic City, NJ	May 9-10, 2024	R,M	\$550
3.	Pinto	Sharon	Powerful, Practical Strategies for Working Successfully with "I Don't Care!" and Underperforming Students to Increase Their School Success Online Seminar	April 9, 2024	R	\$279
4.	Schrum	Morgan	Hydroponics in the Early Childhood and Elementary Classroom - Preschool-5th Grade Workshop, Ewing, NJ	March 21, 2024	R,M	\$195
5.	Truncale	Christopher	Hydroponics in the Early Childhood and Elementary Classroom - Preschool-5th Grade Workshop, Ewing, NJ	March 21, 2024	R,M	\$195
6.	Andrews	Theresa	New Jersey Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO) Purchasing Seminar, Whippany, NJ	March 21, 2024	R,M	\$210
7.	Dowling - St. Thomas	Stephanie	Shifting the Balance: Aligning Balanced Literacy with What We Know About How the Brain Reads Workshop, Piscataway, NJ	April 17, 2024	R,M	\$203
8.	DeLaney	Tiffany	New Jersey Association for Behavior for Analysis (NJABA) 2024 Conference, Somerset, NJ	April 26, 2024	R,M	\$321
<b>R = Registration Fee; M = Mileage; L = Lodging; F = Food; O = Other</b>						

6. Approval was given for four students from Hunterdon County PolyTech to visit kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms at FAD between March - May 2024 as part of the PolyTech teacher training program and at no cost to the District. The PolyTech students will observe the teacher and class, assist in activities, prepare materials, and teach a small lesson. Overseeing the program is Hunterdon County PolyTech teacher Natalie Guarino.



## OPERATIONS

Michelle Hurley, Chairperson, Next Meeting – March 20, 2024

Mr. Birkenstock shared an update on the Operations Committee which last met on March 5th to discuss the budget. After initial calculations, Mrs. Dawson reported a large shortfall in the district budget. Significant year-over-year increases included:

- 20.3 % increase to Healthcare costs equating to \$2.2M
- Contracted salary increases for staff equating to roughly \$1M
- Special education costs for out-of-district placements increasing by \$400k
- Transportation - a minimum of \$400k increase
- 15% property insurance increase

For reference, a 2% increase to our tax levy would be approximately \$1.1M. The administration presented various ways to close the budget gap. The committee expressed that eliminating teaching positions should be the last area considered for reduction with other possible areas for reduction being prioritized, including supplies and materials, subscriptions, apps, professional development/travel, and other softwares. Also, the committee discussed additional positions that were originally funded by the American Rescue Plan, ESSER, or the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) to be considered for elimination. After further review of additional documents, the majority of the committee recommends a 3.5% tax levy increase, as reflected on the agenda. The committee discussed the need to apply for additional grants to recover costs. The district will apply for the Teacher Climate and Culture grant from the NJDOE and the Local Recreation Improvement Grant from the Department of Community Affairs. The committee discussed the preschool budget and the expansion of the program for the 2024-25 school year. Due to the timing of the due dates for the preschool budget and the district budget, the committee did not review or discuss the preschool budget but the preschool budget was provided to the full Board of Education. Finally, the committee recommends the motion to approve and accept the High Impact Tutoring funds. Our next meeting is March 20th.

**Operations Item(s) 1-7 were approved under one motion made by Mr. Birkenstock, seconded by Mr. Cain.**

Board members discussed outside funding sources like federal earmark applications and asked about the process of amending the budget between approval of the preliminary budget and the public hearing for the final budget. Ms. Dawson explained the process for budget approval, amending the budget and seeking County approval. Further discussion took place regarding costs that are now accounted for within the preschool budget like teaching staff, TA's, healthcare and administrators with more costs to be incorporated in the future.

<b>Aye:</b> <b>Ms. Arce</b> <b>Dr. Bentley</b> <b>Mr. Birkenstock</b> <b>Mr. Cain</b>	<b>Ms. Colpas</b> <b>Ms. Criscitiello</b> <b>Ms. Jarrett</b> <b>Ms. Markowski</b>	<b>Nay:     0</b>	<b>Abstain:   0</b>
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1. Approval was given to submit for and accept FY25 Preschool Expansion Aid in the amount of \$2,219,912, local contribution of \$1,080,658 for a budget total of \$3,300,570.
2. Approval was given to accept the 2023-2024 New Jersey Learning Acceleration Program: High-Impact Tutoring Grant funds in the amount of \$306,000.
3. Approval was given to submit for and accept the Teacher Climate and Culture Innovation NPO Grant in the amount of \$200,000 for the period of May 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025.
4. Approval was given of the following resolution:

**Resolution to Adopt the Tentative 2024-2025 Budget**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the tentative budget be approved for the 2024-2025 school year using the 2024-2025 State aid figures and the Secretary to the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent for approval in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:7F-5 and 18A:7F-6:

	General Fund	Capital Reserve	Special Revenues	Debt Service	Total
<b>2024-2025 Total Expenditures</b>	\$70,434,234	\$0	\$4,276,182	\$5,912,012	\$80,622,428
<b>Less: Anticipated Revenues</b>	\$10,715,501	\$0	\$4,276,182	\$895,306	\$15,886,989
<b>Taxes to be Raised</b>	\$59,718,733	\$0	\$0	\$5,016,706	\$64,735,439

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for banked cap in the amount of \$771,562. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b), the district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment will be used to support educational programming. The Board of Education will complete this by June 30, 2025 and acknowledges that it cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

And, to advertise said tentative budget in the Courier News and Hunterdon County Democrat newspapers in accordance with the form suggested by the New Jersey Department of Education and according to law;

And that a public hearing be held at the J.P. Case Middle School, Flemington, New Jersey on May 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2024-2025 school year.

5. Approval was given of the following resolution:

#### **Maximum Travel Expenditure**

**WHEREAS**, Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, a Board of Education must establish a maximum dollar limit for travel expenditure, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq.,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education includes in the tentative budget a maximum travel expenditure in the amount of \$112,905.00 for the 2024-2025 school year. The maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2023-2024 school year is \$126,870.00, of which, \$32,543.03 has been spent and \$15,645.75 is encumbered to date.

6. Approval was given of the following resolution:

#### **Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement**

**WHEREAS**, the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district;

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board;

**WHEREAS**, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30);

**WHEREAS**, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 but deemed by the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education includes in the tentative budget travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7, to a maximum expenditure of \$112,905.00 for all staff and board members for the 2024-2025 school year.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

7. Approval was given of the following resolution:

#### **2024-2025 Maximum Level for Professional Services**

**WHEREAS**, the tentative budget includes the following appropriations:

Legal Services: \$143,300  
 Auditing Services: \$42,750  
 Architectural Services: \$10,000  
 Medical: \$6,900

**WHEREAS**, the administration needs to notice the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education if there arises a need to exceed said maximums; upon which the Board may adopt a dollar increase in the maximum amount through formal Board action; and

**WHEREAS**, The Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education and Administration wishes to minimize the amount of paperwork involved in this area;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education establishes maximums for professional services in the areas listed above at a level 120% of the amounts listed for the 2024-2025 school year.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Ryan Birkenstock, Chairperson, Next Meeting – April 17, 2024

Mr. Birkenstock shared an update on the Joint Transportation Committee which last met on March 12th. Discussions revolving around a 1 year contract extension with the bus drivers continue to progress with an outcome expected soon. Hunterdon Central JTC members informed FRSD that they intend to formally give notice to dissolve the current JTC as prescribed by the original contract between the two Boards. Discussions on FRSD's options moving forward will take place in the operations committee. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17th.

### **POLICY**

Jaclyn Arce, Chairperson, Next Meeting – March 19, 2024

No Report.

### **MISCELLANEOUS (INFORMATION-ACTION)**

**Miscellaneous Action Item 1 was approved under one motion made by Ms. Markowski, seconded by Dr. Bentley.**

<b>Aye:</b>	<b>Ms. Arce</b>	<b>Ms. Colpas</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>
	<b>Dr. Bentley</b>	<b>Ms. Criscitiello</b>		
	<b>Mr. Birkenstock</b>	<b>Ms. Jarrett</b>		
	<b>Mr. Cain</b>	<b>Ms. Markowski</b>		

**Information**

1. Suspensions for the month of February 2024:

School	Infraction	Duration
FAD	Disrespectful to staff	1 Day
RH	Disruptive/Unsafe behavior	1 Day
RH	Student struck a staff member	1 Day
JPC	Fighting	4 Days
JPC	Fighting	4 Days
JPC	Inappropriate use of technology	1 Day
JPC	Inappropriate physical contact	2 Days
JPC	Inappropriate physical contact	1 Day
JPC	Inappropriate physical contact	1 Day
JPC	Inappropriate physical contact	1 Day
JPC	Inappropriate comment on school technology	1 Day
JPC	Inappropriate physical contact	2 Days
JPC	Vaping	1 Day
JPC	Inappropriate contact with another student	1 Day
RFIS	Inappropriate physical contact with another student	1 Day
RFIS	Inappropriate language	1 Day
RFIS	Inappropriate physical contact with another student	1 Day

2. Drill(s) to date for the 2023-2024 School Year:

Month	Fire Drills					
	BS	CH	FAD	RH	RFIS	JPC
September	9/14	9/15	9/14	9/12	9/14	9/8
October	10/5	10/23	10/13	10/6	10/19	10/19
November	11/3	11/13	11/6	11/16	11/15	11/14
December	12/13	12/22	12/11	12/12	12/4	12/4
January	1/11	1/12	1/8	1/29	1/4	1/11
February	2/7	2/8	2/8	2/9	2/12	2/8
Month	Security Drills					
	BS	CH	FAD	RH	RFIS	JPC
September	9/20	9/23	9/20	9/20	9/11	9/13
October	10/19	10/26	10/19	10/12	10/11	10/26
November	11/13	11/20	11/14	11/17	11/3	11/20
December	12/15	12/19	12/15	12/6	12/14	12/14
January	1/26	1/26	1/24	1/26	1/11	1/29
February	2/14	2/22	2/15	2/15	2/7	2/27

**Action Items**

1. Approval was given to accept the following Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigation(s) presented and/or withdrawn on the February 29, 2024 Board agenda, as follows:

School	Date of Incident	Report #	HIB (Y/N)	Additional Action Taken
RFIS	January 5, 2024	RFIS#6	Yes	Remedial actions outlined in report.
RFIS	January 25, 2024	RFIS#8	Yes	Remedial actions outlined in report.
RFIS	January 7-29, 2024	RFIS#9	No	Remedial actions outlined in report.
JPC	October 2, 2023-January 12, 2024	JPC#2	Yes	Remedial actions outlined in report.
JPC	September 5, 2023-January 31, 2024	JPC#3	Yes	Remedial actions outlined in report.
FAD	September 7, 2023-February 2, 2024	FAD#3	No	Remedial actions outlined in report.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Arce reported that one correspondence was received regarding preschool.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

None.

## CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD

Citizens Address the Board - The public is invited to respectfully share their concerns, comments, and suggestions according to the Board's policy and by-laws. Each speaker will have 3 minutes and the total session will be 30 minutes. The public is requested to sign the register and to state their name, municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable. While all comments will be considered, Board Members will not respond to speakers at this time.

Ms. Arce set the session to 30 minutes with 3 minutes for each person.

Valerie Bart, Raritan Township - shared concerns about transportation.

On the motion of Mr. Cain, seconded by Ms. Criscitiello, the Board adopted the following resolution to meet in Executive Session at 8:31 p.m. viva voce.

## SUNSHINE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act authorizes Boards of Education to meet in executive session under certain circumstances;

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting to go into private session;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Flemington-Raritan School District Board of Education that it is necessary to meet in executive session to discuss certain items involving:

- ✓ Matters of personal confidentiality rights, including but not limited to, staff and/or student discipline matters, and specifically: **HIB**
- Matters in which the release of information would impair the right to receive government funds, and specifically: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matters which, if publicly disclosed, would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy, and specifically: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matters concerning negotiations, and specifically: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matters involving the purchase of real property and/or the investment of public funds, and specifically: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matters involving the real tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public, and specifically: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Matters involving anticipated or pending litigation, including matters of attorney-client privilege, and specifically: **Potential Litigation**
- Matters involving personnel issues, including but not limited to, the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion, or discipline of any public officer or employee, and specifically: \_\_\_\_\_
- Matters involving quasi-judicial deliberations, and specifically: \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public as soon as feasible. The minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will not return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session.

The Board returned to public session at 9:42 p.m to officially close the meeting. On the motion of Ms. Markowski, seconded by Ms. Criscitiello the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m. viva voce.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Tanya Dawson  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary