

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
February 12, 2024
Board Secretary's Memorandum**

DATE

Monday, February 12, 2024

PLACE

MS Room 121

EXECUTIVE SESSION

6:45 P.M.

ADJOURNED

7:35 P.M.

CALLED TO ORDER

7:39 P.M.

ADJOURNED

8:43 P.M.

OPEN MEETING

Ms. Maryadele Wojtowicz, Board President, presided and voiced the call to order in Executive Session at 6:45 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Ms. Holinstat Seconded by Ms. Cristobal to approve the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-11, permits boards of education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Essex Regional Board of Education adjourns to Executive Session to discuss Personnel, Student, Negotiations and/or Litigation matters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that public release of these discussions will occur when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

OPEN MEETING:

The Board will reconvene from Executive Session and Ms. Maryadele Wojtowicz, President, will presided and voiced the call to order at 7:06 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Ms. B. Buccino
Ms. Cristobal
Ms. D. Holinstat
Mr. F. Perrotti - **Absent**
Mr. J. Sabol
Ms. D. Sacco-Calderone – Vice-President
Mr. J. Schaer - **Absent**
Mr. R. Stampone
Ms. M. Wojtowicz – President

West Essex Regional Board of Education
AGENDA – February 12, 2024

Administration:

Mr. Damion Macioci, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Melissa Kida, Board Secretary/Business Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING:

Notice of the February 12, 2024 meeting of the Board of Education was e-mailed to the Clerks of the Boroughs of Essex Fells, North Caldwell and Roseland and to the Township of Fairfield, and to the editor of The Progress on January 5, 2024 and The Star Ledger on the same day.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Ms. Wojtowicz commented on the recent Board Retreat, which included Ethics and HIB, training, HIB, and the CSA evaluation of Superintendent. Ms. Wojtowicz congratulated Ms. Deborah Sacco-Calderone for her achievement in receiving Certified Board Leader, the highest certification a Board member can achieve.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Mr. Macioci outlined the schedule for the upcoming week. He congratulated Mr. Carchietta and Mr. Gupta for College Board for earning the College Board AP Science Female Diversity Award.

Mr. Macioci introduce Student Board Representative **Ms. Joslyn deGuzman**, who reported Climate and Culture created Elect a Fair to help students understand their options when selecting electives. This interactive event was well received. The third activity is in the works for the No Place For Hate initiative. They are also planning the Night for Knowledge.

Mr. Gregory Aschoff, Teaching Instructional Supervisor of Mathematics and Business introduced his teams, High School and Middle School. He spoke of his staffing changes in Middle School and High School. He discussed the following:

- District Goals:
 - Using Data to Improve Student Outcomes: LinkIt Assessments, State Test Analysis, NJGPA, and NJSLA
 - Improving School Culture and Climate: Intrastate Supervisor Meetings, WE Turkey Classic, Social Media Site, AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award Success in Extra Curriculars, and NGPF Competition Award
- Department Goal:
 - Increasing Accountability and Rigor and Improving our Curriculum: Teacher Professional Development, Vertical Articulation and Curricular Meetings, Curriculum Improvement
- Math Lab
- Snapshot of Success – Heather Downey and Domenick Trombino

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Mr. Aschoff introduced Mr. Vincent Carchietta, who then introduced the following student to present her Independent Study report:

Student	Independent Study	Advisor
Anna Wilcomes	Computer Science: App Design Using Python	Vincent Carchietta

Progress Towards District Goals Presentation:

Mr. Ryan Gupta, Director of Curriculum, discussed the following:

1. Use of Data to Improve Student Outcomes Presentation

- a. Standardized Test Results to Identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Trends
- b. Pre-Assessments and Post-Assessments to Measure Student Growth
- c. Classroom Walkthroughs, Observations, and Teacher Support
- d. Surveys and Feedback from Students and Staff to Improve Programming, Inform Professional Development, and Improve School Culture and Climate
- e. Student Grades, Conduct, Attendance, and Other Records to Identify Students in Need of Intervention, Extra Support, or Enrichment

Ms. Lisa Hulse and Dr. Kimberly Westervelt, Coordinators of Culture and Climate discussed the following:

2. Improve School Climate and Culture

- a. WEMS: No Place for Hate Kickoff Assembly, Pledge Sign, Mini Group Discussion, Teens & Their Social Media Lives Lesson
- b. WEHS: No Place for Hate Kickoff Assembly, Pledge Sign, Humans of West Essex, From Bystanding to Supporting, A Knight of Knowledge, See Something, Say Something, We Compliment You, Elective Course Fair, Climate Survey, & Staff Development Day

Dr. Gina Donlevie, Middle School Principal, discussed the following:

- Assistant Principal
- WE C.A.R.E. Valentines
- Counseling Corner (Room 124)
- Bound for Greatness Assembly (Grade 7)
- Girls Basketball

Mr. Caesar Diliberto, High School Principal, discussed the following:

- Congratulations to Valedictorian **Anna Wilcomes** and Salutatorian **Alex Chen**
- Congratulations to 40 Students for passing the Seal of Biliteracy Assessments
- 180+ Culinary students received the ServSafe Food Handler Certification

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS: None

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMENTS: None

West Essex Regional Board of Education
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PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Wojtowicz opened the floor to the public for comments on agenda items. Hearing none, she closed the floor and resumed the meeting.

West Essex Regional Board of Education
FINANCE– February 12, 2024

The following finance motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items 1- 6, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by Mr. Stampone Seconded by Ms. Sacco-Calderone to approve the following motions:

1. To approve the bills and claims **check number 053706** through **check number 053753**.
Totaling: \$176,643.99

Enclosures 1F – 3F

2. To approve the **Student Activity Check Register** from February 6, 2024 through February 9, 2024, **check number 15639** through **check number 15700**.
Void Check Numbers: None.
Totaling: \$32,655.63

Enclosures 4F-10F

3. To approve the Meeting Minutes of **January 22, 2024**.

Enclosures 11F – 19F

4. To approve the Executive Session Minutes of **January 22, 2024**.

Enclosure 20F

5. To approve the agreement with **Twin Willows Par 3 Golf Club**, as appended, for use by the West Essex Regional High School Golf Team for the 2024/2025 season.

Enclosures 21F-22F

6. To approve submittal of request to the Essex County Superintendent for a waiver from the NJ State Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) for the 2024/2025 school year.

**West Essex Regional Board of Education
FINANCE– February 12, 2024**

ROLL CALL: Yes: Ms. Buccino, Ms. Cristobal, Ms. Holinstat, Ms. Sacco-Calderone, Mr. Stampone, and Ms. Wojtowicz
 No: None
 Abstain: Mr. Sabol
 Absent: Mr. Perrotti and Mr. Schaer

**West Essex Regional Board of Education
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – February 12, 2024**

The following building & grounds motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Item 1, will be voted upon in one motion.
 Motion by Ms. Buccino Seconded by Ms. Holinstat to approve the following motions:

- To approve the following application for **Use of Facilities** with the appropriate fees in accordance with **Board Policy #7510:**

Organization	Priority	Event	Facilities	Date(s)	Fees
NJ GRIT Field Hockey	4	Field Hockey Training	Turf Field	Saturdays 4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 5/04, 5/11, & 5/18/24 Sundays 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/05, 5/12, & 5/19/24	\$1,800

ROLL CALL: Yes: Ms. Buccino, Ms. Cristobal, Ms. Holinstat, Ms. Sacco-Calderone, Mr. Stampone, and Ms. Wojtowicz
 No: None
 Abstain: Mr. Sabol
 Absent: Mr. Perrotti and Mr. Schaer

**West Essex Regional Board of Education
CURRICULUM/SPECIAL EDUCATION – February 12, 2024**

The following curriculum/special education motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items 1 - 7, will be voted upon in one motion.
 Motion by Ms. Sacco-Calderone Seconded by Mr. Stampone to approve the following motions:

**West Essex Regional Board of Education
CURRICULUM/SPECIAL EDUCATION – February 12, 2024**

1. To approve the following field trip request(s):

Class/Teacher	Destination	Educational Justification	Date(s)
Ratajczak, Dean Carollo, Jaclyn, Culkin, Nicolette, Aschoff, Greg	FBLA Leadership Competition	FBLA State Leadership Competition	Tues-Wed 3/12-03/13/24
Cardinale, Joseph Faieta, Mia	DECA State Career Development Conference Atlantic City, NJ	Students apply their knowledge and skills in marketing, management and entrepreneurial competitive events & problem-solving.	Mon-Wed 3/04-03/06/24
Markey, Michael	NJSIAA Wrestling Championships	Wrestling Championship	Wed-Sat 2/28-3/02/24

2. To approve the following requests for Professional Development:

Employee Name	Conference/Workshop	Location	Date(s)	Expenses
Linsalato, Dominick	NHSSCA NJ State Clinic	Hunterdon, NJ	Friday 3/15/24	Conference Fee: \$100 Personal Expenses: Not to Exceed \$45.97
Minnella, Anthony	DAANJ Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	Mon-Fri 3/11-3/15/24	Conference Fee: \$450.00 Personal Expenses: Not to Exceed \$853.84
Perrotti, Anthony	NJISSA Wrestling Championships	Atlantic City, NJ	Wed-Sat 2/28-3/02/24	Conference Fee: No Cost Personal Expenses: Not to Exceed \$343.99
Lisponso, Joseph	NJISSA Wrestling Championships	Atlantic City, NJ	Wed-Sat 2/28/-3/02/24	Conference Fee: No Cost Personal Expenses: Not to Exceed \$206.50
Ruggiero, Greg	NJISSA Wrestling Championships	Atlantic City, NJ	Wed-Sat 0/28/-3/02/24	Conference Fee: No Cost Personal Expenses: Not to Exceed \$206.50
Markey, Michael	NJISSA Wrestling Championships	Atlantic City, NJ	Wed-Sat 0/28/-3/02/24	Conference Fee: No Cost Personal Expenses: Not to Exceed \$2,243.99
Aschoff, Greg	FBLA State Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	Tues-Wed 3/12-3/13/24	Conference Fee: No Cost Personal Expenses: Not to Exceed \$88.50
Carollo, Jaclyn	FBLA State Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	Tues-Wed 3/12-3/13/24	Conference Fee: No Cost Personal Expenses: Not to Exceed \$88.50
Culkin, Nicolette	FBLA State Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	Tues-Wed 3/12-3/13/24	Conference Fee: No Cost Personal Expenses: Not to Exceed \$88.50
Ratajczak, Dean	FBLA State Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	Tues-Wed 3/12-3/13/24	Conference Fee: No Cost Personal Expenses: Not to Exceed \$88.50

West Essex Regional Board of Education
 CURRICULUM/SPECIAL EDUCATION – February 12, 2024

2. (Continued) To approve the following requests for Professional Development:

Cardinale, Joseph	DECA State Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	Mon-Wed 3/04-3/06/24	Conference Fee: No Cost Personal Expenses: Not to Exceed \$147.50
Faieta, Mia	DECA State Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	Mon-Wed 3/04-3/06/24	Conference Fee: No Cost Personal Expenses: Not to Exceed \$147.50
Vakin, Beth	Infusing Civics, NJ & Economics into US History	Piscataway, NJ	Tuesday 3/19/24	Conference Fee: No Cost Personal Expenses: Not to Exceed \$18.80
Casais, Stacy	ELA Supervisor Roundtable (Snow Day)	Madison, NJ	Wednesday, 2/14/24	Conference Fee: No Cost Personal Expenses: Not to Exceed \$7.05
Drew, Marion	NJMEA State Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	Fri-Sat 2/23-2/24/24	Conference Fee: \$195.00

3. To approve Test Prep sessions for the following AP/Dual Enrollment courses, for the 2023/2024 school year, at the rate of \$53 per hour, not to exceed six (6) hours:

Anatomy & Physiology	AP Chemistry	AP European History	AP Physics II
AP American Government	AP Chinese	AP French	AP Research
AP Art & Design: Drawing	AP Computer Science A	AP Human Geography	AP Seminar
AP Art History	AP Computer Science Principles (2)	AP Italian	AP Spanish
AP Biology	AP English Language & Composition	AP Macroeconomics	AP Statistics
AP Calculus AB	AP English Literature & Composition	AP Microeconomics	AP US History II
AP Calculus BC	AP Environmental Science	AP Physics I	

4. To approve the West Essex Regional School District to operate the following Title I Middle School summer program from June 24, 2024 through July 25, 2024. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday in the middle school, Session 1 from 8:00 am to 9:30 am, Session 2 from 9:40 am to 11:10 am.

- Summer School Program: Grades 7-8 in English, Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science

Each session will be one hour and thirty minutes each day, teachers will be paid for four (4) hours per day to allow time for extra help and for supervision of students during arrival and until pick-up.

(NOTE: School will be closed Thursday, July 4, 2024 in observance of the holiday)

West Essex Regional Board of Education
CURRICULUM/SPECIAL EDUCATION – February 12, 2024

5. To approve the West Essex Regional School District to operate the following summer school program from June 24, 2024 through July 18, 2024. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday in the middle school from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- Extended School Year: Language and Learning Disabilities Class

(NOTE: School will be closed Thursday, July 4, 2024 in observance of the holiday)

6. To approve the following parent volunteer chaperones for the High School Science trip to Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, NJ on Friday, March 8, 2024:

Denise Malek	Ellen Ryan
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7. To approve the following parent volunteer chaperone for the High School DECA trip to the DECA State Conference, Atlantic City, NJ Monday, March 4, 2024 through Wednesday, March 6, 2024:

Joshua Dyme

ROLL CALL: Yes: Ms. Buccino, Ms. Cristobal, Ms. Holinstat, Ms. Sacco-Calderone, Mr. Stampone, and Ms. Wojtowicz
 No: None
 Abstain: Mr. Sabol
 Absent: Mr. Perrotti and Mr. Schaer

West Essex Regional Board of Education
PERSONNEL – February 12, 2024

The following personnel motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items 1- 15, will be voted upon in one motion. Motion by Ms. Holinstat Seconded by Mr. Stampone to approve the following motions:

1. To approve the appointment(s) of the following staff members, for the 2023/2024 school year, pending receipt of mandatory paperwork in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18-A:6-7.9:

Name	Location/ Position	Tenure Track or Leave Replacement	Replacing or New Position	Guide	Step	Salary/Hourly Rate	Effective Date(s)
Miriam Nassery	WEHS Teacher of English	Leave Replacement	Olivia Macaluso	WEEA	BA/Step 1-2	\$59,386, prorated	3/25/2024-6/30/2024

(NOTE: * All dates are considered "on or about".)

West Essex Regional Board of Education
 PERSONNEL – February 12, 2024

2. To approve the following High School teachers for a **6th period assignment** effective **February 21, 2024** through on or about **March 22, 2024**, for the **2023/2024** school year, at the negotiated rate of \$10,500, prorated, as per the WEEA contract:

Subject	Teacher
CPA English III	Suzana Duby
CPA English III	Miriam Nassery
H English III	Alicia Perez
CPA English III	Kristen Gengaro
Public Speaking	Dina Bechtold

(NOTE: These teachers replace Olivia Macaluso, who is on a Board approved medical leave of absence.)

3. To *rescind* the following **2023/2024 Spring** Coaching appointments from **Personnel Motion #7**, previously approved at the **December 11, 2023** Board meeting:

Sport	Candidate	Position	Step	Stipend
Softball	Jason Ahmed	Assistant	5	\$7,849
Baseball	Thomas Jones	Assistant	5	\$7,849
7/8 Baseball	John Sorrentino	7 th /8 th Grade	5	\$6,449

4. To approve the following **2023/2024 Spring** Coaching appointments:

Sport	Candidate	Position	Step	Stipend
Softball	Thomas Jones	Assistant	5	\$7,849
Baseball	John Sorrentino	Assistant	5	\$7,849
7 th /8 th Baseball	John Regan	7 th /8 th Grade	5	\$6,449

5. To approve the following volunteer coaching appointment(s) for the **2023/2024 Spring** season:

Jason Ahmed	Softball
Mia Fiaeta	Softball
Bettina Plesnitzer	Girl's Lacrosse

6. To approve the following individuals to work the 2023 - 2024 New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA), District 6 Wrestling Tournament on Saturday, February 17, 2024 as per the rates below and coordinated through the Athletic Director, Anthony Minnella:

Peter Davis	Anthony Emering	Timothy Walsh
Samantha Minnella	Allison Decker	Amanda Forte
Stephanie Vallone	Stephanie Finetti	Andrea Llauget
Patrick McGlynn	Anthony Minnella	Jarrod Cappello
Jessica Maidman	Christopher Benacquista	Kristen Gengaro
Jeff Martin		

West Essex Regional Board of Education
PERSONNEL – February 12, 2024

6. (Continued):
2024 New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association
District 6 Wrestling Tournament

Employee	Fees per Session	Number of Sessions
Site Manager (1 per session)	1 @ \$85	4
Tournament Staff (14 per session)	14 @ \$70	3
Computer Operator (1 per session)	1 @ \$80	4

7. To approve **John Mascola** and **Kevin Gramata** as trainers for the NJSIAA District 6 Wrestling Tournament held on Saturday, February 17, 2024, not to exceed 10 hours each, at the rate of \$30.00 per hour.
8. To approve **Dean Ratajczak, Jaclyn Carollo, and Nicolette Culkin** as staff chaperones at the WEEA negotiated rate of \$100 per person, per night (Tuesday), for the FBLA State Leadership Competition to be held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, from Tuesday, March 12, 2024 to Wednesday, March 13, 2024.
9. To approve **Joseph Cardinale** and **Mia Faieta** as staff chaperones at the WEEA negotiated rate of \$100.00 per person, per night (Monday & Tuesday), for the 2023 DECA State Career Development Conference to be held at Harrah’s Resort in Atlantic City, NJ, from Monday, March 4, 2024 to Wednesday, March 6, 2024.
10. To approve **Michael Markey** and **Greg Ruggerio**, as staff chaperones at the WEEA negotiated rate of \$100.00 per person, per night (Wednesday & Thursday), and \$200 per night (Friday) for the 2024 NJSIAA Wrestling Championships to be held at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, NJ, from Wednesday, February 28, 2024 to Saturday, March 2, 2024.
11. To approve *extension* of a leave(s) of absence for the following employee(s) for the 2023/2024 school year:

Name	Location	Position	Type of Leave	LOA w/ pay	FMLA w/o pay, w/ benefits	LOA w/o pay, w/o benefits	Return Date
Luisa Tamburri	WEMS	Assistant Principal	Medical	2/26/2024-4/08/2024	N/A	N/A	4/09/2024

(NOTE: All dates are considered “on or about”)

12. To *extend* the appointment of **Ryan Gupta** as Interim Assistant Principal at West Essex Regional Middle School at a stipend amount of \$2,400 per month, **beginning February 26, 2024** through on or about **April 8, 2024**.
(NOTE: Mr. Gupta replaces Luisa Tamburri, who is on a Board approved medical leave of absence.)
13. To approve the resignation of the following staff member(s):

Name	Position	Reason	Location	Last Day of Employment:
Mia Faieta	Special Education Aide	Resignation	WEMS	2/09/2024

West Essex Regional Board of Education
PERSONNEL – February 12, 2024

14. To approve the following **Mentoring Positions** for the 2023/2024 school year:
- Jeanette Mackesy for Mia Faieta

15. WHEREAS, an employee whose name is on file in the Board Office has an employment contract for the 2023-2024 school year which contains a ten (10) day notice provision; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has recommended that the Board invoke the ten (10) day notice provision to terminate said employee's employment contract, thereby terminating the employee's employment effective February 23, 2024.

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has provided the Board with good and sufficient reasons for recommending the employee's employment contract be terminated pursuant to the ten (10) day notice provision.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board invoke the ten (10) day notice provision of the above-referenced employee's employment contract and terminate the employee's employment effective February 23, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator shall provide the employee with notice of the Board's action as set forth in this Resolution forthwith.

ROLL CALL:	Yes:	Ms. Buccino, Ms. Cristobal, Ms. Holinstat, Ms. Sacco-Calderone, Mr. Stampone, and Ms. Wojtowicz
	No:	None
	Abstain:	Mr. Sabol
	Absent:	Mr. Perrotti and Mr. Schaer

West Essex Regional Board of Education
MISCELLANEOUS – February 12, 2024

The following miscellaneous motions are made at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools:

CONSENT AGENDA

Anything placed on this agenda, Items 1 - 8, will be voted upon in one motion.

Motion by Ms. Buccino Seconded by Ms. Holinstat to approve the following motions:

1. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 010A (HS) for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.
2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation No. 010B (HS) for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's Report to the Board and directs the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

West Essex Regional Board of Education
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ADJOURN: There being no further business before this Board of Education, BE IT RESOLVED that this public meeting be adjourned and that the Board enters into private session to discuss matters of personnel, negotiations and litigation with the possibility of reconvening to public session to conduct additional business. The matters discussed in executive session will be disclosed to the public when the need to maintain their confidentiality no longer exists.

President

Business Administrator/Board Secretary