The Board of Education of the Borough of North Caldwell in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in executive session on August 18, 2020 via an online Zoom Meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Mr. Michael Halik, Business Administrator, indicated that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting had been properly advertised and the agenda had been posted at the appropriate locations.

In addition, a notice was posted on the Entrances of Grandview Elementary School and on the Board of Education Website, that August 18, 2020 meeting would be done via the Zoom Online Meeting Platform.

# ROLL CALL BY THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Present: Mr. Robert Projansky, President

Mrs. Mary Mokris, Vice President

Mrs. Jordan Shumofsky Mrs. Mindy Opper Mr. Matt Atlas

Also Present: Dr. Linda Freda, Superintendent

Mr. Michael Halik, Business Administrator / Board Secretary

Mr. Chris Checchetto, Principal - Gould School

Mr. Michael Stefanelli, Principal - Grandview School

Mr. Ian Adlon, Computer Technician

#### **ACTION ITEM**

## ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTION

O1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the use of the Zoom Online Meeting Platform, to conduct the August 18, 2020, Board Meeting in compliance with A-3850 which was signed by Governor Murphy on March 20, 2020 so that Board of Education business can continue, during the State of Emergency for the COVID-19 crisis.

Moved: Mrs. Mokris Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

## **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Projansky thanked everyone for joining our meeting via Zoom. Mr. Projansky noted that there were 266 people on the Zoom Meeting and he was grateful to see the community involvement on the important decisions that had to be made to re-open schools for September. He then stated that tonight an update would be given on the reopening of schools. Mr. Projansky then thanked the COVID committee for all their work. In addition, Mr. Projansky specifically thanked Dr. Freda saying that she has been key to our reopening plan and has worked extremely hard for the community. He then thanked the NCPE for their support to our learning community. Mr. Projansky then stated that he would leave the rest to the Superintendent's report.

# **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Freda started her report by thanking the teachers, principals, Business Administrator, the Director of Facilities in addition to the custodians who have worked tirelessly to get our schools reopened. She reported that the county and state offices have approved our Restart and Recovery Plan and tomorrow it would be put on our website. She then reported the revised plan as follows:

# Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, and Sixth Grade Plan:

- ► All students in school, every day, with 1:00 PM dismissal
- Additional class sections will be added to ensure social distancing in all classrooms
- Installation of physical barriers in the classrooms
- ► Facial coverings will be required to be worn by students, teachers and staff
- No lunch, but snack breaks
- Ability to check-in/depart through outside doors

#### Fourth and Fifth Grade Plan:

- Grades 4-5 split into two cohorts, attend school on alternate days and every other Friday. Dismissal at 1PM
- Specials will be delivered remotely (Art, Library, Technology, World Language, Music, Physical Education)
- Option for All Remote Learning will be offered

Dr. Freda then presented on in-person instruction and remote learning for the 2020-2021 School year. In addition she reported that Chromebooks would be available for all students.

Mr. Halik reported that in March 2020 the North Caldwell Board of Education approved a preliminary budget that was submitted to the County office, and at that time they were not able to anticipated all the unforeseen expenses and loss of revenues that would occur between now and that time.

Since the budget was approved, the district lost an approximate \$130,000 in local revenues in addition to \$60,973 in State Aid.

In July, the district applied to the Commissioner of Education to withdraw money from emergency reserve to cover the loss in State Aid.

In addition to loosing revenue for the 2020-2021 School year the district has also seen a steep increase in expenses to re-open schools for September 2020. To date the estimated costs are around \$615,000 of which:

- \$386,000 is for additional teaching and custodial staff and benefits
- \$143,000 is for Facility Modifications such as containment areas for sick children, desk dividers, Plexiglas, UV lights and Ionizers for Ventilation Systems, and student desks
- \$55,000 for PPE such as Masks, Cleaning Supplies, Thermometers, Gloves, and Disinfectants
- \$31,000 for miscellaneous items

COVID-19 is having a significant impact on the 20-21 school budget and at the current time, the full impact is still unknown. In response to this, the District Administration has implemented a spending freeze on all-discretionary spending for the 20-21 school year.

The Board then asked questions and thanked administration and teachers for all of their work.

# **PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

The following members of the public asked questions and voiced their opinions in order to afford the board meaningful input that could be use when making the Reopening plan:

Dea Viola Andy Bronsnick James Lin Kelly Palermo

Craig Solow Linda Liu Scott Jacobson Alison Levitt

Kristen Hackett Jeanette Kinter Rick Ronchetti Lauren Chen

Campbell

## **GENERAL RESOLUTIONS**

G1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve Policy 1649, Federal Families First Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Act, at second reading.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofksy Seconded: Mrs. Opper

Yes: 5 No: 0

**G2. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Policy 1648**, **Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools**, at first reading.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofksy Seconded: Mrs. Opper

Yes: 5 No: 0

G3. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve Policy 1648.02, Remote Learning Options for Families, at first reading.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofksy Seconded: Mrs. Opper

Yes: 5 No: 0

**G4. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve Family Medical Leave for **Natalia Delgado** effective September 1, 2020 through December 2, 2020.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofksy Seconded: Mrs. Opper

Yes: 5 No: 0

G5. WHEREAS, the plan to reopen schools for the 2020-2021 school year includes, to the extent possible and within the confines as dictated by the District's buildings and facilities, the health, safety, and "Leadership and Planning" measures identified as "Anticipated Minimum Standards" (minimum standards) in the Department of

Education's The Road Back, Restart and Recovery Plan for Education; and

- WHEREAS, the District's plan to the extent possible will implement those minimum standards as outlined in the District's reopening plan; and
- WHEREAS, the District's plan to the extent possible will adhere to the directives of the Governor and the Department of Education of the State of New Jersey regarding the reopening of schools for 2020-2021; and
- NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board has considered the above and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the submission of the North Caldwell Board of Education's Restart and Recovery Plan for reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year to the Department of Education.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofksy Seconded: Mrs. Opper

Yes: 5 No: 0

G6. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the Clinical Staffing Agreement with Homecare Therapies dba Horizon Healthcare Staffing to provide, on an as-needed and as-requested basis, a full range of staffing services including Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Certified Nurse Assistants, Health Aides and other Clinical professionals effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, as per the listed hourly rates.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofksy Seconded: Mrs. Opper

Yes: 5 No: 0

G7. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the tuition (non-resident) Pupil Agreement between the North Caldwell Board of Education and Jim O'Brien and Liliana Kovacevic effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$16,189.00.

Moved: Mrs. Shumofksy Seconded: Mrs. Opper

# **BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS**

B1. RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the Public and Confidential Minutes of July 28, 2020.

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Mokris

Yes: 5 No: 0

**B2. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following **Payroll(s)**:

 July 30, 2020
 \$78,353.10

 August 13, 2020
 \$63,998.82

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Mokris

Yes: 5 No: 0

**B3. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following **Hand Check** 

**Register(s):** 

August 11, 2020 \$78.00 August 12, 2020 \$9,422.22

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Mokris

Yes: 5 No: 0

**B4. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the following **Bills and** 

Claims:

June 30, 2020 \$899.49 June 30, 2020 \$186,325.60 August 6, 2020 \$216,687.32

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Mokris

Yes: 5 No: 0

**B5. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the **Monthly Bills and Claims** dated **August 18, 2020** in the amount of \$169,704.17.

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Mokris

## PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS

**P1. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accept the resignation of **Erica Conroy**, effective September 1, 2020.

Moved: Mrs. Mokris Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

Rob Projansky spoke regarding Erica Conroy's retirement. He stated that she will be missed. His son had her while he was at Grandview School and always referred to her as part of the family. Thank you Mrs. Conroy for your service. The Board then echoed sentiments.

**P2. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve movement on the salary guide for the following staff member:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>

Rebecca Jones MA MA +15

Moved: Mrs. Mokris Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

**P3. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Samantha Monks** as a teacher at a salary of \$54,913.00 MA Step 5 effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Moved: Mrs. Mokris Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

**P3. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Alexandra Keenan** as a teacher at a salary of \$49,167.00 BA Step 1-2 effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Moved: Mrs. Mokris Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

**P5. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve **Nicole Cornacchia** as a

teacher at a salary of \$54,163.00 MA Step 3-4 effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Moved: Mrs. Mokris Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

Yes: 5 No: 0

**P6. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approve the contract change for the following staff member:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Shannon Clutterbuck	MA+15 - Step 12 .85 FTE \$57,638	MA+15 - Step 12 1.00 FTE \$67,809
Moved: Mrs. Mokris	Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky	
Yes: 5	No: 0	

# **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Halik noted that a Board Meeting was added for Tuesday, September 1, 2020.

The following resolution was called at approximately 9:13 p.m.

**RESOLVED** that in accordance with section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, the Board has the authority to adjourn to closed session to discuss matters pertaining to: A Student Issue, Legal Matter, Personnel Issue. Said matters will be made public upon their disposition.

Moved: Mrs. Opper Seconded: Mrs. Shumofsky

As there was no further business to discuss, the Board adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael W. Halik

Business Administrator / Board Secretary