

**WASHINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – December 12, 2022**  
**Approved 1/9/23**

**I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President, Bartley Howley, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT**

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is either discussed or acted upon. The Board has fully complied with the notice requirements by advertising in the Express Times posting publicly and by notifying the Municipal Clerk of the date, time, and place of meeting

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present**

Chris Bauknight  
Lisa Eller  
Carmine Freda  
Bartley Howley  
Joseph Kresefsky  
Ya’el Kresefsky  
Holly Masenior  
Kevin Noone  
Melissa Vitalos

**II. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

Thank you from Math 2+1 for the “Math Rocks” assembly that took place on 12/1/22 for Grade 2. *Mr. Jenkins commented that this group has been presenting for over 15 years and was originally recommended to us by a retired staff member.*

**III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Mr. Jenkins: Supervisor of Instruction

- Provided the Board with security drill updates, Shelter in Place.
- Seussical the Musical, Drama Club production, took place on 12/9/22. Mr. Jenkins made his theatrical debut in this production. The production was well attended, with over 200+ ticket sales for the evening show. A number of understudies stepped up and performed due to illness, including the lead. The dress rehearsal that generally takes place for Grades 4-6, was rescheduled for the following week to allow for absent students to be able to participate in the production and their families were invited.
- Battle of the Minds competition for Grades 5 & 6 with Fifth Grade taking 1<sup>st</sup> place overall. There were 8 teams competing overall. Mrs. Snyder and Mrs. Hausamann accompanied the teams to the competition. Mr. Jenkins congratulated our students for representing Washington Boro so admirably.

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Mrs. Koeppen: Principal/CST

- Provided the Board with the staffing issues the district is experiencing with CST members and Preschool teachers. Many of our neighboring districts will also be launching Preschool Expansion programs, and while this presents challenges in staffing, it also provides opportunities for professional development and further collaboration.
- Provided an update on the Taylor Street window facility project.

Mrs. Nassry: Superintendent

- Provided updates to the Board and reported the various of afterschool clubs/activities taking place. These all fall under Title IV funding and provide further engagement and skills for the students.
- Congratulated the Memorial School Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Eileen Freda. Mrs. Freda will also be competing with Warren County colleagues for the County Teacher of the Year and will be recognized this Spring at a county-wide ceremony.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – Opened at 7:12**

Mrs. Dawn Higgins, introduced herself as an incoming Board member for a term beginning January 2023. She commented that she has previous board experience and is looking forward to contributing her efforts.

**V. ACTION ITEMS: Superintendent’s Recommendations**

CONSENT AGENDA: Matters listed within the consent agenda have been referred to members of the Board of Education for reading and study are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion.

**A. Consent Agenda Motion: BOARD AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Carmen Freda, seconded by Chris Bauknight to approve the following board affairs agenda item **1.1**.

Motion carried by affirmative roll call vote.

1.1 To approve the minutes of the November 14, 2022 regular meeting.

**B. Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Lisa Eller, seconded by Melissa Vitalos, to approve the following business affairs agenda item **2.1** through **2.8**.

Motion carried by affirmative roll call vote, with abstentions on items 2.1 and 2.2 by Mrs. Kresefsky.

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- 2.1 To approve, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the acceptance of the financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer for the month of November 2022 and further that, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16,10(c)f, The Board of Education certifies that as of November 30, 2022, after review of the secretary’s monthly financial report and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account has been over expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(a) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- 2.2 To approve 12/12/22 current expense food service and regular account bill list.
- 2.3 To approve the Tuition Contract Agreement with Parsippany Troy-Hills Board of Education for one identified student in Grade 1-5 in the amount of \$17,507 for the 2022-2023 school year.
- 2.4 To approve the Tuition Contract Agreement with Parsippany Troy-Hills Board of Education for one identified student in Grade 6-8 in the amount of \$19,324 for the 2022-2023 school year.
- 2.5 To approve a professional services contract with Parette Somjen Architects for the “HVAC and Electrical Upgrades at Taylor Street School and Electrical Upgrades at Memorial School” project at a flat fee of \$266,000.
- 2.6 To approve the following resolution:  
RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Washington Borough Board of Education, in the County of Warren, New Jersey authorizes Parette Somjen Architects to submit all necessary plans and paperwork to the Department of Education concerning the HVAC and Electrical Upgrades at Taylor Street ES to serve as an application to the Office of School Facilities and an amendment to the District’s Long Range Facility Plan; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this project shall be a “Regular Operating District Grant” project and the Board of Education is seeking State funding but will fund the remaining portion of the Project through the District’s Capital Reserve Account.
- 2.7 To approve the following resolution:  
WHEREAS, the Alliance For Competitive Energy Services (hereinafter referred to as “ACES”), an alliance composed of the New Jersey School Boards Association (hereinafter referred to as “NJSBA”), the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, will from time to time during the Effective Period as defined below solicit bids from natural gas suppliers for retail natural gas supply services including interstate transportation to the local natural gas distribution utility company (Natural Gas Supply Services) through an energy aggregation program in which NJSBA will act as Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS in

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accordance with the “Public School Contracts Law”, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 *et seq.*, and the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 *et seq.* (“EDECA”) and the regulations promulgated thereunder; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Boro School District is a Participating member of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System and is eligible thereby to obtain natural gas services for its own use through one or more contracts to be awarded to natural gas suppliers following said bids for natural gas services pursuant to the aggregation program; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will from time to time during the Effective Period (from date of adoption through May 2028, hereinafter referred to as “Effective Period”) issue one or more Requests for Bids for natural gas services on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law and EDECA; and

WHEREAS, due to significant volatility and the potential for price increases in the wholesale natural gas market, Participating Members will preauthorize the Lead Agency to award contracts for Natural Gas Supply Service in each service territory to one or more natural gas suppliers that submits bids which are reasonably forecasted to provide estimated savings to the Participating Member based upon its previous natural gas usage and utility provided Basic Gas Supply Service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will only award contracts for said Natural Gas Supply Services to natural gas suppliers that submit bids with pricing reasonably estimated to be lower than the utility-provided basic gas supply service; and

WHEREAS, the District agrees to purchase all Natural Gas Supply Services for its own use during the Effective Period through any natural gas supplier(s) awarded a contract, it being understood that the term of any one contract shall be subject to the provisions of Public School Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will notify the Department of Community Affairs’ Division of Local Government Services by mail prior to the issuance a Request for Bids for natural gas supply services, with the understanding that if the Division of Local Government Services does not respond within 10 business days, it will be deemed to have approved the issuance of the Request for Bids or the Request for Rebids.

NOW, therefore, be it RESOLVED that the District binds itself to the ACES Cooperative Pricing System ##E8801-ACESCPS to purchase all natural gas supply services needed for its own use during the Effective Period from the natural gas supplier or suppliers awarded a contract for natural Gas supply services by the Lead Agency; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing

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System is hereby authorized to execute a master performance agreement that obligates the district to purchase natural gas at the terms and conditions stated therein with a third-party supplier or suppliers who have been awarded the contract or contracts by the Lead Agency on behalf of the participating members of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS (or any CPS number to be assigned in the future), and provided further that all such contracts shall be at prices reasonably forecast and estimated by the Lead Agency to provide savings to the districts relative to the price charged for basic gas supply service by the natural gas public utility that would otherwise provide such service; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that ACES is authorized to continue to bid to obtain natural gas services at any time during the Effective Period on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System including, for example, a rebid if energy market conditions do not initially lead to a successful bid, on additional dates to be determined by the Lead Agency; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. The authorization provided to the NJSBA pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Laws (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)), and the Local Public and Public School Contracts Laws Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq.) shall be valid until May, 2028 (the Effective Period) at which time the Cooperative Pricing System will be subject to renewal. Any rescission of this resolution shall not affect any Agreements entered into prior to such rescission or expiration.

2.8 To approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Alliance For Competitive Energy Services (hereinafter referred to as “ACES”), an alliance composed of the New Jersey School Boards Association (hereinafter referred to as “NJSBA”), the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, will from time to time during the Effective Period as defined below solicit bids from electric power suppliers for electric generation services through an energy aggregation program in which NJSBA will act as Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS in accordance with the “Public School Contracts Law”, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq., and the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 et seq. (“EDECA”) and the regulations promulgated thereunder; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Boro School District is a Participating member of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System and is eligible thereby to obtain electric generation services for its own use through one or more contracts to be awarded to electric power suppliers following said bids for electric generation services pursuant to the aggregation program; and

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WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will from time to time during the Effective Period (from date of adoption through May, 2028 hereinafter referred to as “Effective Period”) issue one or more Requests for Bids for electric generation services on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law and EDECA; and

WHEREAS, due to significant volatility and the potential for price increases in the wholesale electric market, Participating Members will preauthorize the Lead Agency to award contracts for Electric Generation Service in each service territory to one or more electric power suppliers that submit bids which are reasonably forecasted to provide estimated savings to the Participating Member based upon its previous electric usage and utility provided Basic Generation Service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will only award contracts for said electric generation services to electric power suppliers that submit bids with pricing reasonably estimated to be lower than the utility-provided basic generation service; and

WHEREAS, the District agrees to purchase all electric power needed for its own use (exclusive of on-site electric generation sources) during the Effective Period through any electric power supplier(s) awarded a contract, it being understood that the term of any one contract shall be subject to the provisions of Public School Contracts Law;

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will notify the Department of Community Affairs’ Division of Local Government Services by mail prior to the issuance a Request for Bids for electric generation services, with the understanding that if the Division of Local Government Services does not respond within 10 business days, it will be deemed to have approved the issuance of the Request for Bids or the Request for Rebids.

NOW, therefore, be it RESOLVED that the District binds itself to the ACES Cooperative Pricing System ##E8801-ACESCPS to purchase all electric power needed for its own use (exclusive of on-site electric generation sources) during the Effective Period from the electric power supplier or suppliers awarded a contract for electric generation services by the Lead Agency; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System is hereby authorized to execute a master performance agreement that obligates the district to purchase electricity at the terms and conditions stated therein with a third- party supplier or suppliers who have been awarded the contract or contracts by the Lead Agency on behalf of the participating members of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS (or any CPS number to be assigned in the future), and provided further that all such contracts shall be at prices reasonably forecast and estimated by the Lead Agency to provide savings to the Districts relative to the price charged for basic generation service by the electric public utility that would otherwise provide such service; and, be it

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FURTHER RESOLVED that ACES is authorized to continue to bid to obtain electric generation services at any time during the Effective Period on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System including, for example, a rebid if energy market conditions do not initially lead to a successful bid, on additional dates to be determined by the Lead Agency; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. The authorization provided to the NJSBA pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Laws (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)), and the Local Public and Public School Contracts Laws Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq.) shall be valid until May, 2028 (the Effective Period) at which time the Cooperative Pricing System will be subject to renewal. Any rescission or expiration of this resolution shall not affect any Agreements entered into prior to such rescission or expiration.

**C. Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Carmen Freda, seconded by Lisa Eller to approve the following personnel affairs agenda item **3.1 through 3.5**.

Motion carried by affirmative roll call vote, with dissensions on item 3.5 by Mr. and Mrs. Kresefsky.

- 3.1 To approve the comprehensive student and staff attendance data (*with all fire drill reports, if applicable*) for the Month of November, 2022.
- 3.2 To approve the retirement of Mrs. Jacqueline Nassry, Superintendent, effective July 30, 2023.
- 3.3 To approve Ms. Ana Del Salto to move from Column A, Step 1 (\$22.18 per hour) to Column B, Step 1 (\$22.68 per hour) on the 2022-2023 W.E.A. salary guide effective January 1, 2023.
- 3.4 To approve Ms. Madeline McMullan as a substitute teacher for the 2022-2023 school year.
- 3.5 To approve Ms. Melissa Valeo as a substitute paraprofessional for the 2022-2023 school year.

**D. Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS**

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Lisa Eller to approve the following school affairs agenda item **4.1 through 4.4**.

Motion carried by affirmative roll call vote, with dissensions on item 4.1 by Mr. and Mrs. Kresefsky.

- 4.1 To approve the District's 2022-2023 updated Safe Return Plan.

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- 4.2 To approve the following field trip for the Fine Arts Showcase, Grade 6, on January 11, 2023 to Warren Hills Regional High School, Washington, NJ.
- 4.3 To approve the following field trip for the Grade 6 All Star Band, on February 28, 2023 to Phillipsburg High School, Phillipsburg, NJ.
- 4.4 To approve the following field trip for Grade 5, on May 17, 2023 to The Planetarium-Raritan Valley Community College, Branchburg, NJ.

*Mr. Howley thanked both Mr. Bauknight and Mr. Noone for their time and service to the Board of Education.*

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Lisa Eller seconded by Holly Masenior, to adjourn at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz  
Board Secretary