

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
EDGEMONT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Edgemont Junior-Senior High School LGI  
March 8, 2016  
8:15 P.M.

Board president David M. C. Stern, vice-president Anish Nanavaty, Board members, Michael Bianchi, David Chao, Jennifer Darger, and Jonathan Faust, were present. Superintendent Victoria S. Kniewel and Assistant Superintendent Susan Shirken, District Clerk Rosemary DeVito, Jennifer Allen, Michael Curtin, Devan Ganeshanathan, and Joseph T. Schippa also attended. There were 25 community members present including members of the Edgemont Boy Scouts Troop. Board member Brian Yarrington was unable to attend.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board president David M. C. Stern called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

At 7:05 P.M. Jennifer Darger made a motion to adjourn the public meeting and to begin Executive Session to discuss special education students, personnel, negotiations, and legal matters. Anish Nanavaty seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

At 8:20 P.M. Jennifer Darger made a motion to readjourn to public session. Jonathan Faust seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING

Anish Nanavaty made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for February 23, 2016. Jonathan Faust seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

None

IV. RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY

David M. C. Stern welcomed the local Edgemont Boy Scout Troop. The Scout members were present to observe the meeting as part of their Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge for boy scouts.

Devan Ganeshanathan recognized and congratulated the cast and crew of "Into the Woods," Edgemont High School musical production, directed by alumnus, Danny K. Bernstein. Performances took place the first week in March and were a huge success. Devan said that half of the proceeds from the March 3<sup>rd</sup> performance were donated to the Edgemont Scholarship Council. Devan also extended gratitude to the parents who supported the students through this production and asked for a round of applause for all.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT(S)

Jennifer Darger made a motion to accept the monetary gifts from the Target Corporation, the Edgemont PTA, the Edgemont PTSA, Anonymous Donors and California Pizza Kitchen, Inc. as listed. Jonathan Faust seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

- Target Corporation:  
\$188.64 requested through their Take Charge of Education Program,  
Seely Place School

RESOLUTION

15-388

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$188.64 from the Target Corporation requested through their Take Charge of Education Program, Seely Place School.

- Target Corporation:  
\$147.16 requested through their Take Charge of Education Program,  
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-389

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$147.16 from the Target Corporation requested through their Take Charge of Education Program, Greenville School.

- Target Corporation:  
\$209.51 requested through their Take Charge of Education Program,  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-390

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$209.51 from the Target Corporation requested through their Take Charge of Education Program, Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School.

- Edgemont PTA:  
\$139.98 requested for  
Two HP Office Jet Printers  
Seely Place School

#### RESOLUTION

15-391

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a gift in the amount of \$139.98 from the Edgemont PTA requested for the purchase of two HP Office Jet Printers for Seely Place School.

- Edgemont PTSA:  
\$176.19 requested for  
Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center (Production of *L'Elisir d'Amore*)  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

#### RESOLUTION

15-392

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a gift in the amount of \$176.19 from the Edgemont PTSA requested for the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center to see the production of *L'Elisir d'Amore*.

- Anonymous Donors:  
\$5,200.00 requested for Edgemont Athletics

#### RESOLUTION

15-393

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$5,200.00 from anonymous donors requested to be used for Edgemont Athletics.

- California Pizza Kitchen, Inc.:  
\$ 20.00 requested for use by the Student Council  
Greenville School

#### RESOLUTION

15-394

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$20.00 from California Pizza Kitchen, Inc. requested to be used by the Student Council.

David M. C. Stern said, “I am delighted to accept these gifts” and thanked everyone for their generosity with great appreciation.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

(1) Ongoing Budget Discussion of Administrative Budget Proposal  
for 2016-2017

Victoria S. Kniewel  
Susan Shirken

David M. C. Stern said that tonight’s presentation will be an ongoing discussion of the 2016-2017 budget proposal. He said that the discussion will include details on the new proposed programs and ways to reduce the proposed tax-rate increase.

David addressed the members of the boy scouts in attendance and explained that one of the key tasks of a school board is to approve a budget for the following school year and bring the proposed school budget forth to the community. He amplified that a school board budget is the only budget that people in the community have the right to vote on.

Victoria Kniewel talked about authentic learning and what the challenge is to make learning developmentally appropriate. She said the goal is to offer authentic opportunities to foster students’ understanding of their roles as local and global citizens and to have fun achieving that goal. Victoria referred to the handout with data on Edgemont Leadership Positions in Curriculum and in Technology from 2001-2002 to 2015-2016 and a brief discussion ensued among board members regarding trends in this area. Victoria continued to talk about the importance of instructional support in both curriculum and in technology. She concluded by saying that the recommendation to support curriculum instruction and professional growth through consultants and a full-time administrator is putting money in the classroom and giving teachers the support they need to be successful.

Jennifer Darger asked for clarification regarding the new administrative position. Victoria said she is recommending a full-time director of curriculum and instruction and added that it is equally important to apply leadership in the area of technology. Jennifer Darger commented that she is appreciative of the idea of coaches in the classroom to help the teachers and said she likes the “hands on approach and immediate feedback” the coaches can offer.

David Chao said he is in favor of the proposal and added that now is a good time to implement this recommendation.

Anish Nanavaty said he is “excited” about these recommendations because both curriculum and technology have tremendous momentum behind them. He added that great strides have been made in the area of technology while continuing to make progress with the action teams regarding next steps. Anish also asked for clarification regarding the experience of the coaches. Victoria responded that the coaches started in the same place where the teachers started so there is a mutual understanding. Michael Curtin referred to the success of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade pilot program where the technology consultant worked with teachers on various projects. Anish said, “We want to continue raising the bar with our teachers; I’m excited about this.”

David M. C. Stern echoed Anish’s comments and said, “I’m incredibly excited; I like the idea of helping teachers in the classroom; it is my hope to move further towards that model.” David continued to say that he is in favor of the idea of devoting the extra administrator to technology—“a wise idea.” He concluded by saying, “I want to see those dollars as close to the classroom as possible; find the right people to do the job and if need be, we will wait.”

Jennifer Darger acknowledged that there have been great strides in curriculum development and technology. She addressed Mike Curtin and said, “We are very appreciative of what you have done and how you have handled your responsibilities.”

Community member, Nilesh Patel, commented on the various ideas stated tonight and added that finding the ideal candidate for these positions is important. He asked, “Do you have the yardstick to measure the success of these ideas?” Victoria Kniewel responded that measuring success can be defined when teachers are learning from and with each other.

Community member, Dylan Pyne, asked for clarification regarding how extra-curriculars are currently managed. He asked if there is someone to coordinate and support these clubs and make connections between extracurricular and curriculum. Victoria explained that the challenge is bringing co-curriculars together to achieve the big goal. Some examples of co-curriculars are local global citizenship and outdoor education.

Victoria continued to talk about the proposal of an additional part-time person for the Intensive Communications Achievement Program a.k.a. ICAP, a program that deals with students with autism spectrum disorder. She explained that the benefit is additional support with autistic students and parent training. Anish Nanavaty added that the district is receiving additional revenue for the program through tuition and avoiding costs in sending students out of district for services.

Michael Bianchi asked if certification was the issue as to why we don’t have someone who can fill that role in house. Victoria said it is a matter of the workload and the experience.

Community member, Sara Stratford, asked whether the individual will be part of the ICAP team every day. Victoria said that the position would not be full time; however, the person would have a multi-layered approach to things.

David M. C. Stern talked about the tax cap and ways to drop below the anticipated year-to-year tax increase which is now projected to be slightly over 3%. Sue Shirken responded that as of yet, there is nothing definitive. Sue amplified that she is looking into some additional State funding and outside funding to decrease the number to 2.89%. Sue said that in order to accomplish this, the budget would have to be reduced by approximately \$150,000.

David Chao commented that the question now is what is a reasonable tax rate? He suggested that reserves be used and to take out \$100,000 from the budget, not accounting for State aid or additional revenues. Take \$100,000 from reserves and keep the budget a little higher. David said, “We would be in a marginally stronger position.”

Jonathan Faust commented, “The proposal is responsible.”

David Chao commented that only the voice of the board has been heard. Both Anish Nanavaty and David M. C. Stern suggested talking to various civic associations about the budget proposal. He said overall this budget proposal is very defensible. Jonathan Faust added, “We are not breaking the cap; we can explain the numbers.”

Nilesh Patel said he would like to see a balance sheet along with the budget proposal and asked for clarification regarding the decrease in repairs and maintenance costs. Sue explained that some emergency work had to be done.

David M. C. Stern concluded the discussion and said that the budget discussion will continue two weeks from tonight on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Victoria Kniewel asked the board to approve New Business Items VII. A.1.1 through VII. A.1.6. (A.1.4 as amended) and Agenda Item 2.1. and 3.1; All Student Services Items in B.1, and to approve Business Items C.1 through C.7.

Jennifer Darger made a motion to approve all Personnel Items, Student Items, and Business Items C.1. through C.7. as listed by the Superintendent of Schools. Anish Nanavaty seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Personnel

1. Appointments

- 1.1 Jennifer Storck, School Psychologist, (Probationary Appointment)  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-395

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the probationary appointment of Jennifer Storck as a 1.0 FTE School Psychologist, Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School, as follows:

Tenure Area:	School Psychologist
Date of Commencement:	September 1, 2016
Date of Expiration:	November 16, 2018
Job Appointment:	School Psychologist
Certification:	School Psychologist, Permanent
Salary for 2016-2017	M30, Step 4 TBD contract under negotiations

- 1.2 Tobey-Anne Saracino, Assistant Athletic Director,  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-396

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Tobey-Anne Saracino as Assistant Athletic Director in the Edgemont School District for the spring 2016 season at a per contract pro-rated amount of \$8,640.

- 1.3 Matthew Kane, Per diem Substitute Teacher,  
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-397

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Matthew Kane, Per diem Substitute Teacher, Greenville School, during the 2015-2016 school year at a salary of \$100 per day for each day worked, effective March 9, 2016.

1.4 Athletic Coaches, Spring,  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-398

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals as spring athletic coaches for the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School for the 2015-2016 school year at the contracted salary indicated below and as overnight chaperones at the stipend of \$399 per night for Sectional, Regional, and State championship contests as required during the 2016 spring sports season:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Position/Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Longevity</u>	<u>Contractual Salary</u>
<b>Baseball</b>	Varsity - Head	Michal Cozza	10+	\$7,416
	Varsity - Assistant	Corey Borowitz	9	\$5,071
	JV - Assistant	Robert Hoffman	9	\$5,071
	Modified - Assistant	Mitch Shapiro	6	\$4,975
	Modified - Assistant	Jedd Chesterson	6	\$4,975
<b>Golf</b>	Varsity – Head - Boys	George DiChiara	7	\$6,163
	Varsity – Head - Girls	Bryan Paul	6	\$6,045
<b>Boys Lacrosse</b>	Varsity - Head	Mark Gryzlo	8	\$7,079
	Varsity - Assistant	Vincent Tamburro	8	\$5,071
	JV - Assistant			
	Modified - Assistant	Timothy Beale	3	\$4,830
<b>Girls Lacrosse</b>	Varsity - Head	Robert Breitenbach	10+	\$7,416
	Varsity - Assistant		1	\$4,830
	JV - Assistant			
	Modified - Assistant	Katherine Degen	6	\$4,975
<b>Softball</b>	Varsity - Head	Larry Giustinianni	6	\$6,944
	Varsity - Assistant	Christin Maguire	5	\$4,975
	JV - Assistant	Laura Smittle	3	\$4,830
	Modified - Assistant	Nancy Hewitt	8	\$5,071
	Modified - Assistant	Ed Salmon	7	\$5,071
<b>Boys Tennis</b>	Varsity - Head	Mark Romney	6	\$5,700
	Varsity - Assistant	Katie Feinstein	2	\$3,924
	JV - Assistant	Carolyn Glickstein	10+	\$4,317
	Modified - Assistant	Greg Tkachuk	5	\$4,042
<b>Track &amp; Field</b>	Varsity – Head - Boys	JC Periac	10+	\$8,412
	Varsity – Head - Girls	Steve Rubenstein	10+	\$8,412
	Varsity - Assistant	James Wuttke	2	\$5,333
	Modified - Assistant	Dennis Blake	7	\$5,600
	Modified - Assistant	Howard Dougherty	1	\$5,333



1.5 Athletic Advisors, Spring  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-399

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals as spring athletic advisors for the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School for the 2015-2016 school year at the contracted salary indicated below:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Position/Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Longevity</u>	<u>Contractual Salary</u>
Intramurals	Advisor	Brian Connolly	2	\$4,830
Strength & Conditioning	Advisor	Pete Loughran	5	\$5,527

1.6 Intramural Advisor, Winter, (Retroactive Appointment)  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-400

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the retroactive appointment to November 9, 2015 of the following individual as winter athletic advisor for the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School for the 2015-2016 school year at the contracted salary indicated below:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Position/Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Longevity</u>	<u>Contractual Salary</u>
Intramurals	Advisor	Brian Connolly	1	\$5,836

2. Leave of Absence  
2.1 Isadora Klein, Elementary Teacher,  
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-401

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves an unpaid leave of absence for Isadora Klein, Elementary Teacher, Greenville School, effective September 1, 2016 for the 2016-2017 school year.

3. Resignation
- 3.1 Samantha G. Loria, School Psychologist,  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-402

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Samantha G. Loria, School Psychologist, Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School, effective June 30, 2016.

B. Students

1. Programs/Services for four (4) CPSE students and (2) two CSE students (CPSE/CSE meetings held during the months of February and March 2016)

RESOLUTION

15-403

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Committee on Preschool Special Education and the Committee on Special Education, the Board of Education arranges for the programs and services as recommended for the four (4) CPSE students and the (2) two CSE students who had their CPSE/CSE meetings held during the months of February and March 2016.

C. Business

1. Approval of Contract with Southern Westchester BOCES for managed fiber-wide area network (WAN) links  
District-Wide

RESOLUTION

15-404

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the contract with Southern Westchester BOCES for managed fiber-wide area network (WAN) links, District-Wide, effective July 1, 2016.

2. Authorization for Transfer of Funds to Pay Certiorari Settlement,  
Pine Top Associates

RESOLUTION

15-405

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the transfer of funds in the amount of \$363,492.18 from the Certiorari Reserve to the 2015-2016 General Fund in order to pay the settlement in full for Pine Top Associates.

David Chao commented on Resolution C.2. that all money is in the reserves and accounted for in the assessed value.

3. Approval of Contract for Health Services for Private School Students,  
Greenburgh Central School District No. 7

RESOLUTION

15-406

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the 2015 – 2016 Contract for Health and Welfare Services with the Greenburgh Central School District No. 7 for nine (9) Edgemont resident students attending private or parochial schools in Greenburgh at a total cost of \$7,894.80.

4. Approval of Contract for Health Services for Private School Students,  
Eastchester Union Free School District

RESOLUTION

15-407

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the 2015 - 2016 Contract for Health Services with the Eastchester Union Free School District for one (1) Edgemont resident student attending private or parochial schools in Eastchester at a total cost of \$1,061.66.

5. Approval of Budget Transfer(s)

RESOLUTION

15-408

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfer:

<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
A1620 163 02 0000 Custodians - Greenville	A1620 401 00 0000 Repair and Serv. Cont. DW	\$ 25,000.00

6. Approval of Inventory Proposal

RESOLUTION

15-409

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent of Schools to sign an agreement with Asset Systems to complete a physical inventory of capital assets with a value of \$5,000 or more during the spring of 2016 at a total price not to exceed \$8,500.

7. Approval of Budget Amendment

RESOLUTION

15-410

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Edgemont Union Free School District budget for the 2015-2016 school year be amended to reflect the receipt of \$7,150.

David Chao thanked Samantha Loria for her service as School Psychologist to the Edgemont School District and wished Samantha and her family well.

David M. C. Stern announced the next regular board meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 followed by Tuesday, April 12 at 8:15 p.m. At this meeting the Board must adopt the budget proposal for 2016-2017 that will be presented to the voters on May 17<sup>th</sup>. David encouraged community members to attend the PTA/PTSA Parent Forum on the proposed budget on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 A.M. in the EHS Library.

## VIII. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS


- 03/22/16 Board of Education Regular Meeting 7 P.M.\*  
Executive Session before Regular Meeting  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School LGI
- 03/24/16 **PTA/PTSA Parent Forum on Budget 9:30 A.M.\*\***  
An opportunity for community members to ask questions about  
and to comment on the budget  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School Library
- 04/12/16 Board of Education Regular Meeting 7 P.M.\*  
Executive Session before Regular Meeting  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School LGI  
**Board adoption of the budget proposal for 2016-2017**

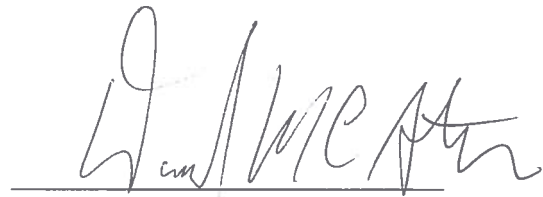
\* Please note that all regularly scheduled evening Board meetings will be called to order at 7 P.M. in the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School Library. There will then be an immediate adjournment to Executive Session with a readjournalment to public session in the LGI at 8:15 P.M.

\*\*Please note that this Thursday Morning Meeting scheduled for March 24, 2016 is for community members to have an opportunity to ask questions about and to comment on the budget.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:35 P.M. Anish Nanavaty made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Michael Bianchi seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve this motion.

  
Rosemary DeVito  
District Clerk, Board of Education

  
David M. C. Stern  
President, Board of Education