

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
EDGEMONT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Edgemont Junior-Senior High School LGI
February 23, 2016
8:15 P.M.

Board president David M. C. Stern, vice-president Anish Nanavaty, Board members, Michael Bianchi, David Chao, Jennifer Darger, Jonathan Faust, and Brian Yarrington were present. Superintendent Victoria S. Kniewel and Assistant Superintendent Susan Shirken, District Clerk Rosemary DeVito, Michael Curtin, Eve Feuerstein, Jennifer Johnson, Edward Kennedy, Joseph T. Schippa, and Edward W. Stickles also attended. There were twelve community members present.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board president David M. C. Stern called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

At 6:35 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. Jonathan Faust seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

At 8:19 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 9, 2016. Jonathan Faust seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Brian Yarrington made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 2016. Anish Nanavaty seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

IV. RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY

Jennifer Johnson announced the names of five Edgemont High School students who have been honored in the National Merit Scholarship Program. The Finalists are: Jeremy B. Goldstein, Faizan M. Hussain, Aaditya Jain, Justin L. Lue, and Jared Rosner.

David M. C. Stern asked for a moment of silence for the recent passing of the father of Greenville Principal, Jennifer Allen and for the recent passing of the mother of Seely Place School Psychologist, Rayna Shapiro.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT(S)

Jonathan Faust made a motion to accept the monetary gifts from the Edgemont PTSA, the Edgemont PTA and the Edgemont School Foundation as listed.
Jennifer Darger seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

- Edgemont PTSA:
\$750.00 requested for PrideWorks 2016 Conference
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-368

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a gift in the amount of \$750.00 from the Edgemont PTSA requested to fund the PrideWorks 2016 Conference, Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School.

- Edgemont PTA:
\$500.00 requested for Kindergarten Field Trip to the Paper Bag Players
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-369

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a gift in the amount of \$500.00 from the Edgemont PTA requested for kindergarten field trip to the Paper Bag Players, Greenville School.

- Edgemont PTA:
\$ 42.00 requested for First Grade Trip to the Central Park Zoo
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-370

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a gift in the amount of \$42.00 requested for first grade trip to the Central Park Zoo, Greenville School.

- Edgemont School Foundation:
\$33,338.00 requested for
Overall Operations of the School District

RESOLUTION

15-371

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a promised gift of \$500,000 from the Edgemont School Foundation for the overall operation of the school district to be paid in annual installments over the next fifteen years. The board accepts with grateful appreciation this first payment of \$33,338.00.

David M. C. Stern thanked the Edgemont PTSA and the Edgemont PTA for their generous gifts with great appreciation, and he gave special thanks to the Edgemont School Foundation for their pledge that made the bond project possible. David described the ESF as having the sole purpose of raising funds to support the Edgemont schools and said, “It is a tremendous effort, and we owe them a great deal of gratitude.”

VI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

(1) Presentation of Administrative Budget Proposal for 2016-2017

Victoria S. Kniewel
Susan Shirken

David M. C. Stern said that tonight’s presentation will be about the “big picture” of the 2016-2017 budget proposal. He urged the community to attend the March 1st Round Table Work Session that is open to the public as observers. David said that at this meeting, there will be more departmental budget information with school administrators and leaders to discuss the specifics of each individual area of the school. David described this meeting as “one of the more interesting meetings of the year.”

Victoria Kniewel said that tonight is the first night for discussion of the administrative budget proposal. She began by citing the Foundational Beliefs to maintain and enrich an excellent Edgemont education...in a manner that is fiscally responsible...through collaboration with all stakeholders in the school community. Victoria said that she has been working with her leadership team made up of faculty and staff on a Focus Forward plan that will maintain and enrich strategic goals and action plans, that will engage in continual communication, and that will be fiscally responsible.

Victoria said, "This budget proposal is not seeking to exceed the tax cap." In answering the question, "What do we want Edgemont students to look like," she said that it is important that students be in a pathway to success throughout their lives. Victoria stated that all of the budget discussions are centered on the strategic goals. She then reviewed the items listed in the 2016-2017 Administrative Budget handout, "What's New in this Budget" and said that all programs and people are in the proposed budget and amplified that the new items are enhancements to support the strategic goals.

Victoria then called upon Sue Shirken to continue the overview of the budget proposal. Sue began her presentation by saying that the goal has always been to deliver an excellent educational program while remaining sensitive to the taxpayer. She said that over the years, costs have been consistently reduced both above and below the line. She referred to the Administrative Budget Proposal Summary and the Budget Category Sheet and said this data specifies the spending plan and how it is anticipated it will be funded. She announced that the proposed budget-to-budget increase is 3.34%--an increase over last year. Sue explained that the primary revenue source, property taxes, is subject to the tax-cap calculation imposed by New York State. Sue reviewed revenue sources and the budget category sheet and said that over the past seven years, the district has been successful in managing the budget. She reminded everyone that the proposed budget is a planning document subject to many changes and ended her portion of the presentation by saying that the State Comptroller's office must be notified by Tuesday, March 1, of the decision that Edgemont will not exceed the cap this year. Here is a summary of the 2016-2017 budget proposal:

2016-2017 Administrative Budget = \$55,912,470
Budget-to-Budget Increase is 3.34%
Anticipated Tax-Rate Increase is 3.19%

David M. C. Stern commented that the Consumer Price Index or CPI number allowed this year is .12%, less than 2%. He also referred to the continued erosion of the tax base. David referred to the year-to-year proposed increase of 3% and asked if the increase in debt service and capital expenditures is a "reasonable understanding" of how we are able to stay under the tax cap and have a 3% increase. Sue explained that capital expenditures and debt service are not considered part of the tax-cap calculation. David asked whether funds have been received from the Smart Schools Bond Act. Sue Shirken responded that the funds must be spent first and that the amount of State Aid Edgemont will receive will be determined sometime in March.

Jonathan Faust thanked both Victoria and Sue and said tonight's budget proposal represents a "very responsible first presentation."

David Chao referred to State Aid and said on the one hand the State tells us we are doing a great job and on the other hand, we only receive roughly 6% of budget from New York State. David referred to the Historical Data for Edgemont Budgets in the handout and said, “We are still putting out the kind of product we are used to even with our hands tied behind our back with mandates and assessments.” He then referred to the Foundational Beliefs in the handout, specifically *maintain and enrich an excellent Edgemont education*, and said, “We would like to see that trend continue.”

Brian Yarrington thanked Victoria and Sue and commented that the process can be confusing.

Jennifer Darger also thanked Victoria and Sue and commented that she is looking forward to reducing some of the projected budget numbers.

Anish Nanavaty said, “This is a tough environment...If you look at salaries and benefits and debt service--those numbers are significantly higher—we are still able to maintain our tax-rate-increase which suggests a continued use of reserves.” Anish asked whether the State Aid contribution is expected to be higher. Sue Shirken said she is hoping it will be and amplified that right now, the district is receiving some State Aid on the library roof from last summer and from the windows and the doors in the Administration Building.

Community member, Alec Clarke, commented that the tax certiorari category seems to be considerably higher in past years. Sue explained that the certiorari money is kept in a reserve and what isn’t spent is added to the certiorari reserve. Sue said we are always advised by certiorari counsel and added that there is four million dollars in the certiorari reserve.

A Community member commented on the 50% increase in debt service. Sue Shirken explained that the increase has to do mostly with the bonds and for the Blanford Field renovation. She said that last year, debt service was particularly low and that you cannot bond until the State Education Department approves the project. She amplified that the number will most likely increase again next year as money is borrowed from the funds remaining to complete the projects.

Victoria Kniewel asked the board to approve New Business Items VII. A.1.1 through VII. A.1.7. (A.1.5 as amended) and Agenda Item 2.1., All Student Items in B.1, and to approve Business Items C.2 through *C.7. *Walk-in-Item

Jennifer Darger made a motion to approve all Personnel Items, Student Items, and Business Items C.2. through C.7. as listed by the Superintendent of Schools. Jonathan Faust seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Personnel

1. Appointments

- 1.1 Adrienne Amorosa, Student Productions, Theatrical Publications, Editor
Fall Drama, Junior High School Musical, Spring Musical
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-372

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Adrienne Amorosa, as Editor, Student Productions, Theatrical Publications (Fall Drama, Junior High School Musical, and Spring Musical at a stipend of \$500.00 for each event, totaling \$1,500.00) Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School, during the 2015-2016 school year.

- 1.2 Debate Judges, 2015-2016 School Year
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-373

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals as Debate Judges for the 2015-2016 school year at the rate of \$100 per competition day and \$50 per travel day:

- 1.2.1 Taylor Brough
1.2.2 Dustin Ping

- 1.3 Debate Chaperone, (Retroactive)
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-374

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the retroactive appointment of Jeremie Peace as overnight chaperone for the Debate Team from Friday, February 12, 2016 to Monday, February 15, 2016 at the Harvard Invitational Competition in Cambridge, MA at a stipend of \$1,439 (3 nights @ \$399/night; 2 days @ \$121/day). This retroactive appointment was necessary due to a required student-chaperone ratio for the competition.

1.4 AIS Instructors
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-375

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals as before-school AIS instructors for one section (ELA) at a pro-rated salary of 1/35 of their annual salary per section:

- 1.4.1 Mary Bunt (February 22 – April 8) one section
- 1.4.2 Christine O'Connor (February 22 – April 8) one section
- 1.4.3 Cory Karpf (February 1 –February 12) additional second section

Please note Agenda Item A.1.5 (Martin Bluver) was approved as amended

1.5. Martin Bluver, Construction Consultant,
District-wide

RESOLUTION

15-376

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Martin Bluver as a Construction Consultant at a rate of \$40 per hour not to exceed \$25,000 for the period starting February 24, 2016 through June 30, 2016.

1.6. Christina Pipolo, Per diem Substitute Teacher,
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-377

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Christina Pipolo, Per diem Substitute Teacher, Greenville School, during the 2015-2016 school year at a salary of \$100 per day for each day worked, effective February 24, 2016.

- 1.7 Aubrey Graf-Daniels, Volunteer Parent Chaperone,
Robotics Club FIRST Competition and Expo
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-378

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Aubrey Graf-Daniels as volunteer parent chaperone, Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School for the Robotics Club FIRST Competition and Expo at the Javits Center in New York City on March 13, 2016.

2. Revision

- 2.1 Revision to Resolution 15-314, January 12, 2016
Debate Team Chaperone, Brian Rappelfeld
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-379

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the revision to Resolution 15-314, Brian Rappelfeld as Debate Team Chaperone as follows:

December 11-12, 2015	Debate Tournament-Ridge High School, Bernardsville, New Jersey
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Brian Rappelfeld	\$520.00
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1 overnight@\$399/night
1 weekend, daytime @ \$121/day

Payroll will adjust the *\$281.00 difference	\$801.00 (original)
	<u>- 520.00 (revised)</u>
	\$281.00

B. Students

1. Programs/Services for one (1) CPSE student and (3) three CSE students
(CPSE/CSE meetings held during the month of February 2016)

RESOLUTION

15-380

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 one (1) CPSE student and the (3) three CSE students who had their CPSE/CSE meetings held during the month of February 2016.

Please note that Agenda Item C.1. was motioned separately.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed 2016-2017 School Calendar.

Victoria Kniewel said she collaborated with her administrative team, the Edgemont Teachers' Association (ETA) president and the executive board to get a sense of what worked for this year's calendar. She said she is recommending that teachers return to work after Labor Day and that a Professional Development Day be scheduled for Tuesday, October 11, 2016. Victoria further explained that due to more attention to security during elections/voting dates, she decided to close school for the two Jewish holidays in October. There will be one week closed for the December break. Victoria said that the calendar will be posted on line.

Jennifer Darger made a motion to approve the proposed School Calendar for 2016-2017. Michael Bianchi seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

C. Business

1. Approval of Proposed 2016-2017 School calendar

RESOLUTION

15-381

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Proposed School Calendar for the 2016-2017 school year per the attached. (Attachment #1)

2. Authorization to Approve Change Order (Credit) for
EHS Fire Alarm Project (Filingeri Electrical Corp.)

RESOLUTION

15-382

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves a change order in the amount of (\$30,600) for the unused contingency allowance contained in the EHS Fire Alarm Replacement Contract with Filingeri Electrical Corp.

3. Approval of Budget Transfer(s)

RESOLUTION

15-383

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

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
A2855 150 01 0000 Instructional Salaries	A2855 406 01 0000 Varsity Fees	\$ 3,500.00

4. Approval of Agreement,
Westchester County Board of Elections

RESOLUTION

15-384

WHEREAS, the Edgemont Union Free School District requires the provision of electronic voting machines to facilitate its Annual District Budget Vote and Board of Education Elections and the Westchester County Board of Elections is capable of providing said machines on terms which have been reviewed and approved by School District counsel;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Edgemont Union Free School District hereby approves and accepts the Agreement with the Westchester County Board of Elections for the provision of voting machines and authorizes the Board of Education President and/or the Assistant Superintendent to execute said Agreement.

5. Approval of Contract for Health Services for Private School Students,
Harrison Central School District

RESOLUTION

15-385

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the 2015 – 2016 Contract for Health Services with the Harrison Central School District for three (3) Edgemont resident students attending School of the Holy Child in Harrison at a total cost of \$3,264.33.

6. Authorization to Approve Contract with the Scarsdale School District for Special Education Services

RESOLUTION

15-386

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education authorizes Victoria S. Kniewel as Superintendent to sign a contract for services for Student #940, #1047, and #1428 in the Scarsdale School District for the 2015-2016 school year.

Walk-in Resolution for February 23, 2016

7. Authorization to Enter into Contract with Dr. Samantha Slotnick, Behavioral Optometrist, for Optometrist Consulting Services

RESOLUTION

15-387

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education authorizes Victoria S. Kniewel, Superintendent of Schools, to sign a contract with Dr. Samantha Slotnick, Behavioral Optometrist, for Optometrist Consulting Services on an as-needed basis at a rate of \$180 per hour for each hour worked beginning February 24, 2016 and for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year.

David M. C. Stern announced the next meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. At this meeting, there will be a Round-Table Work Session with open discussion among Administration and Board members and is open to the public as observers. The next two meetings will be a Regular Public Meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 and on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 8:15 p.m.

VIII. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

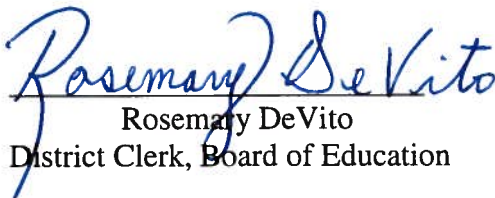
- 03/01/16 Board of Education Regular Meeting 7 P.M.**
Executive Session before Regular Meeting
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School LGI
- 03/08/16 Board of Education Regular Meeting 7 P.M.*
Executive Session before Regular Meeting
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School LGI
- 03/22/16 Board of Education Regular Meeting 7 P.M.*
Executive Session before Regular Meeting
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School LGI

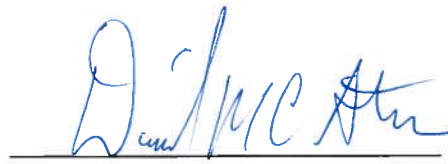
* Please note that all regularly scheduled evening Board meetings will be called to order at 7 P.M. in the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School Library. There will then be an immediate adjournment to Executive Session with a readjournment to public session in the LGI at 8:15 P.M.

**Please note that on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, there will be a Round-Table Work Session in the LGI from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. open to the public as observers only.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:14 P.M. Jennifer Darger made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Jonathan Faust 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

EDGEMONT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

July 2016 - June 2017 School Calendar

ATTACHMENT C.1

Approved on 2/23/2016

July 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2016

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				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2016

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2016

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30			

December 2016

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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2016

5	Labor Day
6	K-12 Superintendent's Conference Day
7	School Opens for Students

October 2016

3-4	Rosh Hashanah
10	Columbus Day
11	K-12 Superintendent's Conference Day
12	Yom Kippur

November 2016

8	K-12 Superintendent's Conference Day
11	Veterans' Day
24-25	Thanksgiving Recess

December 2016

26-30	Winter Recess
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January 2017

2	Winter Recess
16	Martin Luther King Jr

February 2017

20	President's Day
20-24	Mid-Winter Recess

April 2017

10-11	Passover
10-14	Spring Recess
16	Easter Sunday

May 2017

29	Memorial Day
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June 2017

14-22	Regents
22	Last Day for Students
23	K-12 Superintendent's Conference Day

January 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2017

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Total Student Days - 180

Total Student Days + SCD - 184

Note: In the event make-up days are needed, schools will be open in this order: Thurs. Apr 13th.
Wed. Apr 12th. Mon. April 10th

- Shaded boxes indicate school holidays for all students and faculty
- Patterned boxes indicate Superintendent's Conference Days - no school for students
- Summer/Weekends
- Last day for Students