

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
EDGEMONT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Edgemont Junior-Senior High School LGI  
March 22, 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, Devan Ganeshananthan, Jennifer Johnson, John McCabe, and Edward W. Stickles also attended. There were 20 community members present. \*Board member Jonathan Faust joined the regular meeting at 9:25 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board president David M. C. Stern called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

At 7:02 P.M. Jonathan Faust made a motion to adjourn the public meeting and to begin Executive Session to discuss special education students, personnel, negotiations, and legal matters. Jennifer Darger seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

At 8:22 P.M. Jennifer Darger made a motion to readjourn to public session. Michael Bianchi seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING

Anish Nanavaty made a motion to approve the budget work session minutes for March 1, 2016 and to approve the regular meeting minutes for March 8, 2016 respectively. Jennifer Darger seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Jennifer Darger made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for February 2016. Anish Nanavaty seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

#### IV. RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY

David M. C. Stern welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. The board recognized Devan Ganeshanathan's birthday, and Devan received a celebratory round of applause.

Devan Ganeshanathan thanked the PTSA for the monetary gift toward the EHS Spring Semi-Formal dance for the Class of 2016. The event took place on Friday, March 18, from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. in the EHS Pantherdome. Devan said the dance was the first non-prom dance Edgemont students have had in seven years and hopes the event will continue going forward. The students raised over \$3,400 for the Class of 2016. The DJ's were juniors, Justin Giudice and Jack Hoesterey. The event was well attended and everyone had a great time.

#### V. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT(S)

Jennifer Darger made a motion to accept the various gifts from Ms. Carolyn Glickstein requested for the Photography Program at EHS as listed. David Chao seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

- Ms. Carolyn Glickstein:
  - Bessler 23c enlarger and baseboard requested for Photography Program Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School
  - Photography Books requested for Photography Program Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School
  - Trays requested for Photography Program Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

#### RESOLUTION

15-411

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, various gifts requested for the Photography Program from Ms. Carolyn Glickstein to be utilized by students in the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School.

David Chao made a motion to accept the monetary gifts from the Edgemont PTSA as listed. Michael Bianchi seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

- Edgemont PTSA: \$627.50
  - \$127.50 requested for AP Literature Trip –  
NYC *Long Day's Journey Into Night*
  - \$500.00 Semi-Formal Dance  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

#### RESOLUTION

15-412

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a gift in the amount of \$127.50 from the Edgemont PTSA requested for the cost of the AP Literature Trip – NYC *Long Day's Journey Into Night* and \$500.00 requested for the cost of the Semi-Formal Dance for Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School.

David M. C. Stern thanked everyone for their generosity with great appreciation.

#### VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

(1) Enrollment Projections for K-6 and 7-12 Edward Kennedy,  
Devan Ganeshanathan, Jennifer Johnson

David M. C. Stern called upon Victoria Kniewel to give an update on the latest developments regarding capital improvements. She focused on conversations about the field renovation and announced that the turf infill will be supplied by Liberty Tire Recycling, LLC, a Canadian company known for meeting high standards. She amplified that Liberty meets the European standard for toy safety and children's products. She said there will be an additional cost of \$11,000 for product transportation and that the additional cost will appear as a change order in a month or two.

Brian Yarrington asked how this product will be determined to be a "safer standard for Edgemont." John McCabe responded that the yard will verify that the material to be sent is what they advertised it to be.

David M. C. Stern summarized that this product is more expensive than the initial proposal by \$11,000 but meets the European safety standards for children's toys.

Victoria Kniewel called upon Ed Kennedy, Devan Ganeshanathan, and Jennifer Johnson to address enrollment projections for grades K-6 and grades 7-12.

Ed Kennedy reported on enrollment projections for Seely Place School and Greenville School in Jennifer Allen's absence. Ed said the "good news" is that both schools are maintaining staffing and sections and reported total enrollment for Seely Place to be 524 and 493 for Greenville as of February. He said, "Everything is status quo," and should any changes occur, he will report those changes to the Board.

Jennifer Johnson reported a total of 927 students in the junior-senior high school. She said that usually there are 45 new students each year and that approximately 30 students move out of district indicating a net increase of 15 students.

- (2) Action Planning Update: Create authentic opportunities to foster students' understanding of their roles as local and global citizens.

Edward Kennedy,  
Jennifer Johnson, Timothy Beale

Victoria Kniewel then referred to the Focus Forward Action Planning Team and called upon Jennifer Johnson, Timothy Beale, and Ed Kennedy to provide a brief update on the work of the Team as they continue to work on the goal of authentic learning for local and global citizenship.

Jennifer Johnson talked about first tasks and goals and the importance to help students understand their role as global and local citizens.

Timothy Beale, fifth-grade teacher at Seely Place School, talked about the recycling program, the focus of which is to create less garbage in a responsible way and how the program also helps students understand their role as global and local citizens. Tim explained that a waste audit was performed with the Greenburgh Nature Center and garbage was weighed. This audit was meaningful to the students and to the teachers as well.

Ed Kennedy spoke about the recycling initiative at Seely Place and tied that to the Sixth-Grade Camp Program a.k.a. sixth-grade outdoor environmental education program. Ed said the program fits in perfectly with the strategic goal. He explained that the children learn many things about the environment, apply their knowledge, and experience team building working as a community. Ed explained that the students are involved in improving the campgrounds, building benches, planting seedlings, making trail markers, planting wood chips, cleaning streams learning about orienteering, taking courses, canoeing and more. Ed quoted from a letter from the director of Camp Speers who described the program as "excellent, vital, and important."

David Chao asked about the costs of carting waste. Victoria Kniewel responded that there was a transitioning factor and that carting costs had to be negotiated; the ultimate goal is to save the Earth and to save money.

Anish Nanavaty suggested looking into taking care of the compost on campus. David M. C. Stern commented that the Nature Center and the School Foundation take care of some of the fees regarding compost costs.

Jennifer Darger commented that it is “remarkably effective” when we use students to train other students. This is an opportunity for citizenship among our own and those opportunities are the strength in the Edgemont School District. Jennifer talked about tutoring as an opportunity in teaching us to take care of each other.

Board members continued the discussion regarding authentic learning for global citizenship.

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

Victoria S. Kniewel  
Susan Shirken

Sue Shirken began by saying that there has been continuing conversation about the administrative budget proposal for the 2016-2017 school year. She referred to the meeting of March 8<sup>th</sup> and said that the board requested that efforts be made to bring the tax rate down. She presented three different options for lowering the tax-rate increase of 3.19%. The first option would result in a tax-rate increase of 2.79%; the second option would result in a tax-rate increase of 2.80%; and the third option would indicate a tax-rate increase of 2.77%.

A lengthy board discussion ensued.

Board Comments:

David Chao said, “Scenario 3 sounds more responsible going forward.”

Anish Nanavaty said, “I think Scenario 3 is the best one...we are giving back more by way of reserves than we would with the other scenarios; gives us flexibility in how we fund the expenditures of the school.”

David M. C. Stern said, “I am comfortable with Scenario 3...the lowest tax-rate increase.”

Brian Yarrington said, “The revaluation process will not affect this vote.”

Discussion ensued among board members regarding the assessment rolls.

Community member, Jay Jacobson, suggested trying to further reduce the tax-rate increase to 2.75%.

Community member, Margaret Goldberg, asked for clarification regarding reserves. Sue Shirken responded that the fund balance has \$2 million in reserves and clarified that the law allows up to 4% in fund balance. She added that there is \$4 million dollars in certiorari reserves, \$500,000 in debt service, and stated that the ERS (employee retirement system) reserve is a large and predictable obligation. David M. C. Stern summarized by saying that the philosophy for keeping reserves at the maximum allowable fund balance is to avoid peaks and valleys in the tax rate and added that reserves gives the district a better rating.

Community member, Helene Orce, said, “The community is angry.” She addressed the board and said to be aware that a large percentage of taxes to the Town of Greenburgh are mostly from Edgemont residents. Anish Nanavaty said that meetings with different civic groups have been scheduled. David M. C. Stern commented that an aggressive communication strategy is needed.

Community member, Alec Clarke, commented that school taxes will be relatively the same among the community. David M. C. Stern responded that the same amount of taxes will be collected with or without the revaluation.

David M. C. Stern concluded the discussion and said that anyone with questions or comments regarding the administrative budget proposal should email the Board of Education at [boe@edgemont.org](mailto:boe@edgemont.org).

Victoria Kniewel asked the board to approve New Business Items VII. A.1. through VII. A.6. including Walk-in-Item A.1.7, and All Student Services Items in B.1, and to approve Business Items C.1 through C.4.

Jonathan Faust made a motion to approve all Personnel Items, Student Items, and Business Items C.1. through C.4. as listed by the Superintendent of Schools. Michael Bianchi seconded the motion. David Chao recused himself and the motion was approved as follows: 6 Ayes 1 Recusal.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Personnel

1. Appointments

- 1.1 Beth Gondek, Three-Day Substitute Teacher,  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-413

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the probationary appointment of Beth Gondek as a Three-Day Substitute Teacher, Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School, at the Per diem rate of \$100 for each day worked, effective March 23, 2016 and for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year.

- 1.2 Brendan G. Walsh, Teacher Aide,  
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-414

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Brendan G. Walsh, Teacher Aide, Greenville School, for 5.75 hours per day at an hourly rate of \$16.08 (Step 1) for each hour worked at a maximum of 29 hours per week, effective March 23, 2016 and for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year.

- 1.3 Katie M. Dosin, Teacher Aide,  
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-415

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Katie M. Dosin, Teacher Aide, Greenville School, for four hours per day at an hourly rate of \$16.08 (Step 1) for each hour worked at a maximum of 29 hours per week, effective March 23, 2016.

- 1.4 Thomas Behrens, Timekeeper for Athletic Events,  
(Retroactive Appointment)  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-416

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the retroactive appointment of Thomas Behrens as a Timekeeper for Athletic Events for the 2015-2016 school year, at the contracted rate of \$59 per hour for each hour served, effective November 9, 2015.

1.5 Student Counselors, Sixth-Grade Camp Program  
Greenville and Seely Place Schools

RESOLUTION

15-417

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following students listed below as Counselors for the Sixth-Grade Camp Program for 2016:

Returnees/\$600 each per week

Brendan Curran (son of Dawn Curran)  
Christian DeSario (son of Sue DeSario)  
Brenna Hewitt (daughter of Nancy Hewitt)  
Blake Hudson (son of Lori Hudson)  
Khalilah Lushiku (daughter of Liz Schutt)

New/\$550 each per week

Hannah Brennan (EHS graduate)  
Amanda Krone (daughter of Gail Krone)  
Daniel Mignault (son of Leslie Mignault)  
Morgan Rapp (EHS graduate)  
Cole Hudson (son of Lori Hudson)

1.6 Staff Chaperones, Sixth-Grade Camp Program,  
Greenville and Seely Place Schools

RESOLUTION

15-418

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals as Chaperones for the 2016 Sixth-Grade Camp Program, at a stipend of \$399.00 per night:

June 6, 2016 – June 9, 2016  
(Four Nights)

Timothy Beale  
Edward Kennedy  
Gerald Murphy  
Jeremie Peace  
Sean Wood

June 6, 2016 & June 7, 2016  
(Two Nights)

Julie Coburn  
Dawn Curran  
Katie Degen  
Lindsay Lugo  
Karen McGlade  
Deborah Mumford  
Edward Salmon  
Kevin Youngs

June 8, 2016 & June 9, 2016  
(Two Nights)

Amanda Barry  
Katie Calnon  
Elise Chipley  
Linda Fleisher  
Sean Ford  
Tara Gallagher  
Peter Khouri  
Lindsay Robinson



## Walk-in-Item

### Personnel

A.

- 1.7 David Chao, Volunteer Assistant Coach, Girls' Lacrosse  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

### RESOLUTION

15-419

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of David Chao as Volunteer Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach for the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year.

2. Change in Assignment/Hours (Retroactive)

- 2.1 William Ciringione, Teacher Aide,  
from Teacher Aide for special education student to regular education aide  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

### RESOLUTION

15-420

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves a retroactive change in assignment for William Ciringione, Teacher Aide, Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School, effective March 9, 2016 to June 30, 2016. Mr. Ciringione will no longer be working as a teacher aide 1:1 with a student with special education needs; however, he will continue to receive a special education stipend of \$3.57 per hour for the hours that he works in that capacity. It is recommended that Mr. Ciringione's hours remain at 35 hours per week.

- 2.2 Ann-Marie Gopaul, Teacher Aide, (Retroactive)  
Increase in Hours  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

### RESOLUTION

15-421

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves a retroactive change in assignment for Ann-Marie Gopaul, Teacher Aide, Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School, effective March 9, 2016 to June 30, 2016. Ms. Gopaul's hours will increase from 25 hours per week to 29 hours per week. She will continue to receive a special education stipend of \$3.57 per hour for the hours that she works in that capacity, and she will continue to receive an hourly base salary of \$17.02.

- 2.3 Mary Anderson, Teacher Aide,  
Change in Appointment (Retroactive)  
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-422

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves a retroactive change in appointment for Mary Anderson, Teacher Aide, Greenville School, for 5.75 hours per day at an hourly rate of \$16.08 (Step 1) for each hour worked at a maximum of 29 hours per week, retroactive to March 8, 2016 and for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves an additional stipend of \$3.57 for each hour worked in special education.

3. Resignation  
3.1 Matthew Bernstein, Teaching Assistant,  
Seely Place School

RESOLUTION

15-423

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Matthew Bernstein, Teaching Assistant, Seely Place School, effective June 30, 2016.

4. Resignation Due to Retirement  
4.1 Antonio Evangelista, Custodian/Maintenance,  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-424

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts with regret and appreciation for his 33 years of service to the children of the Edgemont School District, the resignation due to retirement of Antonio Evangelista, Custodian/Maintenance, in the Edgemont School District, effective June 15, 2016.

5. Leave of Absence (FMLA)
- 5.1 Joyce Cleary, Secretary to Principal,  
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-425

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves an unpaid leave of absence (FMLA) for Joyce Cleary, Secretary to the Principal at Greenville School, effective Monday, April 4, 2016 through Friday, May 13, 2016.

6. Advancement on the Salary Schedule, Professional Staff  
for the 2015-2016 School Year (Retroactive)

RESOLUTION

15-426

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the retroactive salary advancement for the 2015-2016 school year, the increase is retroactive to September 1, 2015:

- |     |                                |              |
|-----|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 6.1 | Suzanne LaPadula (Retroactive) |              |
|     | <u>FROM</u>                    | <u>TO</u>    |
|     | M, Step 3                      | M+15, Step 3 |
|     | \$77,471                       | \$79,600     |

B. Students

1. Programs/Services for fourteen (14) CPSE students and (1) one CSE student (CPSE/CSE meetings held during the month of March 2016)

RESOLUTION

15-427

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 fourteen (14) CPSE students and the (1) one CSE student who had their CPSE/CSE meetings held during the month of March 2016.

C. Business

1. Approval of Contract Award to,  
Marfi Contracting Corp.  
Seely Place Roof Replacement/Related Work Project – Bond Construction

RESOLUTION

15-428

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the contract award for the Seely School Roof Replacement and Related Work Project to Marfi Contracting Corp. for the total bid amount of \$2,258,700.

2. Authorization of New Student Club,

RESOLUTION

15-429

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the formation of the New Student Club listed below:

- HSDA – (High School Democrats of America)  
Mr. Ken Rosenberg (volunteer)

Jennifer Darger extended her appreciation to Mr. Ken Rosenberg, volunteer advisor, for helping students with this new club. She said we appreciate the volunteerism of all teachers who move forward with new student clubs.

3. Approval of Contract for Health Services for Private School Students,  
White Plains City School District

RESOLUTION

15-430

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 White Plains City School District for seven (7) Edgemont resident students attending private schools at a total cost of \$6,242.88.

4. Approval of Budget Transfer(s)

RESOLUTION

15-431

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


<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
A1620 529 00 0000 Vehicle Maintenance	A5510 490 00 0000 BOCES Maintenance	\$ 4,000.00
A1620 163 01 0000 Custodians EHS	A5510 160 00 0000 Non-Instructional Salaries	\$ 2,000.00
A2110 130 01 0000 Instructional Salaries EHS	A1325 161 00 0000 Treasurer	\$ 8,600.00
A2110 130 01 0000 Instructional Salaries EHS	A2815 160 00 0000 Non-Instructional Salaries	\$ 16,000.00
A2255 150 01 0000 Instr. Serv-Resource Room	A2255 161 02 0000 Teacher Aides-ABA Classroom	\$ 6,500.00
A2110 401 01 0049 Repair & Service Contracts	A2110 480 01 0049 Textbooks	\$ 2,999.70

David M. C. Stern 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. David announced the next regular board meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 12 at 8:15 P.M. At this meeting the Board must adopt the administrative budget proposal for 2016-2017 that will be presented to the voters on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The next scheduled board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19, when tenure candidates will be presented.

Jay Jacobson, School Board candidate, thanked the administration for the opportunity to be a part of the process. He congratulated Ken, Alec, and Judy on being selected as nominees, and he thanked Howard Hirsch as Chairman of the SBNC Committee for his methods and fairness of the process.

David M. C. Stern thanked everyone for their comments.

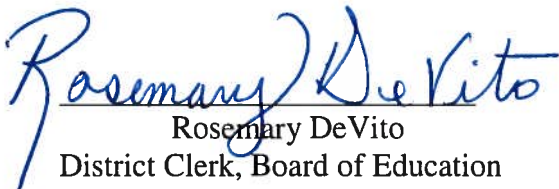
## VIII. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS


- 04/12/16 Board of Education Regular Meeting 7:00 P.M.\*  
Executive Session before Regular Meeting  
**The Board must adopt the budget proposal for 2016-2017**  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School Library
- 04/19/16 Board of Education Regular Meeting 7:00 P.M.\*  
Executive Session before Regular Meeting  
**Tenure Candidate Presentation**  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School Library
- 05/09/16 **Voter Registration, District Office**  
Monday 3 P.M. – 7 P.M.  
Voter Qualifications:  
❖ A citizen of the United States  
❖ At least eighteen years of age by May 17, 2016  
❖ A resident of the District for at least thirty days before May 17, 2016
- 05/10/16 Board of Education Regular Meeting 7:00 P.M.\*  
Public Hearing on the 2016-2017 Budget Proposal  
Executive Session before Regular Meeting  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School LGI
- 05/17/16 **Board of Education Budget Vote/Board Election**  
**6:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.**  
 **EHS Jim San Marco Gymnasium**  
Edgemont residents who are registered voters vote on the budget proposal for 2016-2017 and on candidates for election to the Edgemont Board of Education. The gymnasium is handicapped-accessible.

\*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.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:39 P.M. David Chao made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Jennifer Darger 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