

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
EDGEMONT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Edgemont Junior-Senior High School LGI
July 1, 2015
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, and Devan Ganeshananthan also attended. There were twelve community members present.

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. Jonathan Faust made a motion to adjourn the public meeting and to begin Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters. Anish Nanavaty seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

At 8:27 P.M. Anish Nanavaty made a motion to readjourn to public session. Jonathan Faust seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

None

III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

None

IV. RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY

David M. C. Stern welcomed everyone to the first regular meeting of the 2015-2016 school year.

David recognized former board president, Sarah Stern. Sarah commented on the "outstanding job" of David Chao and David M. C. Stern and said "well done." She then welcomed the two re-elected leaders to the board, David M. C. Stern and Anish Nanavaty, not only wishing them well but also anticipating continued "high expectations."

Devan M. C. Stern asked the board to take Agenda Item C.1., Authorization of New Student Club, out of order.

Devan Ganeshanathan introduced freshmen, Andrea Lopreiato and Ananya Gurumurthy to share details about their student club proposal, FIRST Robotics Team (FRC). Andrea explained that each January FIRST releases a game, and teams have six weeks to design, build, and program a robot to play that game in competitions against other teams. Students work alongside adult mentors and get in-depth hands on experience with STEM. Ananya said that the goal is to inspire students to pursue their interests in STEM and give them hands-on engineering experience. She said, “FRC is an intense, realistic, and spirited program that will allow students to flaunt their inner engineer.” The students acknowledged that there are many companies that are very interested in sponsoring school teams.

Brian Yarrington asked about last year’s game. Andrea said last year’s game involved recyclables and robots stacking recyclable material.

Michael Bianchi asked about the cost of entering a competition. Ananya responded that the fee is \$5,000 and that the money will be raised through fundraising and sponsorships.

David Chao recognized Suzanne La Padula as the club’s advisor. He asked if this organization has any connection with Science Olympiad. Devan Ganeshanathan said that he could see students involving FRC with Science Olympiad.

Jonathan Faust encouraged the students to publicize their efforts through the student bulletin and to the community.

David M. C. Stern commented that the club is hoping for corporate sponsorship. He asked if this money, \$15,000, plus materials will be raised within a year’s time. Andrea responded that corporations such as APPLE give millions of dollars for projects such as this one.

Jennifer Darger recognized with appreciation club volunteer, Suzanne La Padula, and said that the advisors are volunteer teachers who give their time for students to pursue outside interests. She said, “We ask that you and the members of the FRC Club also express your gratitude and appreciation to faculty and mentors.”

Jennifer Darger made a motion to authorize the formation of the new student club, FIRST Robotics Team (FRC) and name Suzanne La Padula as volunteer advisor. Michael Bianchi seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

C. Business

1. Authorization of New Student Club

RESOLUTION

15-044

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

- **FIRST Robotics Team (FRC)** – Ms. Suzanne LaPadula (volunteer advisor)

Victoria Kniewel recognized the presence of Joe Schippa and asked the board to approve Joseph T. Schippa as Director of Pupil Personnel Services for the Edgemont School District.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Personnel

1. Appointments

1.4 Joseph T. Schippa, Ph.D., Director of Pupil Personnel Services

RESOLUTION

15-045

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the probationary appointment of Joseph T. Schippa as follows:

Tenure Area:	Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Date of Commencement:	July 6, 2015
Date of Expiration:	July 6, 2019
Certification:	School District Administrator, Permanent
Salary for 2015-2016:	\$168,500

Victoria said she is "...thrilled to be recommending Dr. Schippa for this position; he will be providing leadership for not only the Special Education Department but also the Guidance Department to bring those services together to achieve success for all students. Victoria said Dr. Schippa comes from the Chappaqua Central School District where he spent 16 years as a school psychologist and the Committee on Special Education Chairperson and Chairperson of the Department of Psychology and Social Work for the past three years. Victoria added that Dr. Schippa has a wealth of experience in professional development and lots of collaboration and teamwork. She concluded, "We are all looking forward to working with Joe."

Victoria asked that the board take Agenda Item A.1.5, Brittany Robinson, Probationary Teacher, District-Wide, separately.

Jonathan Faust made a motion to approve the appointment of Brittany Robinson, Probationary Teacher, District-Wide. Jennifer Darger seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

1.5 Brittany Robinson, Probationary Teacher, District-Wide

RESOLUTION

15-046

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the probationary appointment of Brittany Robinson as follows:

Tenure Area:	Music Education
Date of Commencement:	September 1, 2015
Date of Expiration:	June 30, 2018
Job Appointment:	K-12 Music Teacher
Certification:	Music
Salary for 2015-2016:	M, Step 5 (\$84,418)

Devan Ganeshanathan welcomed Brittany to the team and added that she will be working in all three buildings as a strings teacher.

Board members welcomed Brittany to Edgemont.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

Brian Yarrington made a motion to accept the monetary gifts from the Edgemont PTA, Parents of Exiting Sixth Grade Students (through Edgemont PTA) Seely Place School, and Modell's II, Inc. Jennifer Darger seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

- Edgemont PTA:
 - \$7,500.00 requested for 26 Dell Chromebooks and a Rolling Storage and Charging Cart, Seely Place School and Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-047

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$7,500 from the Edgemont PTA for 26 Dell Chromebooks and a Rolling Storage and Charging Cart for both Seely Place School and Greenville School.

- Parents of Exiting Sixth Grade Students (through Edgemont PTA), Seely Place School:
 - \$532.00 requested for bench
 - \$120.60 requested for plaque

RESOLUTION

15-048

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$652.60 requested for the items described above.

- \$290.69 from Modell's II, Inc. for Edgemont Athletics

RESOLUTION

15-049

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$290.69 for Edgemont Athletics.

Michael Curtin commented on the generous monetary gift from the Edgemont PTA for \$7,500.00 requested for 26 Dell Chromebooks and Rolling Storage and Charging Cart for Seely and Greenville Schools. He said, "The PTA has come to the rescue; they are willing to work with us in our technology needs." Mike explained that the Smart Schools Bond Act funding has been delayed and should begin to come in January. He said the PTA continues to talk to the technology team as part of the strategic action plan. Mike concluded, "We are grateful to the PTA for their support."

David M. C. Stern thanked the Edgemont PTA for their generosity and said, "One of the strengths of our school district is that we continue to receive gifts from our school community."

David M. C. Stern asked that attention be given to Strategic Planning Update and Health and Safety Policy: Allergy Addendum.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Health and Safety Policy: Allergy Addendum: Discussion and Adoption
Victoria Kniewel

Victoria asked the board for comments and/or questions.

Jonathan Faust commented on the language in line 30 and recommended that "be prepared" be omitted and that either the word "strive" or the word "endeavor" be inserted. Jonathan asked for clarification regarding paragraph B, specifically line 35 (second sentence). Victoria Kniewel explained that the Allergy Action Plan comes directly from the physician and the parent provides that plan to the school. Victoria said, "It is the doctor's medical orders."

Jonathan Faust made a motion to adopt the Health and Safety Policy: Allergy Addendum as amended. Michael Bianchi seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

C. Business

5. Adoption of Health and Safety Policy: Allergy Addendum

RESOLUTION

15-050

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the adoption of the Health and Safety Policy: Allergy Addendum as presented at the June 9, 2015 public board meeting and the public hearing (second reading) on June 23, 2015.

Jennifer Darger commented on the high school graduation she attended and described it as "thought-provoking." She said, "We appreciate all those who spoke and those who took part in putting everything together...an excellent presentation; thank you very much to all those who helped put this event together. Victoria Kniewel added that she experienced the same exhilaration in the Moving-Up Ceremonies from students and speakers in both elementary schools.

Victoria Kniewel asked the board to approve the remaining Personnel Items A.1.1 through A.1.3 and Agenda Items C.2. through C.8; and Walk-in Item C.9., Approval of Superintendent to Make Changes to Pearlcare Contract. Agenda Item A.1.6 and Item A.1.7 will be motioned separately.

Jennifer Darger made a motion to approve the remaining Personnel Items as listed by the Superintendent of Schools. Michael Bianchi seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Personnel

1. Appointments

1.1 Lead Aides

RESOLUTION

15-051

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals as Lead Aides for the 2015-2016 school year:

1.1.1	Carol Indiviglio, Greenville School	\$1,900
1.1.2	Mariann Pavone, Seely Place School	1,900

1.2 Extracurricular Appointments, Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-052

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following Co-curricular Advisors at the Greenville School for the 2015-2016 school year:

STIPEND

1.2.1	Barbara Horowitz/ Peter Khouri	AV Coordinator	\$ 669.00 each
1.2.2	Heather Butler	Publication	1,577.00
1.2.3	Pat Kuschman	Student Council, Co-Advisor	801.50
	Marisa Ferrara	Student Council, Co-Advisor	801.50
1.2.4	Pat Kuschman	Service Club	1,450.00
1.2.5	Barbara Horowitz	Cultural Arts Liaison	670.00
1.2.6	Peter Khouri	Science Coordinator	3,208.00
1.2.7	Rose Farrell	5 th Gr. Overnight Trip Coord.	937.00
1.2.8	Kathleen Calnon	All-County Chorus	813.00
1.2.9	David Brandom	All-County Band/Orchestra	406.50
1.2.10	Marisa Ferrara	Testing Coordinator	2,428.00

1.3 Co-curricular Appointments, Seely Place School

RESOLUTION

15-053

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following Co-curricular Appointments at the Seely Place School for the 2015-2016 school year:

		<u>STIPEND</u>
Jeremie Peace	AV Coordinator	\$1,338.00
Jennifer Borella	Publication, Co-Advisor	788.50
Deborah Mumford	Publication, Co-Advisor	788.50
Kristen Bunt	Student Council	801.50
Tara Gallagher	Student Council	801.50
Rayna Shapiro	Service Club	1,450.00
Jennifer Borella	Cultural Arts Liaison	670.00
Sandra Capuano	Science Coordinator	3,208.00
Jessica Leonard	Testing Coordinator	2,428.00
Jeremie Peace	All-County Chorus	813.00
David Brandom	All-County Band	406.50
Edward Kennedy	Coordinator, Fifth Grade Trip	937.00
Patricia D'Agostino	Co-Director of Sixth-Grade Camp	1,904.50

Victoria Kniewel asked the board to approve the appointment of Tobey Saracino, as Head of the Physical Education Department for the 2015 summer (A.1.6) and to approve Brian Connolly as Interim Assistant for Athletics for the 2015 summer (A.1.7) separately.

Please note Agenda Items 1.4 and 1.5 were motioned separately and out of order.

Brian Yarrington made a motion to approve the appointment of Tobey Saracino as Head of the Physical Education Department (Summer 2015) and to approve the appointment of Brian Connolly as Interim Assistant for Athletics (Summer 2015). Jonathan Faust seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

1.6 Tobey Saracino, Head of Physical Education, (Summer 2015) Edgemont Jr./Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-054

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Tobey Saracino as follows: Tobey will be paid for up to 120 hours of summer work (hours to be combined with the Interim Assistant for Athletics) at an hourly rate of \$63.48 beginning on 7/1/15 – 8/30/15.

1.7 Brian Connolly, Interim Assistant for Athletics, (Summer 2015)

RESOLUTION

15-055

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Brian Connolly as follows: Brian will be paid for up to 120 hours of summer work (hours to be combined with the Interim Head of Physical Education) at an hourly rate of \$63.48 beginning on 7/1/15 – 8/30/15.

B. Students
None

C. Business

Please note that Agenda Item C.1. was motioned out of order.

2. Approval of Administrative Salaries for 2015-2016

RESOLUTION

15-056

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education approves the administrative salaries for the 2015-2016 school year for the following:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
Jennifer Allen	\$175,194
Michael Curtin	167,435
Eve Feuerstein	134,437
Devan Ganeshananthan	183,585
Jennifer Johnson	155,443
Edward Kennedy	196,687
John McCabe	174,245
Susan Shirken	233,373

3. Authorization for Transfer of Funds to Pay Certiorari Settlement, Niksus Realty

RESOLUTION

15-057

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the transfer of funds in the amount of \$74,585.15 from the Certiorari Reserve to the 2014-2015 General Fund in order to pay the settlement in full for Niksus Realty.

4. Authorization to Enter into Contracts with Service Providers for Special-Education Students
- 4.1 Behavior Analysts, ABA Services

RESOLUTION

15-058

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education authorizes Victoria Kniewel as Superintendent to enter into a contract with Behavior Analysts, to provide ABA services for CSE Student #1477 for up to 12.5 hours per week, at a rate not to exceed \$150 per hour, for the 2015-2016 school year as well as an additional 7.5 hours per week of direct ABA services at a rate not to exceed \$150 per hour for six weeks during the Summer 2015.

- 4.2 Marcie Klebanoff, Assistive Technology and Augmentative Communication

RESOLUTION

15-059

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education authorizes Victoria S. Kniewel as Superintendent of Schools to enter into a contract with Marcie Klebanoff to provide assistive technology and augmentative communication services, for the 2015-2016 school year, at the rates listed below:

Evaluation - \$800 per evaluation

Technical support (including setup/modification) - \$85 per hour

Programming of Augmentative Communication Devices - \$85 per hour

Training staff and parents - \$100 per hour

Direct training of student - \$100 per hour

Meetings as required by the District - \$85 per hour

- 4.3 Authorization to Approve Contract with the Devereux Foundation for Special Education Services for the 2015-2016 school year

RESOLUTION

15-060

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board to sign a contract for Special Education Services for the 2015-2016 school year.

- 4.4 Authorization to Approve Contract with the Hawthorne Foundation, Inc.
for Special Education Services for the 2015-2016 school year

RESOLUTION

15-061

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education authorizes Victoria S. Kniewel as Superintendent to sign a contract for Special Education Services with the Hawthorne Foundation, Inc. for the 2015-2016 school year.

Please note that Agenda Item C.5., Adoption of Health and Safety Policy: Allergy Addendum, was motioned separately and out of order.

6. Approval of Budget Amendment

RESOLUTION

15-062

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Edgemont Union-Free School District budget for the 2014-2015 school year be amended to reflect the receipt of \$1,733.00.

7. Approval of Transportation for Field Trips and Athletics

RESOLUTION

15-063

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the District to enter into a transportation contract with Service Bus Company for Field Trips and Sports Trips for the 2015-2016 school year at the contract price of \$193,073.

8. Approval of Budget Transfers

RESOLUTION

15-064

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

	FROM	TO	AMOUNT
1	A1620 163 02 0000 Custodians-GR	A1620 165 01 0000 Custodian OT-EHS	\$10,000
2	A1620 163 02 0000 Custodians-GR	A1620 166 00 0000 Student Serv. & Sub Cleaner	\$5,000
3	A2110 130 01 0000 Instr. Salaries EHS	A2255 150 03 0000 Instr. Serv. Resource Room	\$5,000
4	A2610 150 00 0000 Instr. Salaries	A2610 160 01 0000 Non-Instr Salaries	\$500
5	A2110 130 01 0000 Instr. Salaries EHS	A2850 150 03 0000 Instr. Salaries	\$4,000
6	A9060 800 00 0000 Health Ins. Program	A9072 802 00 0000 Admin. Benefits	\$17,000
7	A9030 801 00 0000 Social Security Program	A2250 471 00 0000 Tuition Residential	47,274
8	A5540 453 00 0000 Trans. Undistributed	A5540 451 00 0000 Trans. Private Special Ed	200

Victoria asked the board to approve the following walk-in resolution:

9. Approval of Superintendent to Make Changes to Pearlcare Contract

RESOLUTION

15-065

RESOLVED: That the Edgemont Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to make an adjustment in the Pearlcare contract regarding the Summer Intensive Communication Achievement Program (ICAP) not to exceed \$45 per hour for nursing services.

Victoria Kniewel commented that applicant screening has begun for the position of Director of Athletics. She said a representative group of individuals including community members will be part of the selection process, and the committee is looking to bring a recommendation to the board by August. Victoria added that she is very appreciative of Tobey Saracino and Brian Connolly for “stepping up” and assisting the district through this transition period.

Strategic Planning Update

Victoria Kniewel

Victoria Kniewel described strategic planning as working with each other and communicating with each other about the bigger goals. She said “voice is important” and amplified that Strategic Goals provide infrastructure, equitable access, professional learning, and technical support for the integration of technology to promote creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking; to create authentic opportunities to foster students’ understanding of their roles as local and global citizens, and to develop purposeful structures and allocate time to link collaborative professional development to student needs. She said, “This is all about systemic growth.”

Victoria talked about how those goals are achieved and said that the Action Plan Teams will be a large part of the process. She said the teams have met in May for two hours per week and an additional day in June. Victoria added that she will bring in each of the Action Plan Teams to meet with the board.

David M. C. Stern said he was looking forward to more “work style” meetings going forward.

David M. C. Stern reviewed the schedule of meetings and announced that the next board meeting will be on Tuesday, July 28th, at 5:00 P.M. (executive session) followed by public session at 6:00 P.M. David explained that the time change is because of the Edgemont School Foundation event scheduled for later that evening.

VIII. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

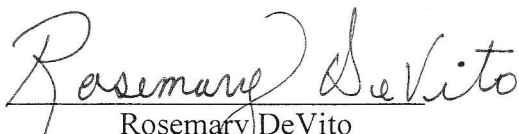
- 7/28/15 Board of Education Regular Meeting 5 P.M.**
Executive Session before Regular Meeting
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School LGI
- 8/25/15 Board of Education Regular Meeting 7 P.M.*
Executive Session before Regular Meeting
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School LGI

**Please note that this evening's Board meeting will be called to order at 5 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 6:00 P.M.

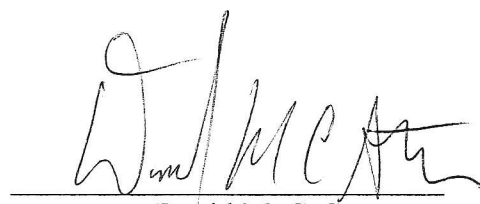
* Please note that all regularly scheduled evening Board meetings will be called to order at 7 P.M. in the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School Library. There will then be an immediate adjournment to Executive Session with a readjournment to public session in the LGI at 8:15 P.M.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:10 P.M. Michael Bianchi 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