

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
EDGEMONT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Edgemont Junior-Senior High School LGI  
February 9, 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, Jennifer Allen, Eve Feuerstein, Devan Ganeshananthan, Jennifer Johnson, Joseph T. Schippa, and Edward W. Stickles also attended. Board president David M. C. Stern arrived late. There were 45 community members, students, faculty and staff present.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board vice-president Anish Nanavaty called the meeting to order at 7:12 P.M.

At 7:12 P.M. Michael Bianchi made a motion to adjourn the public meeting and to begin Executive Session to discuss special education students, personnel, negotiations, and legal matters. Brian Yarrington seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

At 8:15 P.M. Jennifer Darger made a motion to readjourn to public session. Anish Nanavaty seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

David M. C. Stern welcomed everyone to the board meeting and acknowledged the members of the Edgemont Ice Hockey Team and members of the G.O. who were present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Jonathan Faust made a motion to approve the special executive session meeting minutes for January 19, 2016 as amended and to approve the regular meeting minutes for January 26, 2016. Anish Nanavaty 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 December 2015. Jennifer Darger seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

#### IV. RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY

Anthony Sarro, community member, stood with the members of the ice hockey team and expressed his gratitude for the “success of the program and the support of the sustainability of the program.” Hockey player, Jack Rosen, spoke about the contribution the players have made for Edgemont.

Victoria Kniewel acknowledged the representatives of the G.O. who came forward to speak before the board and the community. Charlotte Brown said that the G.O. represents both school and community and that the mission is to offer students the opportunity to run their own programs, implement their own ideas, and plan events that could be productive to the Edgemont community. Charlotte talked about two volleyball events involving the PTSA and Whitson’s Culinary Group. She continued to say that the G.O. members work closely with the Environmental Club and the Greenburgh Nature Center and is very excited to work with these two groups throughout the school year.

Devan Ganeshananthan announced “good news” from the Berklee Jazz Festival. Edgemont’s Vocal Jazz Group won first place at the Berklee Jazz Festival for the third year in a row. Jordan Folk won an Outstanding Musicianship Award and Indigo Passariello won a Superior Musicianship Award. James Brandfonbrener won the Herb Pomeroy Jazz Composition and Arranging Contest, and his winning piece, *Waltz for Last Summer*, was performed by the Berklee College Jazz Orchestra. James will be the recipient of a full scholarship to the Berklee College Summer Program. Congratulations and a round of applause was extended to all involved and to Kelley Morse and John Catoliato in support of their students.

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

Jennifer Darger made a motion to accept the monetary gift from the Edgemont PTSA requested for “Girl Bands Rock” with great appreciation. Brian Yarrington seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

- Edgemont PTSA: \$3,075.00  
\$3,000.00 requested for “Girl Bands Rock”  
\$ 75.00 requested for Metro Award Registration Fee  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

#### RESOLUTION

15-351

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$3,075.00 from the Edgemont PTSA requested to fund “Girl Bands Rock” for \$3,000 and \$75.00 requested to fund the Metro Award Registration Fee, Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School.

Devan explained that “Girl Bands Rock” is a motivational initiative with a focus to bring unique experiences for the students to learn leadership, professionalism, and creativity in performing music.

Jennifer Darger made a motion to accept the monetary gift from the Edgemont PTA requested for a WhiteBoard and Scanner for Seely Place School with great appreciation. Anish Nanavaty seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

- Edgemont PTA: \$536.09  
\$536.09 requested for WhiteBoard and Scanner  
Seely Place School

#### RESOLUTION

15-352

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$536.09 from the Edgemont PTA requested to fund a WhiteBoard and a Scanner to benefit the children of Seely Place School.

David M. C. Stern thanked the Edgemont PTSA and the Edgemont PTA for their generous gifts with great appreciation.

#### VI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

(1) Special Education Services and  
Proposed Budget for 2016-2017

Joseph T. Schippa  
Edward W. Stickles

Victoria Kniewel greeted everyone and announced that tonight will reflect the second budget presentation. Mike Curtin presented the technology budget at the January 26, 2016 board meeting. Victoria reminded everyone that this administrative team has been together for six months and described the team as “a great team.” The evening’s presenters were then introduced—  
Dr. Joseph T. Schippa, Director of Pupil Personnel Services and  
Edward W. Stickles, Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

Dr. Schippa recognized Paula Ceddia and Karen Storminger as “two very special people in the special education department whose support has been invaluable in helping us do our job.” Paula and Karen received an overwhelming round of applause from the administration, the board, and the community.

Dr. Schippa began his PowerPoint with an overview of special education in the Edgemont School District. He began with a slide showing students working in various classrooms and reminded everyone of the Focus Forward initiative and how services are further supported by the context of the District’s strategic goals. He said, “We are looking to have a systemic approach to all our students who have serious challenges; we look at things through an individual lens.”

Dr. Schippa reviewed the four guiding principles of providing a “free, appropriate, public education in the least restrictive environment, maintaining the quality of programs in special education, providing a continuum of services in grades k-12, and fostering students’ independence in order to promote their transition to post-secondary vocational and/or continued education opportunities.” Ed Stickles reviewed data identifying CSE/CPSE classified students. He identified and talked about the 13 classifications under the Commissioner’s Regulations.

Ed then talked about the ICAP Program (Intensive Communication Achievement Program) and its success in Edgemont. He made available to the community the ICAP brochure that has become a popular commodity not only in district but also in neighboring school districts. He said that parents are saying that students who are in the ICAP Program have come a long way. Ed said that the vision is to continue to meet the students’ academic skills and that the department is working with Kit Casey, transition Coordinator at BOCES, who will be assisting in developing transition goals for students after they leave high school to prepare them for life beyond Edgemont. Ed added that one of the biggest benefits of the ICAP Program is the education that other Edgemont students receive.

Dr. Schippa thanked Jen Allen for helping to acquire the second ICAP classroom and in integrating the ICAP program. Jen said, “The sixth-grade students love playing/interacting with the ICAP students; it has become a great integration for different members of our community.”

Dr. Schippa concluded with what he described as, “My essential question” i.e. “What makes special education “special”? He described special education as a specialized form of education using specific tools to meet their needs. As part of his recommendations, Dr. Schippa focused on his recommendation of a Multi-Sensory Reading Intervention Program for students struggling with literacy and for more community education.

In discussing the special education budget, Dr. Schippa reviewed out-of-district placements for next year. He talked about proposing an additional .5 school psychologist position for 2016-2017 to support the Intensive Communication Achievement Program at Greenville Elementary School.

The amount budgeted for contracted services, equipment, and supplies for the 2015-2016 school year was \$2,930,876. The total amount requested for the 2016-2017 school year is \$2,570,281 which will be offset by two tuition students in ICAP generating revenue in the amount of \$136,781 resulting in an adjusted total to \$2,433,500—a decrease of \$497,376 (16.9%) or almost a half-million dollars less than last year’s budget. A summary of special education program costs over the past five years can be found on the District website.

Board discussion/questions ensued. Some topics included questions regarding the Multi-Sensory Reading Intervention Program recommendation, comparability in the range of classifications with other districts and a question as to whether there are initiatives for the Junior High School students to have a similar dynamic; a board member asked what is the biggest surprise that has been encountered in this new role. A brief discussion ensued regarding Teacher Aides and Teacher Assistants and their role in Pupil Personnel Services. A question regarding how the program is evaluated was also asked.

The consensus of the Board seemed to be that “things are being done right; bringing kids back is great financially; and the ICAP Program is a significant success.

Jennifer Darger thanked Ed Stickles and Joe Schippa and said, “I appreciate that we are bringing our students home; that benefits everyone who is here; we are proud of an Edgemont education and it should be available to as many of the students who live in this district as possible. You have to foster and develop independence; that is a helpful goal; you are helping our district on all levels.”

David M. C. Stern commented that we are classifying fewer of our students in special education and sending fewer numbers of students out of district. The total budget proposed tonight including the new programs is lower by a half million dollars than last year’s budget. This is partly due to keeping more students in district and having more tuition students.

Community questions/comments. Community member, Anthony Sarro, commented that it appears to be cheaper to have the ICAP program in district; if you have a k-12 program with the goal of having students who are functional, is there a possibility or some criteria that would allow students to stay in the program longer? Dr. Schippa responded that students can remain in the program until age 21. Is there any data on the effect positive or negative on other students? Dr. Schippa responded “all positive.” Are students involved in music therapy. Ed Stickles responded that students participate in all of the programs such as art and music and added that athletics can be used as a link for kids to be themselves without the stress of academics. Mr. Sarro said, “I encourage you to collect as many data points as possible from when students begin the program.” Ed responded that the Annual Review Meetings are used to mark the student’s progress and to come up with a plan that will benefit the student’s future needs. Community member, Lisa Wexler, asked about the parent component, specifically what can parent organizations do to help.

Dr. Schippa and Ed Stickles ended the presentation with a quote from Aristotle, “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

For more details on this presentation, go to [www.edgemont.org](http://www.edgemont.org), Board of Education, Presentations to the Board.

Victoria Kniewel asked the board to approve Personnel Items VII. A.1. through VII. A.7. and Agenda Item B.1. Students except Student # 1227 and Student #1870 and to approve Business Items C.1 through C.6.

Jonathan Faust made a motion to approve Personnel Items VII. A.1. through VII. A.7. and Agenda Item B.1. save Student #1227 and Student #1870 and Business Items C.1. through C.6. as listed by the Superintendent of Schools. Jennifer Darger seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Personnel

#### 1. Appointments

- 1.1 Ellen Silberstein, Per diem Substitute Teacher,  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

### RESOLUTION

15-353

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ellen Silberstein, Per diem Substitute Teacher, Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School, during the 2015-2016 school year at a salary of \$100 per day for each day worked, effective February 10, 2016.

2. Debate Judge, 2015-2016 School Year  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

### RESOLUTION

15-354

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

- 2.1 Flynn Makuch-Assistant Coach Wichita State University,  
Summer Lab Instructor Northwestern University
3. Revision to Resolution 15-311, January 12, 2016  
Janine Manninen, Leave-Replacement Mathematics Teacher,  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

### RESOLUTION

15-355

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Janine Manninen as a 1.0 FTE Leave-Replacement Mathematics Teacher, Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School at a pro-rated salary of M45, Step 4 effective the first day of Elaine Forgione's FMLA leave. (The full dollar amount for this lane and step is \$89,998.00)

4. Revision to Resolution 15-029, July 1, 2015  
Retroactive Appointment  
Michael Bianchi to Sign Checks

RESOLUTION

15-356

RESOLVED: That the resolution approving Jonathan Faust on July 1, 2015 be amended to appoint Michael Bianchi as authorized to sign checks on funds of the Board of Education retroactive to July 1, 2015.

5. Eric Kantor, Timekeeper for Wrestling Tournament,  
Retroactive Appointment  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-357

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the retroactive appointment of Eric Kantor as Timekeeper for the 2016 Edgemont Wrestling Tournament, at the contracted rate of \$59 per hour, retroactive to January 29, 2016.

6. Adjustment, Winter Coaches Longevity and Contracted Salary,  
2015-2016 Winter Athletic Season

RESOLUTION

15-358

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools,  
the Board of Education approves the recommended adjustments for the following  
winter athletic season coaches for the 2015-2016 school year:

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Position/Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Longevity</u>		<u>Contractual Salary</u>	
			<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
<b>Boys Basketball</b>	Varsity - Head	Joe Galgano	9	<b>8</b>	\$8,135	<b>No Change</b>
	Varsity - Assistant	Corey Borowitz	10	<b>9</b>	\$6,128	<b>No Change</b>
	JV - Assistant	Justin Perri	5	<b>4</b>	\$6,128	<b>\$6,011</b>
	Modified - Assistant	Mark Gryzlo	7	<b>6</b>	\$6,128	<b>\$6,011</b>
<b>Girls Basketball</b>	JV - Assistant	Larry Giustiniani	9	<b>8</b>	\$6,128	<b>No Change</b>
	Modified - Assistant	Katie Degen	7	<b>6</b>	\$6,128	<b>\$6,011</b>
	Modified - Assistant	Cristin Maguire	7	<b>6</b>	\$6,128	<b>\$6,011</b>
<b>Boys Swim</b>	Varsity - Head	Tobey Saracino	5	<b>4</b>	\$7,255	<b>No Change</b>
<b>Wrestling</b>	Modified - Assistant	Jedd Chesterson	7	<b>6</b>	\$6,128	<b>\$6,011</b>



7.     Resignation
- 7.1     Jonathan Feder, Teacher Aide  
          Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-359

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Jonathan Feder, Teacher Aide, Greenville School, effective January 30, 2016.

Victoria Kniewel asked the board to approve the remaining students and Walk-in Resolution Item C.7. authorizing Dr. Joseph T. Schippa to sign the amended contract for Special Education Services for the Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD).

Jennifer Darger made a motion to approve student programs and services for the remaining students as listed by the Director and the Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services. Anish Nanavaty seconded the motion.

David M. C. Stern recused himself and the motion was approved as follows:

6 Ayes    0 Nays    1 Recusal

B.     Students

1.     Programs/Services for nine (9) CSE students  
          (CSE meetings held during January and February 2016)

RESOLUTION

15-360

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Committee on Special Education, the Board of Education arranges for the programs and services as recommended for the nine (9) CSE students who had their CSE meetings held during January and February 2016.

C.     Business

1.     Approval of Contract for Health Services for Private School Students,  
          Bedford Central School District

RESOLUTION

15-361

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the 2015 - 2016 Contract for Health Services with the Bedford Central School District for two (2) Edgemont resident students attending private or parochial schools in Bedford at a total cost of \$2,071.16.

2. Approval of Budget Transfers

RESOLUTION

15-362

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>
A2255 160 00 0000 Teacher Aides-DW	A2255 161 02 0000 Teacher Aides-ABA Classroom ICAP	\$ 53,000.00
A2250 492 00 0000 BOCES CoSer 530	A2255 161 02 0000 Teacher Aides-ABA Classroom ICAP	\$ 55,000.00
A2250 492 00 0000 BOCES CoSer 530	A2256 201 00 0000 Equipment-CSE	\$ 5,000.00
A1620 162 00 0000 Grounds & Maintenance	A5510 160 00 0000 Non-Instructional Salaries	\$ 5,500.00

3. Authorization to Dispose of Broken Equipment  
Seely Place School

RESOLUTION

15-363

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the disposal of broken equipment at Seely Place School as listed below. The cost for repair and service for this equipment exceeds the cost of replacement:

**SEELY PLACE – Discards for February 2016**

<b>Room</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Serial #</b>	<b>Tag #</b>	<b>Problem</b>
110	HP Scanner 537OC	CN13Q21578	10953	Out of Warranty Broken
209	HP Scanner 537OC	CN13Q24905	10898	Out of Warranty Broken
219	HP Scanner 3970	Q3190A	10653	Out of Warranty Broken
Main Office	Lexmark Printer T642	79L1DZ	13350	Out of Warranty Broken

4. Recommendation to Participate in BOCES  
Cooperative Bidding Program

RESOLUTION

15-364

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the participation of the Edgemont UFSD in the BOCES Cooperative Bidding Program, provided that there is no cost to the District for participation in this program and that the District is not obligated to purchase from this list.

5. Authorization to Approve Contract with the  
Irvington Union Free School District  
for Special Education Services for Student #1227

RESOLUTION

15-365

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education authorizes Victoria S. Kniewel as Superintendent to sign a contract to provide special education services for Student #1227 in the Irvington Union Free School District for the 2015-2016 school year.

6. Authorization of New Student Club  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-366

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:

- **Chemistry Club** – Ms. Kristen Andersen  
(volunteer advisor)

Jennifer Darger expressed her appreciation to Kristen Andersen and to all faculty members for volunteering their time for students who wish to explore their education outside the classroom.

Walk-in Resolution

7. Approval of Amended Contract for Special Education Services,  
Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD)

RESOLUTION

15-367

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education authorizes Joseph T. Schippa, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, to sign the amended contract for Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD) to furnish Special Education services as needed for Students during the 2015-2016 school year as per the amended contract.

David M. C. Stern announced the next regular public board meeting to be held on \*\*February 23, 2016. At this meeting, the Administration will present the 2016-2017 budget proposal to the Board for initial discussion. An additional public board meeting will 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. This meeting is open to the public as observers and will be followed by a Regular Public Meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 8:15 p.m.

## VIII. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

- 02/23/16 Board of Education Regular Meeting 7 P.M.\*\*  
Executive Session before Regular Meeting  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School LGI
- 03/01/16 Board of Education Regular Meeting 7 P.M.\*\*\*I  
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

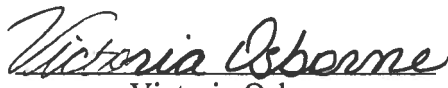
\* Please note that all regularly scheduled evening Board meetings will be called to order at 7 P.M. in the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School Library. There will then be an immediate adjournment to Executive Session with a readjournment to public session in the LGI at 8:15 P.M.


\*\*Please note that on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 Regular Meeting, the Executive Meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. to discuss budget matters.

\*\*\*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 9:18 P.M. Tom McCormack made a motion to adjourn the special meeting. David M. C. Stern seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve this motion.

  
Victoria Osborne  
District Clerk, Board of Education

  
Gerald Stoughton  
President, Board of Education