

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
EDGEMONT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Edgemont Junior-Senior High School LGI  
April 19, 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, Michael Curtin, Eve Feuerstein, Devan Ganeshananthan, Jennifer Johnson, Edward Kennedy, Joseph T. Schippa, and Edward W. Stickles also attended. There were 95 community members present including students, faculty, and staff.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board president David M. C. Stern called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M.

At 7:09 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 8:22 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(S)

None

III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

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

IV. RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY

David M. C. Stern welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT(S)

Jennifer Darger made a motion to accept the monetary gifts from the Edgemont PTA, the Edgemont PTSA, and a generous donation from an anonymous donor as listed. Jonathan Faust seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

- Edgemont PTA
  - \$15,000 Requested for Literacy Consultant

RESOLUTION

15-461

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$15,000 from the Edgemont PTA to be used for a literacy consultant.

- \$496 Requested for First Grade Trip to Tarrytown Music Hall  
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-462

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$496 from the Edgemont PTA to be used for a first grade field trip to the Tarrytown Music Hall.

- \$439 Requested for Portable Dishwasher  
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-463

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$439 to be used for a portable dishwasher for the Greenville School.

- Edgemont PTSA
  - \$621.20 Requested for Robotics Club Trip to White Plains Hospital  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-464

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$621.20 for the Robotics Club trip to White Plains Hospital.

- Anonymous Donors:
  - \$6,888 Requested for Edgemont Athletics

## RESOLUTION

15-465

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$6,888 from anonymous donors to be used for Edgemont Athletics.

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

David M. C. Stern asked that Personnel Item A.1.; and Business Items C.1. and C.2. be taken out of order.

Victoria Kniewel asked the board to approve New Business Items VII. A.2.; A.3.; and Walk-in-Item A.4; (New Business Item A.1. motioned separately) and All Student Services Items in B.1, and to approve Business Items C.3. (Business Items C.1. and C.2. motioned separately.)

## Business

C.1. Authorization to Cast Vote for BOCES 2016-2017 Estimated Administrative Budget

## RESOLUTION

15-466

RESOLVED: At the meeting of the Edgemont Board of Education, held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, Jennifer Darger moved, seconded by Jonathan Faust, that the 2016-2017 Estimated Administrative Budget for the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services in the amount of \$10,461,257 be approved.

The following Board Members voted Aye:

David Chao	Michael Bianchi
Brian Yarrington	David M. C. Stern
Jonathan Faust	Anish Nanavaty
Jennifer Darger	

The following Board Members voted Nay:

None

The vote on the above resolution was as follows:

Aye seven (7)    Nay zero (0)    Absent zero (0)

- C.2. Authorization to Cast Ballot for BOCES Trustees,  
Joseph Wooley, Catherine Draper and Lynn Frazer-McBride

RESOLUTION

15-467

RESOLVED: At the meeting of the Edgemont Board of Education, held on **Tuesday, April 19, 2016**, Jonathan Faust moved, seconded by Jennifer Darger, that one vote be cast for Joseph Wooley, Catherine Draper and Lynn Frazer-McBride to serve as trustees on the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services for the time period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019.

The following Board Members voted Aye:

David Chao	Michael Bianchi
Brian Yarrington	David M. C. Stern
Jonathan Faust	Anish Nanavaty
Jennifer Darger	

The following Board Members voted Nay:

None

The vote on the above resolution was as follows:

Aye seven (7)    Nay zero (0)    Absent zero (0)

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Tenure Recognition

Victoria S. Kniewel

Victoria Kniewel thanked everyone for their attendance this evening and thanked the tenure candidates for caring for the students and for each other. She said, "This is so wonderful; love seeing you all gathered here; thank you for being an integral part of the Edgemont family, and thank you for being here this evening."

Victoria then gave a brief overview of the tenure law and said that tenure signifies the end of a teacher's probationary period and that after tenure is granted, there needs to be just cause and due process in order to relieve a teacher from his/her duties. She concluded by saying that tonight is a "celebration of a milestone and that means being successful in Edgemont." Victoria once again thanked the candidates for the care that each has shown Edgemont students and for all the hard work that teachers do both in and outside of the classroom. "Congratulations."

Victoria called upon Jennifer Allen who then asked Brooke Schulthess, Erica Gutman, Jennifer Nicks, and Heather Weldon to come forward. Jen Allen said she is both proud and grateful to be part of tonight's celebration of tenure appointments and that each honoree is committed and dedicated to their students and each demonstrates compassion for their subject. Jen concluded by saying, "Each candidate has done a magnificent job, and it has been a pleasure and an honor to work with each of them; congratulations."

Ed Kennedy began by saying, "Welcome to the best board meeting of the year." He called Kristen Bunt, Tara Gallagher, and Laura Signorile to come forward. Ed spoke about each of the tenure candidates and said, "It is with great pleasure to recommend Kristen, Tara, and Laura, for tenure; congratulations."

Jennifer Johnson came forward and called Jamie Brookman, school counselor, to join her. Jennifer said Jamie is exceptional and dedicated, an outstanding school counselor. Jen said, "It is with great pleasure that I recommend Jamie Brookman for tenure."

Eve Feuerstein spoke on behalf of Denise Goodliffe, science teacher, and is happy and excited to recommend Denise for tenure.

Devan Ganeshananthan asked Eve Feuerstein to join him as he began to talk about the assistant principal. He described Eve as "bright, energetic, and an individual who has great ideas." Devan said Eve has a gift for the interpersonal. "Her intelligence and humor are infectious." Devan concluded, "I am fortunate to have you as part of my administrative team; I am happy to recommend Eve for tenure."

Devan then called upon Jennifer Johnson, assistant principal, to come forward and stand by him as he spoke on her behalf. He described Jennifer as articulate, poised, and level-headed. He concluded, "I am fortunate to have you as part of my administrative team; I am happy to recommend Jennifer for tenure."

Eve Feuerstein called Jordana Pauker, speech and language teacher, to stand beside her as she spoke on her behalf. Eve described Jordana as smart, motivated, and added that Jordana is a 1999 graduate of Edgemont. Eve said, "It is with great pleasure I recommend Jordana for tenure."

David M. C. Stern asked that a motion be made on behalf of the tenure candidates brought forward this evening.

Jonathan Faust made a motion to accept the tenure appointments for the faculty members and administrators as listed. Jennifer Darger seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Personnel

1. Tenure Appointments

- 1.1 Erica Gutman, K-12 Speech,  
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-468

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Erica Gutman's tenure appointment in the area of K-12 Speech, effective June 30, 2016.

- 1.2 Jennifer Nicks, Elementary Education,  
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-469

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Jennifer Nicks' tenure appointment in the area of Elementary Education, effective June 30, 2016.

- 1.3 Brooke Schulthess, K-12 Special Education,  
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-470

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Brooke Schulthess' tenure appointment in the area of K-12 Special Education, effective June 30, 2016.

- 1.4 Heather Weldon, Elementary Education,  
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-471

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Heather Weldon's tenure appointment in the area of Elementary Education, effective June 30, 2016.

- 1.5 Kristen Bunt, Elementary Education  
Seely Place School

RESOLUTION

15-472

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Kristen Bunt's tenure appointment in the area of Elementary Education, effective June 30, 2016.

- 1.6 Tara Gallagher, Elementary Education,  
Seely Place School

RESOLUTION

15-473

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Tara Gallagher's tenure appointment in the area of Elementary Education, effective June 30, 2016.

- 1.7 Laura Signorile, K-12 Special Education,  
Seely Place School

RESOLUTION

15-474

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Laura Signorile's tenure appointment in the area of K-12 Special Education, effective June 30, 2016.

- 1.8 Jamie Brookman, School Counselor  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-475

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Jamie Brookman's tenure appointment in the area of School Counselor, effective June 30, 2016.

- 1.9 Denise Goodliffe, 7-12 Science Teacher  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-476

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Denise Goodliffe's tenure appointment in the area of 7-12 Science, effective June 30, 2016.

- 1.10 Eve Feuerstein, Secondary Assistant Principal,  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-477

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Eve Feuerstein's tenure appointment in the area of Secondary Assistant Principal, effective June 30, 2016.

- 1.11 Jennifer Johnson, Secondary Assistant Principal,  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-478

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Jennifer Johnson's tenure appointment in the area of Secondary Assistant Principal, effective June 30, 2016.

- 1.12 Jordana Pauker, K-12 Speech,  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-479

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Jordana Pauker's tenure appointment in the area of K-12 Speech, effective June 30, 2016.

2. Appointments

- 2.1 Catherine Schoetz, Leave-Replacement English Teacher  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-480

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Catherine Shoetz, Leave-Replacement Teacher, at a salary of \$77,471 (M, Step 3), effective from the first day of Kristen Atkin's FMLA leave through June 30, 2016.



- 2.2 Melissa Lohay, Substitute Teacher  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-481

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Melissa Lohay, as a per diem substitute teacher for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year at a salary of \$100 per day for each day worked, up to a maximum of 40 days, effective April 20, 2016.

- 2.3 Volunteer Parent Chaperones, Eighth Grade Trip to New York City  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-482

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals as volunteer parent/guardian chaperones for the Edgemont Junior Senior High School's Eighth grade trip to New York City on May 3, 2016:

Nancy Gordon	Lisa Sayegh
Charan Sandhu	Fern Lazar
Lauren Warren	Avinash Singh
Dean Perlman	Jess Kam
Roseanne Klein	Lule Smajlaj
Marlene Spector	

- 2.4 Faculty Chaperones, St. Bernard Project, New Jersey Shore  
(Retroactive Appointment)  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School, Alternative School Special Program

RESOLUTION

15-483

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education retroactively approves the following faculty members as overnight chaperones for the Alternative School Special Program trip to build houses with St. Bernard Project on the New Jersey Shore as listed below:

April 11-13, 2016

Michelle Greenwald	\$798.00 2 nights @\$399/night
Cory Karpf	\$798.00 2 nights @\$399/night
William Scalley	\$798.00 2 nights @\$399/night

- 2.5 Kathleen Walsh, Chaperone, Mathletes Competition  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-484

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education retroactively approves the appointment of Kathleen Walsh as a weekend Chaperone for the Mathletes state competition described below:

Mathletes Competition	Stipend
April 8-9, 2016	\$520.00
	1 Night @ \$399
	1 weekend day @ \$121

- 2.6 Ellen Pyne, Theatrical Costume Designer, Spring Musical  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION:

15-485

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education retroactively approves the appointment of Ellen Pyne as Theatrical Costume Designer at the Edgemont Junior Senior High School for the Spring Musical at the following rate:

Theatrical Costume Designer	\$3,060
(Spring Musical @\$18/hour)	

3. Brendan Walsh, Teacher Aide, Change in Assignment (Retroactive)  
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-486

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves a retroactive change in assignment for Brendan Walsh from Teacher Aide to Teacher Aide (Special Education), effective April 18, 2016. Mr. Walsh will begin to receive a special education stipend of \$3.57 per hour for the hours that he works in that capacity. His hours will remain the same at 5.75 hours per day, not to exceed 29 hours per week.

Walk-in Resolution

- 4. Resignation
- 4.1 Aryn Wexler, Teacher Aide, Resignation (Retroactive)  
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-487

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Aryn Wexler, Teacher Aide in the Greenville School, effective April 15, 2016.

B. Students

- 1. Programs/Services for four (4) CPSE students  
(CPSE meetings held during the months of March/April 2016)

RESOLUTION

15-488

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Committee on Preschool Special Education/Committee on Special Education, the Board of Education arranges for the programs and services as recommended for the four (4) CPSE IEP's for meetings held during March/April 2016.

C. Business

Please note that C.1. and C.2. were motioned separately and out of order.

- 3. Approval of the Real Property Tax Report Card

RESOLUTION

15-489

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the school district Property Tax Report Card for the 2016-2017 school year.

David M. C. Stern announced the next regular board meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. The Budget Vote/Board Election will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.

David announced Voter Registration to be held on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> in the District Office from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Absentee Ballot Applications are available on line or in the District Office.

## VIII. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

### 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**

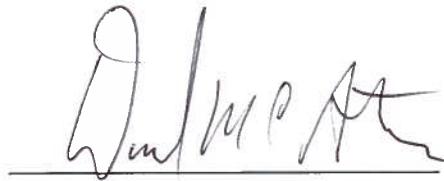
Edgemont residents who are registered voters vote on the budget proposal for 2016-2017 and on candidates for election to the Edgemont Board of Education. The gymnasium is handicapped-accessible.

\*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 9:05 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