

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
EDGEMONT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Edgemont Junior-Senior High School LGI  
December 8, 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, Jennifer Allen, Michael Curtin, Eve Feuerstein, Devan Ganeshanathan, Jennifer Johnson, John McCabe, Joseph Schippa, and Edward Stickles also attended. There were 37 community members, faculty, staff, and students present.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board president David M. C. Stern called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M.

At 7:40 P.M. Anish Nanavaty made a motion to adjourn the public meeting and to begin Executive Session to discuss special education students, personnel, and legal matters. Jonathan Faust seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

At 8:26 P.M. Jonathan Faust made a motion to readjourn to public session. Jennifer Darger seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING

Jonathan Faust made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for November 24, 2015 as amended. Michael Bianchi seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

None

IV. RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY

David M. C. Stern welcomed everyone to tonight's board meeting and shared some sad news. David talked about the passing of Marla Payson Weizner on Monday, December 7. Marla was a graduate of Edgemont High School and chose to make her career at Edgemont as a teacher since 1994. David said, "Marla was beloved as a person and respected as a teacher; she cared deeply for the children she taught." Among her family members are her eight-month old son, Matthew, and her two-year old daughter, Brooke. "Marla will remain in our hearts; we send our deepest condolences."

Jennifer Allen spoke on behalf of the Greenville community and said, “Marla was a person of extraordinary talent, a strong presence, and an outside-of-the box thinker; she knew how to capture people’s attention, loved children; the Greenville community is heartbroken.”

Victoria Kniewel recognized Edgemont as a “special community” through the support given to one another. She said that “Marla was a valued member of the entire Edgemont community; our deepest condolences to Marla’s family and to others who knew her.” Victoria ended with a comment by a student who did not have Marla as a teacher. The student said, “...sounds like everyone who had her was very lucky.”

At this time, David M. C. Stern called for a brief moment of silence for Marla Payson Weizner. He asked that donations be gifted to The Marla Fund through the Edgemont School Foundation as requested by Marla’s family.

David M. C. Stern recognized Kathleen Fox, Edgemont Teachers Association President. Kathleen introduced community member, Joan Pachner, and together they spoke about the benefits of Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk, an annual event sponsored by the Edgemont Teachers Association in collaboration with the professional association, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT). Kathleen explained that the money raised from this walk is vital in order to make progress in the fight against breast cancer.

Community member, Susan Perko, acknowledged the bond construction projects on tonight’s agenda and asked about the artificial fill for the Edgemont football field and the possible environmental health risks.

Community member, Matthew Shaw, said he sent emails to the board requesting that the decision on the field project be postponed in light of new information.

Victoria Kniewel acknowledged each gift as listed and asked the board for acceptance with gratitude.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

Jennifer Darger made a motion to accept the gifts as listed by the Superintendent of Schools with great appreciation. Jonathan Faust seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

- Edgemont PTSA:  
\$683.00 requested for Buzzer System-Academic Challenge  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-275

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$683.00 from the Edgemont PTSA requested for a Buzzer System-Academic Challenge.

- Edgemont PTA:  
\$370.00 requested for a Color Printer for the Developmental Reading Program  
Seely Place School

RESOLUTION

15-276

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts, with great appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$370.00 from the Edgemont PTA requested for a color printer for the Developmental Reading Program.

David M. C. Stern commented that part of what makes the Edgemont School District great are the contributions of our community members.

David M. C. Stern recognized Devan Ganeshanathan who asked for approval of the two proposed student clubs—Hands Across Edgemont Club and Science Scholars Student Exchange Program. Devan introduced Riya Ganpati, an eighth-grade student at Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School to talk about her proposed club, Hands Across Edgemont. Riya said that she volunteered in an orphanage in India this summer and observed firsthand that the students were in need of materials such as essential toys and equipment that would stimulate developmental skills.

Victoria Kniewel asked the board to approve Business Item C.1. separately and out of order.

Jonathan Faust made a motion to approve the authorization of the new student clubs as listed by the Superintendent of Schools. Jennifer Darger seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Business

1. Authorization of New Student Clubs

RESOLUTION

15-277

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

- **Hands Across Edgemont** –  
Ms. Caryn Margolis (volunteer)
- **Science Scholars Student Exchange Program** –  
Ms. Maria DeCandia (volunteer)

Jennifer Darger expressed her appreciation and recognized faculty members, Ms. Caryn Margolis and Ms. Maria DeCandia, as volunteer advisors to help students pursue their interests outside the classroom. Jennifer expressed the importance for students to express appreciation to their volunteer teachers.

Please note that the Superintendent's Report was presented in reverse order as requested by the board president.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (1) Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School Scheduling:<br>Status Report | Devan Ganeshananthan<br>Scheduling Committee |
|---|--|

Victoria called upon Devan Ganeshananthan and the members of the Edgemont High School Scheduling Committee to present a status report of their work regarding scheduling. It was announced that the Committee is looking at a nine-period day as a pilot program. Lauren Moore, Kevin Fleck, and John Catoliato reviewed five tenets motivating the discussion; types of schedules considered; faculty surveys and constraints; inclusion of parents and students in the process; parent and student surveys, timeline, and negotiations.

Mandatory lunch for all students and embedding professional development during the course of the school day were discussed.

A question and answer period ensued by board and community members. Topics such as the time between periods, midday lunch, timing of preliminary schedules, consideration of extending the school day, credits and instruction time for band and chorus were discussed.

Community members asked about the ramifications should periods become shorter and whether there will be enough time to cover all the material that needs to be covered; how many students don't have any lunch period at all and when and where do these students eat. A community member said that some classes are offered only once making for difficult choices. Comments such as adding more time to the school day and a six-day schedule arose. The question regarding students opting out of physical education if they take sports was raised. The question whether the proposed schedule change will have less of an effect on the A School students was also discussed.

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

(2) Strategic Goals: Update on Action Planning

Victoria Kniewel

Victoria Kniewel began with a review of some of the initial strategies put in place for the strategic planning process. She referred to the entry plan, listening to various constituent groups, surveys on technology, meeting with community groups, establishing leadership teams comprised of teachers, students, board of education members, and community members. She said that there has been much discussion on the whole child and talked about goals for technology, professional development, and authentic opportunities for local/global citizenship.

Victoria called upon Michael Curtin to demonstrate through PowerPoint how students can have authentic conversations with a Spanish speaking person. Mike said that these authentic opportunities represent the future and tie in to the strategic goals discussed tonight. The demonstration was well received.

A discussion ensued by board members.

Victoria Kniewel asked that the board take the Business Items related to the bond separately and asked the board to approve Personnel Items VII. A.1. through A.10.; Student Services Item B.1.; and Business Items C.2., C.10., and C.11. as listed. Business Item C.1. was motioned separately and out of order; Business Items C.3. through C.9. regarding the Bond Construction will be motioned separately as requested by the Superintendent of Schools.

Jennifer Darger made a motion to approve all Agenda Items as listed by the Superintendent of Schools. Jonathan Faust seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Personnel

1. Leave of Absence

- 1.1 Amanda DeFonce, Leave of Absence, Office Assistant,  
District Office

RESOLUTION

15-278

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves a Leave of Absence for Amanda DeFonce, Office Assistant, District Office, effective December 31, 2015 and an anticipated return to her Office Assistant position on March 16, 2016.

2. Appointments

- 2.2 Amanda DeFonce, Leave-replacement School Psychologist,  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-279

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Amanda DeFonce as a 1.0 FTE leave-replacement School Psychologist at the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School, at a pro-rated salary of \$71,656 (M, Step 1), effective January 1, 2016 and for the remainder of the leave-replacement position.

3. Volunteer Wrestling Coaches, winter,  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-280

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals as volunteer winter wrestling coaches for the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School effective December 9, 2015 and for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year:

- 3.1 \*Stephen Alvarado – Varsity Wrestling
- 3.2 \*David Colagiovanni – Varsity Wrestling
- 3.3 Derek Grant
- 3.4 Timothy Hopkins
- 3.5 John Marsh
- 3.6 Michael Mitchell
- 3.3 \*David Rice – Varsity Wrestling

\*Appointment retroactive to November 9, 2015.

4. Howard Dougherty, Modified Indoor Track Coach, (2015-2016 winter)  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-281

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Howard Dougherty, Modified Indoor Track Coach, Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School for the 2015-2016 winter season at a per-contract salary of \$5,132.00.

5. Peter Loughran, Strength Advisor, (2015-2016 winter),  
Retroactive Appointment  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-282

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the retroactive appointment of Peter Loughran, Strength Advisor, Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School for the 2015-2016 winter season at a per-contract salary of \$6,218.00, effective November 9, 2015:

Sport (winter)				
	<u>Title (as per contract)</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Longevity</u>	<u>Contractual Salary</u>
	Strength Advisor	Peter Loughran	4	\$6,218

6. Resignation
  - 6.1 Brittany Meshberg, Teacher Aide,  
Greenville School

RESOLUTION

15-283

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Brittany Meshberg, Teacher Aide, Greenville School, effective December 7, 2015.

7. Removal of Timekeepers

RESOLUTION

15-284

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the removal of the following individuals as Timekeepers for the 2015-2016 school year, effective December 9, 2015:

- 7.1 Eric Kantor
- 7.2 Jaclyn Nannariello
- 7.3 Vincent Tamburro

8. Volunteer Parent Chaperones, Eighth-grade Field Trip to New York City, Thursday, December 10, 2015  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-285

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals as volunteer parent chaperones for the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School's upcoming trip to New York City on Thursday, December 10, 2015:

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Nancy Gordon                | Kristine Welker         |
| Nancy Goldrich              | Lisa Sayegh             |
| Dianne Novarro              | Joan Zolot              |
| Fern Lazar-Babchak          | Cherlynn Li-Chiu        |
| (mother of Timothy Babchak) | (mother of Evelyn Chiu) |
| Lauren Ricci-Warren         | Harjinder Sidhu         |
| (mother of Thomas Warren)   | Jamal Cabrera           |
| Lule Smajlaj                |                         |

9. Jordan Feldman, Per diem Substitute Teacher,  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-286

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Jordan Feldman, Per diem Substitute Teacher, Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School, for a maximum of 40 days during the 2015-2016 school year at a salary of \$100 per day for each day worked, effective December 9, 2015.



10. Timekeepers (Retroactive Appointment)

RESOLUTION

15-287

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the retroactive appointment of the following individuals as Timekeepers for the 2015-2016 school year, effective November 23, 2015 at the contracted rate of \$59.00 per hour:

10.1 Brendan Connolly

10.2 George DiChiara

10.3 Bryan Bagala

B. Students

1. Programs/Services for five (5) CPSE students and two (2) CSE students (CPSE/CSE meetings held during November and December 2015)

RESOLUTION

15-288

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 five (5) CPSE students and the two (2) CSE students who had their CPSE/CSE meetings held during November and December 2015.

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

C. Business

2. Adoption of Facilities Planning: Change Order Policy

RESOLUTION

15-289

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the adoption of the Facilities Planning: Change Order Policy as presented at the October 27, 2015 (first reading), November 10, 2015 (second reading), and the November 24, 2015 (third reading) public board meetings.

Please note Agenda Items C.3 through C.9. (Capital Projects) were motioned separately and as a group.

Jonathan Faust made a motion to approve all Business Items related to Capital Projects (C.3. through C.9.) as listed by the Superintendent of Schools as a group. Jennifer Darger seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

3. Authorization to Approve Contract Award (Bond Construction) to  
RLJ Electric Corp. for Building D and Blanford Field Renovations  
Contract #4  
Electrical  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

#### RESOLUTION

15-290

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the contract award for the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School Building D and Blanford Field Renovations Contract #4 – Electrical to RLJ Electric Corp. for the base bid amount of \$425,925.

4. Authorization to Approve Contract Award (Bond Construction) to  
Carey & Walsh, Inc. for Building D and Blanford Field Renovations  
Contract #3  
HVAC  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

#### RESOLUTION

15-291

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the contract award for the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School Building D and Blanford Field Renovations Contract #3 – HVAC to Carey & Walsh, Inc. for the base bid amount of \$204,475.

5. Authorization to Approve Contract Award (Bond Construction) to  
Frank & Lindy Plumbing & Heating (F&L-PH) for Building D and  
Blanford Field Renovations Contract #2  
Plumbing  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

#### RESOLUTION

15-292

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the contract award for the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School Building D and Blanford Field Renovations Contract #2 – Plumbing to Frank & Lindy Plumbing & Heating for the base bid amount of \$75,355.

6. Authorization to Approve Contract Award (Bond Construction) to  
Avanti Building Construction Corp. for Building D and Blanford Field  
Renovations Contract #1  
General Construction  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-293

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the contract award for the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School Building D and Blanford Field Renovations Contract #1 – General Construction to Avanti Building Construction Corp. for the total base bid amount of \$451,500.

7. Authorization to Approve Contract Award (Bond Construction) to  
Landscape Unlimited for Building D and Blanford Field Renovations  
Contract #5  
Site Work and additional bleacher sections alternate  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-294

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the contract award for the Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School Building D and Blanford Field Renovations Contract #5 – Site Work to Landscape Unlimited for the base bid amount of \$3,357,000 plus the additional bleacher sections alternate of \$49,000 for a total bid of \$3,406,000.

8. Rejection of Lowest Bid (Bond Construction)  
Avanti Building Construction Corp. for Building D and Blanford Field  
Renovations Contract #5  
Site Work  
Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-295

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education rejects the bid from Avanti Building Construction Corp. for the Jr./Sr. High School Building D and Blanford Field Renovations Contract #5 – Site Work in the amount of \$3,288,000 due to the Contractor's failure to provide five (5) references identifying satisfactory completion of similar projects as outlined in section 00 2113-4, 1.16B2 of the bidding requirements specification.

9. Authorization to Approve Contract Award (Bond Construction) to Niram, Inc. for the Greenville School Windows and Exterior Doors Replacement and the Jr.-Sr. High School Resource Building Exterior Doors Replacement Project  
Greenville School and Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School

RESOLUTION

15-296

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the contract award for the Greenville School Windows and Exterior Doors Replacement and the Jr.-Sr. High School Resource Building Exterior Doors Replacement Contract to Niram, Inc. for the total base bid amount of \$1,359,500.

10. Authorization to Amend Contract for Behavior Analysts of New York, Functional Behavior Assessments (FBA) Services  
District-wide

RESOLUTION

15-297

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education authorizes Joseph T. Schippa, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, to amend the contract for Behavior Analysts of New York to provide Functional Behavioral Assessments District-wide beginning December 9, 2015 and ending on June 23, 2016. The contract is to reflect performance of Functional Behavior Assessments at a rate not to exceed \$150 per hour.

11. Authorization to Enter into Contract with Dr. Colleen O'Sullivan, Independent Contractor, for Parent Counseling and Training Services

RESOLUTION

15-298

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes Joseph T. Schippa, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, to sign a contract with Dr. Colleen O'Sullivan, Independent Contractor, to provide Parent Counseling and Training Services to students as needed at the rate of \$150.00 per hour, effective December 9, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

David M. C. Stern gave a thorough history about the bond and explained that tonight's vote relates to the additional projects that the board has approved. Some discussion ensued regarding the effects of crumb rubber vs. virgin rubber, handicap accessibility to the field, monetary breakdown of the bond construction projects, and liability.

David M. C. Stern announced the first public board meeting of 2016 to be held on January 12, 2016 followed by January 19, 2016 (Executive Session), and January 26, 2016. An additional public board meeting for 2016 will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2015.

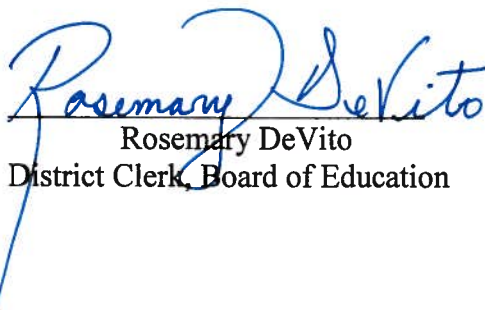
#### VIII. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

- 01/12/16     Board of Education Regular Meeting 7 P.M.\*  
                 Executive Session before Regular Meeting  
                 Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School LGI
- 01/19/16     Board of Education Executive Session Meeting (Tenure)  
                 7:00 P.M. – 9 P.M.  
                 Edgemont Jr.-Sr. High School LGI
- 01/26/16     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.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:13 P.M. Jonathan Faust made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Michael Bianchi 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