

THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

N.J. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act the Woodland Park Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on the door of the Woodland Park Board of Education Administration Building and was provided to the North Jersey Record & Herald News

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

Members Present – Kim Galbraith, David Amanullah, Shannon Marren, Glen Grimes, Julissa Rodriguez, Gina McQuin, Joe Giammarella, Mark Salemi, Andrew Mingione(Via Zoom)

Also Present – Michele Pillari, Dwayne Ortiz, Aron Mandel

Mrs. Gutierrez & Mrs. Francisco presented January's "Pre-School Puppies of the Month"

PUBLIC HEARING-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Please remember that this is a public meeting. Anything you say will be public record. As a result, pursuant to law, the Board Members cannot respond to you publicly concerning certain matters, such as those regarding an individual student. If there is a matter that you wish to remain private concerning personnel or students, please contact the Superintendent's office. In accordance with Bylaw 0167, statements will be limited to 3 minutes in duration.

No one wished to be heard.

225-204 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by MARREN Seconded by RODRIGUEZ

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2024 workshop and the December 9, 2025 regular meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the December 2, 2024 workshop and the December 9, 2024 regular meetings.

Roll Call: 9 YES

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

CO:

- 12/18 - second grade winter concert
- 12/20 - HSA class helpers did a craft with the students
- 12/20 - CO HERO assembly
- Week of 1/13 guidance counselor is doing SEL classroom lessons in each grade
- 1/24 - HSA Winter Festival 7-8:30pm

BG:

- On December 20th, Beatrice Gilmore's annual Giving Tree Holiday Assembly was held and we are proud to announce we surpassed our goal in fundraising! The Giving Tree is a fundraiser started by Mr. and Mrs. Morello of the Family Reach Foundation which seeks to bring a little bit of joy and assistance to families with sick children in the hospital during the holidays. BG families sent in gift cards, cash, and some students even opened their piggy banks to donate what they could. This fundraiser brings awareness to helping others during a time where we are fortunate to have so much. Afterwards, the whole school joined in a sing-a-long and were treated to a few surprise guests as well.
- 3rd grade Winter Concert will be held on Thursday, January 16th.
- Read Around the Bases kickoff assembly will be on Wednesday, January 22nd.
- BG's annual SOUPERbowl has begun. We will be collecting donations until February 3rd.

Curriculum Department

ELA

- 4-8 ELA teachers have been trained in **Just Words** for tier 2 intervention
- DIBELS testing window is open
- Midyear Writing Benchmarks have begun
- K-8 ELA Teacher Committee selected and will meet on January 20th
- Teachers receiving individual coaching sessions and demo lessons
- Teachers will participate in a district wide book exchange on January 20th

Math

- K-8 students are finishing their Mid-Year i-Ready Math Diagnostic
- Grades 2 - 8 will be completing their Mid-Year Link It! Benchmarks. This benchmark aligns with the NJ Mathematics Standards and provides valuable information to best meet the needs of all our students
- During our weekly PLCs, we will be analyzing our diagnostic individual student data and areas in need of improvement. This will drive our groups for our next WIN sessions (What I Need) for our students
- Students are excited for their monthly i-Ready incentives for completing their i-ready My Path each month. The next incentive will be at the end of January.

Special Education Department:

- The Department of Special Education is currently working on NJDOE state monitoring for special education students as part of a three year monitoring process.
- Students in the Growing Minds Classroom at Memorial School are going on a field trip to LifeTown on Friday. LifeTown is an inclusive and accessible center for students with special needs that provides them with educational activities that mirror real world experiences.
- The Child Study Team participated in a Magnolia Training focused on how to best support Multi Language Learners as well as how to identify if they are in need of special education.

Preschool Program:

Thank You to the HSA-

We extend our gratitude to the Preschool HSA for providing the Pillars of Character and Field Day shirts. We look forward to wearing these shirts on Friday, January 17, as we conclude our Clothing Study and celebrate the Pillars of Character.

Registration Updates-

Early winter registration for new families will begin in early February. Families interested in enrolling their children should visit our website to begin the pre-registration process. The re-enrollment survey for returning families will be shared in April 2025. .

Preschool Curriculum: Developing Math Skills

Teaching preschool math skills involves engaging children through hands-on, interactive activities that spark their natural curiosity and align with their cognitive development. Play-based learning is an essential approach, with concepts like counting, sorting, and recognizing patterns introduced through games, songs, and everyday experiences. Using manipulatives such as blocks, beads, and natural objects helps children explore mathematical concepts in tangible ways, fostering understanding through exploration and discovery.

SEL- Problem Solving Skills for Preschoolers:

Problem Solving skills for preschoolers include, the ability to identify a problem, brainstorm potential solutions, decision making, implementation and evaluation. These skills are valuable skills that will be necessary as your little one moves on throughout their school age years and beyond. There are many activities that you can do at home to help support these skills. For instance: Building with blocks, puzzles, maze activities, story time questions or obstacle courses! Modeling how you figure out solutions to problems is an excellent way for them to learn. Try to use everyday moments like when you are cooking or cleaning at home. We all make mistakes at times. That is how we learn!

Professional Learning Community (PLC)

This month's PLC focus is on fostering mathematical skills in the preschool classroom. Emphasis will be placed on supporting children's understanding of mathematical concepts such as counting, sorting, and recognizing patterns through

exploration and discovery. Additionally, we encourage incorporating more “math talk” throughout the day to further embed these concepts into daily activities and interactions.

Family Engagement Project-

Thank you to all families for participating in the Family Engagement Project. Your dedication and support of your child’s learning journey are deeply appreciated.

Preschool Puppies of the Month

Congratulations to all of our January Puppies of the Month! We are so proud to recognize each of you for embodying Paws’s Promise. You continue to shine by demonstrating what it means to be a good friend—playing safely, acting kindly, working together, and always sharing a smile.

Once again, congratulations on this well-deserved recognition! Keep up the great work!

ECAC

We are rescheduling the second Early childhood Advisory Council meeting of School year 2024-2025. The new meeting date is February 3rd, 2025 at 6:45 p.m. We are having an in-person meeting at Charles Olbon school with an option for a virtual log-in for members to log in. The three core committee’s have been hard at work preparing events and experiences for our early childhood families and will be sharing their accomplishments from this school year.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Ortiz stated the audit is complete and we are waiting for the final reports. He also stated that he has met with most of the administration about starting the budget process for 2025-2026.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The following items have been deemed to be non-controversial in a matter of routine business and will be voted on by one motion.

Motion by RODRIGUEZ Seconded by GALBRAITH to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following consent agenda numbers 225-205 through 225-209.

Roll Call: 9 YES

225-205 - SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORTS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, receives and accepts the attached reports of the Secretary and Treasurer for the month of November 2024 “Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6: 20-2.12©, we certify that as of November 30, 2024 the Board Secretary’s monthly financial reports (appropriations section) did not reflect any over expenditure in any of the major accounts or funds, and based on the appropriation balances reflected on this report and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that the district has sufficient funds available to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year”

225-206 - TRANSFERS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the attached list of transfers for the months of November 2024.

225-207 - APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$470,180.62, approved by finance committee chairperson, Kim Galbraith.

<u>Bill List No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
#68	\$408,408.81
#L68	\$ 61,771.81

225-208- HIB DECISION

BE IT RESOLVED THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, hereby affirms the Superintendent’s decision in HIB Investigation #2025-24, for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent’s decision to the student’s parents.

225-209-APPROVAL OF NEW SUBSTITUTE LIST

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the new substitute teacher list for December of the 2024-2025 school year, as per the Northern Regional Educational Services.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

The following items will be voted on by separate motion for each item.

PERSONNEL:

The following personnel items have been deemed to be non-controversial in a matter of routine business and will be voted on by one motion. Any item deemed controversial can be removed and voted on as a separate agenda item.

Motion by MARREN Seconded by RODRIGUEZ to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following personnel agenda numbers 225-210 through 225-217.

Roll Call: 9 YES

225-210-ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION – D. ORTIZ

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Dwayne Ortiz, Business Administrator, effective January 31, 2025.

225-211-ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION – N. ESPINOSA

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Nicole Espinosa, Speech Therapist, effective February 14, 2025.

225-212-APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – PT AIDE – N. ESTRADA

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Nancy Estrada, as a part time aide, for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, at a rate of \$26.85, not to exceed 28.5 hours per week, as per current WPEA agreement, pending receipt of proper paperwork.

225-213-APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – PT AIDE – M. MATAR

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Mona Matar, as a part time aide, for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, at a rate of \$26.85, not to exceed 28.5 hours per week, as per current WPEA agreement, pending receipt of proper paperwork.

225-214-APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – PT AIDE – S. CAPO

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Susan Capo, as a part time aide, for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, at a rate of \$26.85, not to exceed 28.5 hours per week, as per current WPEA agreement, pending receipt of proper paperwork.

225-215- APPROVAL OF STAFF CLASS CHANGE- D. OMRAN

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve staff class change for Dounia Omran, from MA, Step 3, \$68,010 to MA+30, Step 3, \$72,560, effective February 1, 2025.

225-216- APPROVAL OF STAFF CLASS CHANGE- A. SAMRA

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve staff class change for Amanda Samra, from MA, Step 4, \$68,510 to MA+30, Step 4, \$73,060, effective February 1, 2025.

225-217-WORKSHOP/TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT APPROVAL

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve/ratify approval the attendance of and costs of attendance including registration fees and statutorily authorized travel expenditures for the following listed district employees for the 2024-2025 school year.

Name	Activity	Date	Fee	Travel/Hotel	Total
Michael Volpe	Open/Varsity Teacher Certification	Self Paced Online	\$89	NA	\$89

FINANCE:

225-218-APPROVAL OF CONTRACT – LEARN WELL

Motion by SALEMI Seconded by RODRIGUEZ

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve contract with LearnWell, to provide homebound instruction for student ID #33353, 5 hrs. per week, at \$60/hr., effective 11/21/2024- 12/1/2024.

Roll Call: 9 YES

225-219-APPROVAL OF CONTRACT – SILVERGATE PREP

Motion by RODRIGUEZ Seconded by MARREN

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve contract with Silvergate Prep, to provide homebound instruction for student ID #33353, 10 hrs. per week, at \$40/hr., effective 12/30/2024- approximately 3/21/2025.

Roll Call: 9 YES

225-220-APPROVAL OF CONTRACT – SILVERGATE PREP

Motion by RODRIGUEZ Seconded by MARREN

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve contract with Silvergate Prep, to provide homebound instruction for student ID #33173, 10 hrs. per week, at \$40/hr., effective 12/2/2024- approximately 2/21/2025.

Roll Call: 9 YES

225-221-APPROVAL -NRESC –TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT – 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Motion by RODRIGUEZ Seconded by MCQUIN

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the transportation contract with NRESC for the following 2024-2025 bus routes:

Route#	School (s)	Contractor	# of Students	Estimated Cost per Route (+ surcharge)	Starting Date
3685	Allegro School	Alpha Generation	1	30,114.00+1,806.84	12/11/24-6/25/25

Roll Call: 9 YES

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Marren thanked Dr. Pillari for continuing with the Community Relations committee goals of highlighting student and staff activities throughout the district.

PUBLIC HEARING

Please remember that this is a public meeting. Anything you say will be public record. As a result, pursuant to law, the Board Members cannot respond to you publicly concerning certain matters, such as those regarding an individual student. If there is a matter that you wish to remain private concerning personnel or students, please contact the Superintendent's office. In accordance with Bylaw 0167, statements will be limited to 3 minutes in duration.

No one wished to be heard.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

The Open Public Meeting Act, authorizes a public body to meet in Executive or Private Session under limited circumstances and WHEREAS said law requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting before it can meet in such Executive or Private Session. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODLAND PARK THAT:

- 1) It does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in Executive Session to discuss a personnel and/or litigation matter or contract matter.
- 2) The matter(s) discussed will be made public when confidentiality is no longer required.
- 3) Meeting will be resumed at conclusion of Executive Session.
- 4) The board does/does not expect to take action after Executive Session.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 7:41 p.m. by GIAMMARELLA, seconded by MARREN
Voice Vote: 9 YES

Motion to return to Regular Session at 8:53 p.m. by SALEMI, seconded by GALBRAITH
Voice Vote: 9 YES

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. by GALBRAITH, Seconded by MCQUIN
Voice Vote: 9 YES

WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- The Superintendent discussed personnel matters