

**WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 7, 2024**

**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, Shannon Marren, Glen Grimes, Julissa Rodriguez, Gina McQuin, MaryAnn Perro, Mark Salemi, Joe Giammarella

Members Absent – David Amanullah

Also Present – Michele Pillari, Dwayne Ortiz, Adam Weiss

**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.

**NEW BUSINESS – ACTION WILL BE TAKEN**

**PERSONNEL CONSENT:**

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 225-123 through 225-133.

Roll Call: 8 YES

**225-123 - ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION – C. NAROZ**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Christian Naroz, part time aide, effective 9/28/2024.

**225-124 - ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION – I. VARGAS**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of Ivette Vargas, part time aide, effective 10/1/2024.

**225-125 - APPROVAL OF MEDICAL LEAVE – J. MOORE**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve medical leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act, for Jenna Moore, from November 5, 2024-January 1, 2025, using accumulated sick days. Expected return to work January 2, 2025.

**225-126 - APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – SUBSTITUTE NURSE – A. DUDEK**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Alexis Dudek, as an on call substitute nurse, at a rate of \$300 per diem, no benefits. Effective pending receipt of proper paperwork.

**225-127 - APPROVAL TO RESCIND APPOINTMENT – G. POLLICINO**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to rescind the stipend position for Giuseppe Pollicino, as Jr. National Honor Society Advisor.

**225-128 - APPROVAL OF STAFF STIPENDS**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve stipend payments for the 2024-2025 school year in accordance with current WPEA contract, as listed:

Title	School	Name	Amount
Jr. National Honor Society	Memorial	Mina Chang & Lori McCluskey	\$450/each

**225-129 - APPROVAL OF NEW SUBSTITUTE LIST**

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

**225-130 - RATIFY APPROVAL OF STAFF CLASS CHANGE- C. ROSARIO**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to ratify approval of staff class change for Crismari Rosario, from BA, Step 2, \$61, 060 to BA+30, Step 2, \$67,510, retroactive to September 1, 2024.

**225-131 – APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – FLOATING SUBSTITUTE – N. MESSINEO**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Nicholas Messineo, as a floating substitute teacher, at \$175 per diem, effective December 1, 2024-January 17, 2025, no benefits.

**225-132 – APPOINTMENT OF LEAVE REPLACEMENT – N. MESSINEO**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Nicholas Messineo, as a Phys. Ed. Leave replacement, at \$175 per diem, effective January 20, 2025-April 11, 2025, no benefits.

**225-133 - 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
Elis Francisco	SESEBA Admin Institute	10/25/24 &12/6/24	\$500	NA	\$500
Sherry Toole	AENJ Conference	10/17-10/18 2024	\$315	90.80	\$405.80
Mariola Lopata Aimee Soto	Mental Health Toolbox for CST Professional	10/30/24	NA	NA	NA
Suzanne Socha	Legal One: HIB Update	9/27/24	\$125	NA	NA
Kathryn Williams	NJ School Counselor Fall Conference	10/11/24	\$149	NA	\$149

**EDUCATION:**

**225-134-APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 DISTRICT NURSING PLAN**

Motion by PERRO Seconded by GIAMMARELLA

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the District Nursing Plan for the 2024-2025 school year, as attached.

Roll Call: 8 YES

**225-135 - QSAC – DISTRICT PERFORMANCE REVIEW - 2024**

Motion by MARREN Seconded by RODRIGUEZ

BE IT RESOLVED THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, affirms the information in the District Performance Review for submission to the NJ Department of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.1(e)

Roll Call: 8 YES

**FINANCE:**

**225-136-APPROVAL TO INCREASE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER RATE**

Motion by MARREN Seconded by GALBRAITH

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an increase in the rate for substitute teachers from \$125 per diem to \$150 per diem.

Roll Call: 8 YES

Mrs. Perro asked where we are with our rate compared to surrounding districts. Dr. Pillari said at \$125, we were the lowest, along with a few other districts. She hopes the increase will bring in more candidates. Mr. Ortiz stated the \$150 rate is the highest we could go based on our budget.

**225-137-APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

Motion by MARREN Seconded by GALBRAITH

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$38,412.14, approved by finance committee chairperson, MaryAnn Perro.

<u>Bill List No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
#63	\$38,412.14

Roll Call: 8 YES

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ACTION WILL NOT BE TAKEN-PREVIEW OF THE 10/21/24 REGULAR MEETING**

The Board previewed action to be taken at the regular meeting.

Dr. Giammarella stated that there will be a public hearing on the employment of Dr. Pillari. He stated the Business Administrator and Board Attorney are in conference with this and we will discuss it at the next meeting. He also went over items to be voted on at the next meeting;

Minutes, Secretary & Treasurers reports, Bills List, Settlement Agreement between the WPBOE & the WPEA, contract with Geese Police.

Dr. Salemi asked if the Geese Police service was effective. If it isn't, he feels the money could be used better elsewhere. Dr. Pillari stated it's not perfect but does help. We can look into alternatives for next year.

Mrs. Perro questioned the QSAC findings. Dr. Pillari stated we passed everything with the exception of Instruction & Program. She stated that COVID scores were used during the process, which affected the outcome. Collectively, Passaic County schools wrote to the State Department of Education to appeal the final scores in I&P, but it was denied.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Dr. Pillari stated she held her "Sweets with the Super" before the meeting. They will continue to do this, focusing on questions & concerns for the school in which it's being held.

Mr. Ortiz wanted the Board to be aware of the request from the Borough to help fund the cost of crossing guards and training & police vehicles for the SRO's. It's not in the budget for this year and the finance committee will meet to discuss this issue for next year.

**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.

Maria Billson – 43 Rockland Ave.

Mrs. Billson stated she was upset with the restructuring of lunch at Memorial. She does not think it's right that the students do not get to have a recess and that they are not permitted to talk during lunch. This is the only time the kids get to socialize. She said that it's been publicly stated at Board meetings how COVID effected student's social skills and now

that's being taken away. She doesn't feel it's right to punish all the student's because of bad behavior of a few. She also didn't like the way student council elections were conducted this year.

Dr. Pillari stated she understood her concerns and will monitor the situation in the building and keep the Board informed as needed. Mrs. Perro asked if it is true that the student's aren't allowed to talk during lunch, as she heard the same from a few parents. Dr. Pillari stated that by law, grades 6-8 are not required to have recess. By taking this away, they are trying to increase instructional time. Eating time is still 22 minutes, the remainder of the time will be used for the WIN program. They are still in the process of evaluating the needs of the students in Math & ELA and once completed will implement the program, with students receiving the academic support in small groups. Dr. Pillari stated she attended the HSA meeting and is aware that other parents were concerned that the kids cannot socialize during lunch. She said there is a microphone in the cafeteria for lunch supervisors to use but is not aware if it's being used during the whole period. From what she observed, it is not. Karen Criscione, who has 6<sup>th</sup> grade lunch duty, gave her observation of lunch period. She stated the first 2 weeks, the students did sit by homeroom. They were given the advice that your behavior gets you rewards or consequences. By the 3<sup>rd</sup> week, they were allowed flex seating and it's working out well. If a student is not being cooperative one day, the next day they will have assigned seating. As far as student council, Dr. Pillari said when she was made aware of student's not having speeches but still ran for a seat, she intervened and there was a re-vote. She stated that she is glad parent's bring these things to her attention so she has a better view as to handling it in the future.

### **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 7:50 pm by PERRO, seconded by MCQUIN  
Voice Vote: 8 YES

Motion to return to Regular Session at 8:15 pm by GALBRAITH, seconded by MARREN  
Voice Vote: 8 YES

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. by GALBRAITH, Seconded by MARREN  
Voice Vote: 8 YES

## **WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION** **EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

### **ITEMS DISCUSSED:**

- Superintendent discussed HIB case #2025-01