

**CRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2011
BOARD ROOM LINCOLN SCHOOL**

A Regular Monthly Meeting of the Cranford Board of Education was held on Monday, February 28, 2011 at 8:05 P.M. in the Board Room at Lincoln School.

Mr. Carfagno announced that adequate notice of this February 28, 2011 Regular Monthly Meeting of the Cranford Board of Education was provided on April 26, 2010, by a meeting notice posted in the Board Room, Lincoln School, and communicated to the Cranford Chronicle, The Star Ledger, the Office of the Township Clerk, and all Board members.

Present: Jerald Baranoff, Jo Ann Boyle, Jill Brown, Michael Caulfield, Catherine Morgese, Lisa Patella, Mary Sudiak, Mary Venditti and Camille Widdows

Also Present: Gayle M. Carrick, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
James V. McLaughlin, Ed.D., Asst. Superintendent for Administration
Robert J. Carfagno, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Anthony P. Sciarrillo, Esq., Legal Counsel (10:00 P.M.)
Jennifer A. Osborne, Esq., Legal Counsel (till 10:30 P.M.)

Absent: None

There were approximately 6 members of the public present. Leslie Murray represented the Cranford Chronicle and Michelle Walbaum represented Patch.com.

Dr. Carrick introduced John Arlotta, Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs at Cranford High School, to give a showcase presentation on the Cranford High School Pathways for Exceptional Children. Mr. Arlotta, Cranford High School students and a parent presented the program to the Board.

Dr. Carrick introduced Dr. Rosemarie Macaluso, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, to review the proposals for the 2011-2012 school district calendar. Dr. Macaluso reviewed three versions, "A, D & E" of the calendar. The Board discussed the proposals at length and chose calendar "C", from the last Board meeting, to be approved later this evening.

Dr. Carrick reported on recent student accomplishments and achievements, athletic honors for both students and coaches, PTA Reflections Contest entries, congratulated Mr. McCaffery for his recent induction in the Villanova Hall of Fame and distributed a copy of

the letter that will be sent home to parents for the district-wide re-registration process beginning with the 3rd Grade to ensure proper residency of district students.

Mr. Carfagno reported on the preliminary 2011-2012 School District Budget and presented an overview of the proposed spending plan to the Board. Mr. Carfagno reported that the operating budget represents 2.46% increase from the current year and that the proposed tax levy increase is 1.24%, which is \$352,141.00 under the 2.0% tax levy cap, and that it will be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools office for review. Dr. Carrick and Mr. Carfagno reviewed the budget process including the impact of the recently released additional state aid the district is scheduled to receive next year. Lengthy Board discussion on the 2011-2012 preliminary budget ensued.

At 9:56 P.M., the meeting was open to audience participation. There was none.

Mrs. Sudiak reported on the Garden State Coalition of Schools meeting she attended last week in which charter schools and tenure reform were some of the topics discussed, the New Jersey School Boards Association Leadership Program she attended in which the focus was Driving Student Achievement and clarified her comments on tenure reform and merit pay that were quoted on Patch.com.

Mrs. Boyle reported on the Parents Advocating for Special Education meeting she attended last week in which a program on the Wrap Around Program at Cranford High School was presented.

Mrs. Brown, as Chair of the Finance Committee, thanked Mr. Carfagno and Dr. Carrick for their hard work and efforts developing the 2011-2012 budget.

The Board voted the minutes from previous meetings.

Motion by Mrs. Widdows, seconded by Mr. Caulfield

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| January 10, 2011 | Open Work Session | 7:10 P.M. |
| January 10, 2011 | Executive Session | 9:05 P.M. |
| January 24, 2011 | Regular Monthly Meeting | 8:05 P.M. |
| January 24, 2011 | Executive Session | 9:35 P.M. |

A roll call vote was taken and passed with 9 Yes votes, 0 No for January 10th, and 8 Yes vote, 0 No, 1 Abstain (Widdows) for January 24th.

Next, the Board voted the following resolutions.

Resolution 1 and 2 were moved, seconded and voted together.

Motion by Mr. Caulfield, seconded by Mrs. Brown

2/28/11 - 1:

APPROVAL OF THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the preliminary 2011-

2012 budget and authorizes the submission of the budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the following amounts:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 52,185,487.00 |
| Special Revenue | \$ 1,117,523.00 |
| Debt Service | \$ <u>921,875.00</u> |
| Total Budget | \$ <u>54,224,885.00</u> |

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the sum of \$46,806,452.00 should be raised for the general fund levy and \$921,875.00 should be raised for the debt service fund levy for local school district purposes for the 2011-2012 school year.

2/28/11 - 2:

**MEETING DATE FOR PUBLIC
HEARING ON BUDGET**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education will hold the Public Hearing on the 2011-2012 School District Budget in the Board Room at Lincoln School at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, March 28, 2011.

A roll call vote was taken and passed with 9 Yes votes, 0 No.

Resolutions 3 and 4 were moved, seconded and voted together.
Motion by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mr. Caulfield

2/28/11 - 3:

**AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT
CRANFORD FUND FOR EDUCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE GRANT**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of a grant in the amount of **\$2,700.00** from the Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence to be used towards the cost of professional development for instructional staff at Columbia University, Teachers College in the area of Language Arts Literacy.

2/28/11 - 4:

**INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT
(IDEA) GRANT AMENDMENT FY 2011**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes the submission of an amendment to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) combined grant application for the fiscal year 2011. This amendment requests budgetary modifications to the original approved grant application that are necessary based upon changes in the district's planned uses of these funds that have occurred since the application was approved.

The grant period is from September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011.

A roll call vote was taken and passed with 9 Yes votes, 0 No.

Resolutions 5 through 8 were moved, seconded and voted together.

Motion by Mrs. Boyle, seconded by Mrs. Brown

2/28/11 - 5:

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of the following financial reports, payrolls, and investments:

- A. Report of the Secretary to the Board of Education, for the month ending January 31, 2011

B. Report of the Treasurer to the Board of Education, for the month ending January 31, 2011

C. Bills in the following amount: \$2,026,128.54

D. Payroll:

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Regular & Supplemental Payroll for 1/14/11 | \$1,664,735.12 |
| 2. Regular & Supplemental Payroll for 1/28/11 | \$1,644,761.84 |
| 3. Board Share FICA for January, 2011 | \$ 27,988.61 |
| 4. State Share FICA January, 2011 | \$ 226,211.36 |

Total Payroll \$3,563,696.93

E. Approval of the following payrolls for January, 2011

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Substitute (included in Section D) | \$ 46,852.50 |
| Home & Supplementary Instruction (included in Section D) | \$ 6,203.30 |

F. Use of Facilities Report for January and February

H. Confirmation of the following investments:

| Bank | Beginning Balance as of 12/31/10 | Transfer from Checking | Transfer to Checking | Interest Earnings | Ending Balance as of 1/31/11 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| New Jersey Cash Management Fund | \$ 48,082.56 | \$ | \$ | \$ 8.56 | \$ 48,091.12 |
| TD Bank Investment Account | \$8,504,705.65 | \$ 69.49 | \$750,069.49 | \$ 1,196.23 | \$7,755,901.88 |

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| Interest Rates - NJCM | .23% |
| TD Bank | .18% |

(Mrs. Venditti and Mrs. Widdows abstain from voting on the payrolls as identified in Sections D & E)

*****Attachments Follow*****

2/28/11 - 6:

**APPROVED REVISED BUDGET STATEMENT
2010-2011**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the revised 2010-2011 Budget Statement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this budget does not include any unapproved appropriations of moneys.

*****Attachment Follows*****

2/28/11 - 7:

**BOARD SECRETARY'S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION
BUDGETARY LINE ITEM STATUS**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Education regulation N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3 require local school districts to file a monthly certification of budgetary line item status,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education acknowledges that Robert J. Carfagno, Board Secretary, certifies the following statement:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3, I, Robert J. Carfagno, Board Secretary, certify that no budgetary line items accounts are overappropriated nor overexpended for the period ending January 31, 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c)4 the Board of Education certifies that as of January 31, 2011 after review of the board secretary's and treasurer's monthly financial reports and upon consultation with the appropriate school district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

2/28/11 - 8:

**AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS WITH CERTAIN APPROVED
STATE CONTRACT VENDORS PURSUANT TO
N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10a
AMENDED LISTING**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10a and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29(c), may by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase any goods or services under the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program for any State contracts entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the Treasury, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has the need on a timely basis to purchase goods or services utilizing State contracts, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education intends to enter into contracts with the attached amended Referenced State Contract Vendors through this resolution and properly executed contracts, which shall be subject to all the conditions applicable to the current State contracts,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education authorizes the Purchasing Agent to purchase certain goods for services from those approved New Jersey State Contract Vendors on the attached amended list pursuant to all conditions of the individual State contracts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Robert J. Carfagno, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary shall certify to the availability of sufficient funds prior to the expenditure of funds for such goods or services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the duration of the contracts between the Board of Education and the referenced State Contract Vendors shall be until June 30, 2011, or until such time as the individual contract expires, whichever is earlier.

***** Attachment Follows*****

A roll call vote was taken and passed with 9 Yes votes, 0 No.

Resolutions 9 and 10 were moved, seconded and voted together.
Motion by Mr. Baranoff, seconded by Mrs. Patella

2/28/11 - 9:

**NJSIAA STATE
WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves, depending upon the outcome of qualifying events, the attendance of a maximum of five (5) student wrestlers and a maximum of two (2) coaches to attend the NJSIAA State Wrestling Championships on March 4-6, 2011, in Atlantic City. The total cost is approximately **\$1,500.00**. Head Varsity Coach Darren Torsone will be responsible for the receipts for meals and lodging. (District)

2/28/11 - 10:

APPROVAL OF TRAVEL EXPENDITURES

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12 to adopt policy and approve travel expenditures by district employees and board members using local, State, or Federal funds to ensure that travel is educationally necessary and

fiscally prudent, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that the training and informational programs as per the attached listing are directly related to and within the scope of district employees' and board members' duties, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that the training and informational programs as per the attached listing are directly related to and within the scope of the traveler's current responsibilities and the board's professional development plan, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that participation in these training and informational programs requires school district travel expenditures and that this travel is critical to the instructional needs of the district and/or furthers the efficient operation of the district, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that the school district travel expenditures to these programs are in compliance with State travel guidelines as established by the Department of the Treasury and within the guidelines established by the federal Office of Management and Budget; except as superseded by conflicting provision of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education finds that a mileage reimbursement rate in accordance with the New Jersey Office of Management and Budget travel circular is the allowable rate, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that participation in these training and informational programs are in compliance with the district policy on travel,

2/28/11 - 10: (continued

APPROVAL OF TRAVEL EXPENDITURES

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the attendance of the listed number of district employees and school board members at these training and informational programs, and the costs of attendance including all registration fees, and statutorily authorized travel expenditures, provided that such expenditures are within the annual maximum travel expenditure amount, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes in advance, as required by statute, attendance at these training programs and informational events as per the attached listing.

*****Attachment Follows*****

A roll call vote was taken and passed with 9 Yes votes, 0 No.

Resolution 11 through 15 were moved, seconded and voted together.
Motion by Mrs. Patella, seconded by Mrs. Sudiak

2/28/11 - 11:

**APPROVAL OF SUBSTITUTES
AND HOME INSTRUCTORS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves substitutes and home instructors for the 2010-2011 school year as shown on the attached listing(s) to be used subject to the needs of the district.

*****Attachment Follows*****

2/28/11 - 12:

REVISED SPRING COACHING APPOINTMENTS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following coaches for the 2010-2011 school year:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Salary</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Galen Johnson** | Assistant Varsity Track | \$5,557.00 |
| Kerry Drexler*** | Head Varsity Boys Track | \$7,411.00 |

** Adjunct coach

*** New to coaching position

2/28/11 - 13:

SPRING VOLUNTEER COACHING APPOINTMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following volunteer coach for the 2010-2011 school year:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Deanna Russomanno | Girls Softball/Volunteer |

2/28/11 - 14:

MENTOR TEACHERS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following teachers and stipend, as per CEA Agreement:

| <u>Teacher/School</u> | <u>Mentor/School</u> | <u>Route</u> | <u>Amount of Board Payment</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Breanne Clee/LAS | Megan Junice/LAS | Traditional | \$100.00 |
| Nicole DePalma/BPS | Patricia Starkey/BPS | Traditional | \$100.00 |

2/28/11 - 15:

SIXTH PERIOD SALARY ADJUSTMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the sixth period salary adjustment for the 2010-2011 school year, effective November 29, 2010.

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Salary</u> | <u>Adjustment</u> | <u>School/Subject</u> |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Kathleen McMahon | \$54,381.00 | \$6,797.63 (prorated) | CHS/Special Education |

A roll call vote was taken and passed with 9 Yes votes, 0 No.

Motion by Mrs. Morgese, seconded by Mrs. Patella

2/28/11 - 16:

**OF
DAYS**

**APPROVAL
GIFTING ILLNESS**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the gifting of illness days for the 2010-2011 school year from the attached list of staff members. All unused gifted days will be returned to the donating employee.

***** Attachment Follows*****

A roll call vote was taken and passed with 9 Yes votes, 0 No.

Motion by Mrs. Sudiak, seconded by Mr. Caulfield

2/28/11 - 17:

ADOPTION OF THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL CALENDAR

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the adoption of the 2011-2012 school calendar as per attached.

***** Attachment Follows*****

A roll call vote was taken and passed with 9 Yes votes, 0 No.

Motion by Mrs. Widdows, seconded by Mr. Caulfield

2/28/11 - 18:

**FIELD TRIP
DESTINATION APPROVAL**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8 to pre-approve all field trip destinations and to ensure that such trip is educationally necessary,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education authorizes in advance, as required by code, the field trip destinations as per attached listing.

***** Attachment Follows*****

A roll call vote was taken and passed with 9 Yes votes, 0 No.

Motion by Mr. Caulfield, seconded by Mrs. Brown

2/28/11 - 19:

APPOINTMENTS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following appointments.

1. **Narayan Paul**, Third Shift Custodian, effective on or about March 7, 2011 through June 30, 2011. His salary will be based on Scale C-2, Step 4, \$37,397.00 plus third shift stipend, \$2,294.00, **\$39,691.00** and will move to Scale C-3, Step 4, (\$37,834.00) upon receipt of black seal license.
2. **Lori Weber**, Leave Replacement Teacher of Special Education, effective on or about March 14, 2011 through June 30, 2011. She earned a BA from Rutgers University. Her salary will be based on Scale II, Step 5, **\$53,266.00**. (prorated) (HAS)

A roll call vote was taken and passed with 9 Yes votes, 0 No.

Motion by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mrs. Widdows

2/28/11 - 20:

TRAVEL EXPENDITURE MAXIMUM 2011-2012

WHEREAS, School District Policy #9250, Travel Expenses, and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 provides that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for the 2011-2012 school year and also include the maximum amount established for the prebudget year and the amount spent to date, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education established a school district travel maximum for the 2010-2011 school year at an amount not to exceed \$78,198.00 and has expended \$26,597.06 to date, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2011-2012 school year at an amount not to exceed **\$69,620.00**, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

A roll call vote was taken and passed with 9 Yes votes, 0 No.

The Board discussed adding a resolution opposing the Opportunity Scholarship Act Legislation to tonight's agenda. Mr. Baranoff discussed and reviewed two versions of the resolution, the sample as provided by the New Jersey Schools Boards Association and the

other which includes his proposed changes to the sample. After discussion the Board decided to take action on the version that includes the proposed changes.

Motion by Mrs. Widdows, seconded by Mr. Caulfield

2/28/11 - 21B:

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE
OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP ACT**

WHEREAS, the proposed Opportunity Scholarship Act, S-1872 and A-2810, would grant corporations tax credits for contributing to a program that issues education vouchers to certain students for use at any public or non-public school of their choice; and

WHEREAS, every responsible citizen should understand that tax credits, just like direct tax expenditures, equally result in the loss of tax revenue available to fund public schools; and

WHEREAS, during this five-year program, any child residing in one of 13 targeted districts which operate one or more persistently underperforming schools may apply for the vouchers, even if the student currently attends a school that is performing satisfactorily; and

2/28/11 - 21B: (continued)

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE
OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP ACT**

WHEREAS, one-quarter of the funds would be reserved for students who already attend private or religious schools; and

WHEREAS, the Cranford public school district has experienced more than a \$2 million reduction in its state funding, even with the Governor's proposed restoration of \$500 thousand for the next fiscal year, and is operating under state-imposed restrictions on local tax levy growth; and

WHEREAS, this five-year program would divert between \$360 million and \$1 billion in public funds to private and religious schools; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey is currently experiencing a fiscal emergency during which its revenues are insufficient to provide adequate funding for public education through the School Funding Reform Act, and

WHEREAS, the Cranford Board of Education opposes any government policy that would divert funds from the State's revenue stream to private schools, especially when sufficient revenue is not available for New Jersey's public school finance law; and

WHEREAS, establishment of a free universal public school system is one of the glories of the American democracy which has been, and remains, a key ingredient in blending children from all countries, cultures, and ethnicities into one people; and

WHEREAS, approval of educational vouchers for private and religious schools constitutes a direct assault on the concept of universal public schools as well as threatens to violate the long-standing principle that public resources should not be used to fund religious activities; and

WHEREAS, the Cranford Board of Education believes in school choice within the public education sector based upon the mutual agreement of the school boards involved; and

WHEREAS, the Cranford Board of Education believes that public funds should not be used to support private and religious schools; and

WHEREAS, the Opportunity Scholarship Act would fail to address the needs of those students in targeted districts who do not participate in the program; and

WHEREAS, the Cranford Board of Education believes that the State should target improvement efforts within the public school system, ensuring that they reach all students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cranford Board of Education petitions the New Jersey State Senate and General Assembly to reject the Opportunity Scholarship Act (S-1872 and A-2810); and

2/28/11 - 21B: (continued)

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE
OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP ACT**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Chris Christie, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver, and the 21st State Legislative District's representatives in the State Senate and General Assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Acting Commissioner of Education Christopher D. Cerf, the New Jersey School Boards Association and the Union County School Boards Association.

A roll call vote was taken and passed with 9 Yes votes, 0 No.

At 10:29 P.M., the meeting was open to audience participation. There was none.

At 10:30 P.M., upon motion by Mr. Caulfield, seconded by Mrs. Brown, the Board recessed to Executive Session for consideration of issues dealing with Personnel and Matters of Attorney/Client Privilege. Action may be taken later when the Board returns to Public Session. Minutes of the Executive Session will be released to the Public after the reason for non-disclosure no longer exists.

**Executive Session
10:49 P.M. – 11:40 P.M.**

At 11:40 P.M., the Board returned to Public Session.

At 11:41 P.M., upon motion by Mrs. Sudiak, seconded by Mrs. Morgese, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn.

Robert J. Carfagno
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

