MINUTES OF THE MEETING

DENVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION MEETING
IN-PERSON BOARD MEETING
Denville Town Hall - Council Chambers
1 St. Mary's Place
Or VIRTUAL (see details below)
MARCH 8, 2021; 7:00 p.m.
(Public Portion of the Meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.)

The following information was provided for access to the Virtual Meeting:

Due to the state of emergency declared by the Governments of the State of New Jersey and the United States regarding COVID-19, the March 8, 2021 Board Meeting is being held via video conference and in-person. The Board Meeting may be viewed live via the video conference – or attended in-person see link below for virtual log on information.

Members of the public may remotely access and provide written or verbal public comments at this Board Meeting through Hangouts Meet, a remote video conferencing system. Specific instructions for accessing the Board Meeting and providing public comments will be posted to the home page of the Denville Board of Educations' website. All public written or verbal comments must include the sender's full name and address and will be read aloud at the Board Meeting.

Please visit the District Website for more information: www.denville.org
Free direct access is available by copying and pasting the URL or via telephone

Join: https://meet.google.com/vuy-uxtp-ioy

Or call

Phone +1 661-527-2932 PIN: 612287474#

(The meeting line will open at 7:30pm. Callers will be placed in a queue and calls will be answered in the order in which they were received once public comment begins.)

For questions in reference to this meeting, for technical assistance and/or to report difficulty with accessing the virtual meeting, please email sforte@denville.org and/or ccostanza@denville.org. Please note the following in the "Re" portion of your email: "Virtual Meeting Assistance Requested." Emails will be checked during the public meeting as well.

BY ORDER OF THE DENVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 St. Mary's Place – 2nd Floor, Denville, NJ 07834

Damaris Gurowsky, Board Secretary.

Google Meet/Hangout Directions for Public

- 1. When you enter the Meeting/Hangout, mute yourself (If you are already not muted.)
- 2. During the open public comments section of the meeting please contribute by:
 - a. Typing your question or comments in the textbox
 - b. By unmuting and asking the question or comment
 - c. State your name and address for the record

I. CALLED TO ORDER BY MRS. WAGNER AT 7:32 P.M.

A. OPENING STATEMENT

"This meeting of the Denville Township Board of Education is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Due to the state of emergency declared by the Governments of the State of New Jersey and the United States regarding COVID-19, this Board Meeting is being held via video conference and in-person. Electronic and regular notice of this meeting was provided to the Daily Record and/or the Star Ledger of Morris County; has been delivered to the Township Clerk, has been posted on the bulletin board of the Board of Education Office, and at each of the school buildings in the District".

		CA	
B.			

	Mr. Cappello - P, Mr. Casse - P, Mr. Andersen - P, Mr. Luer – *, Mr. Kim - P, Mrs. Gould - P, Mrs. Wagner – P.
	* Arrived at 7:38 p.m.
c.	EXECUTIVE SESSION - No Executive Session was needed
	Mr./Mrs Moved, seconded by Mr./Mrs, to convene in executive session in accordance with Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act. The purpose of this closed session will be to discuss negotiations, legal, security, and personne issues. Minutes of this session will be made available to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.
	ACTION ON MOTION:
	Yeas: Nays: Abstentions: Time:
D.	PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

E. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Preliminary Budget for 2021-2022 School Year, Ref. 1, 4

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS - Dr. Forte discussed the following:

Budget Presentation: Dr. Forte presented the 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget.

Topics discussed were as follows:

- o School District Strategic Plan 2022 The Denville School District's Mission is to educate and empower all students to excel.
- School District Goals 2020-2021
- Budget Calendar and updates
- o 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget provides funding for Technology, Security personnel, Facilities, Curriculum, Mental Health Services, and other miscellaneous items.
- Projects utilizing Capital Reserves Funds
 - o RV HVAC
 - LV Roof Replacement
 - Security Grant Project-911 Inform
 - Demographic Study
 - Interior Door Repair Project
 - Continue to O/S (3) Transportation Routes
- Preliminary Tax Impact for Denville K-8 School District .51% Increase
- The Board commented and had questions about the 21/22 school budget:
 - Estimated tax impact for 21/22
 - Utilized State Aid funding's to decrease tax impact
 - The use of reserves for capital projects
 - No Debt Service
 - o RV HVAC project
 - The Board thanked the administration & finance committee, for the hard work.

Dr. Forte reported on the following:

- School Status: all schools are open
- As of March 5th there are 12 possible cases and 60 in quarantine.
- Morris County is back into the orange
- The District is looking at ways to add more in-person instruction will put the information out as soon as possible.
- VV basketball clinic and intramural games at Gardner's Field students will need to wear face masks.

G. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS - Dr. Cullis discussed the following:

- ESSER grant will be utilized for learning acceleration due to possible learning loss, the program will run concurrently with the ESY program.
- Extended Learning Academy will run for 6 weeks
- Math, ELA, Woodworking
- Paid Enrichment Programs in the afternoon (3 hours) 12:00-3:00 pm
- Benchmark assessments
- Collections of Library books from last school year

H. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS - Mrs. Gurowsky discussed the following:

- Financial Disclosure and Ethic Forms due April 30th
- Thanked the finance committee for their hard work and time spent discussing the 21/22 budget

II. OPEN TO PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Agenda Items Only)

Opened: 8:09 p.m. Closed: 8:15 p.m.

A member of the public asked about lunch taking place outside especially for IEP kids.

Dr. Forte stated that options are being considered to increase the length of the school day and will be communicated.

A member of the public suggested that when the students return to full day and have lunch at school, they could wear face shields to eat in the classroom on rainy days when they can't eat outside.

III. OLD BUSINESS (NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN)

Superintendent of Schools to the Board of Education for approval.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13€, we certify that as of March 2021 after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The Board discussed the following Resolutions, action will be taken on March 22nd.

To approve the following Resolutions under Old Business:

A. RESOLVED that the Board approve the following REPORTS from February 2021:

- 1. Treasurer of School Monies
- 2. Board Secretary

B. EDUCATION REPORTS

- 1. Report of Student Enrollment February 2021
- 2. Report of Health Office February 2021

- **C. MINUTES RESOLVED** that the Board approve the following Minutes:
 - 1. Work Session Meeting February 8, 2021
 - 2. Regular Session February 22, 2021
- **IV. NEW BUSINESS (ACTION TO BE TAKEN)** The following resolutions have been recommended by the Superintendent of Schools to the Board of Education for approval.
 - A. PERSONNEL (Includes Technology) Chair, Michael Andersen

Mr. Andersen moved, seconded by Mr. Kim, to approve the following Resolutions under Personnel:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the following resignations, retirements, salary adjustments, payments, employee leave requests, reassignments, appointments (pending approval from the State Department of Education Office of Student Protection and subject to the New Jersey Criminal Background Check, "Pass the Trash" Employment Verification and Pre-Employment Drug Testing), etc.:

1. BE IT RESOLVED - NEW HIRES / RESIGNATIONS / RETIREMENTS / EMPLOYEE LEAVES / EXTRA PAY / SALARY / ADJUSTMENT - that the Board approve the following pertaining to staff members' new hire, resignation, retirement, placement on paid/unpaid leave*, payment for the performance of duties or extra duties**, and/or a deduction in pay:

	Name	Position	School	Description	Ref	Amount
a.	Solari-Stone, Michael	Substitute Custodian	Dist	Assist with snow plowing for 20/21 SY, as needed		\$27/hr
b.	Loro, John	Teacher	\/\/	Stage (virtual) crew lead for the VV School Musical for 20/21 SY	1,3	\$4,256 Step-B4
c.	Sapienza, Nina Taylor, Leslie	Teacher	I V	Attend Spring Conferences. Not to exceed 4 hours. (NS=\$147.20, LT=\$166.56)	1C	\$36.80/hr \$41.64/hr
d.	Baisley, Elizabeth	Principal	LV	Retirement, effective 7/1/2021		
	Bob King	Caachas	VV	Boys Intramural Basketball		\$2,489/ea
	Shawn Plumb	Coaches	VV	Girls Intramural Basketball		Step-B1

^{*}Any staff member approved for leave will pay their portion of their health benefits while on leave and upon their return the Superintendent will assign them to a position.

- **2. BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board retroactively approve employee #1329 for an extended unpaid leave of absence with an anticipated return to work on March 15, 2021.
- **3. BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board hereby approve employee #509 for an extended unpaid leave of absence with an anticipated return to work October 5, 2021.
- **4. BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board hereby approve for an extended unpaid leave of absence for employee #1241 and anticipate a return to work for the 2021-2022 SY.

Mr. Andersen congratulated Mrs. Baisley on her retirement as Principal of Lakeview school and thanked her for her incredible service to the District. Mrs. Wagner also thanked Mrs. Baisley for her work making students and parents feel welcome. Dr. Cullis stated that Mrs. Baisley has devoted 29 years to the District and thanked her for her service. Dr. Forte thanked Mrs. Baisley for her assistance over the years.

ROLL CALL (Motions 1-4)

Mr. Cappello-Y, Mr. Casse-Y, Mr. Andersen-Y, Mr. Luer-Y, Mr. Kim-Y, Mrs. Gould-Y, Mrs. Wagner-Y.

B. INSTRUCTION AND PROGRAM (Includes Technology) - Chair, Katie Gould

^{**}The Board of Education's authorization to pay employees for the performance of duties or extra duties is contingent upon the occurrence of the actual event associated with service, and the employees' actual performance of services. In the situation where an event is canceled or the service is no longer required, the employee will not be eligible for payment and payment will not be issued

Mrs. Gould moved, seconded by Mr. Cappello, to approve the following Resolutions under Instruction and Program:

1. BE IT RESOLVED - WORKSHOPS with EXPENSES - that the Board approve the following professional development workshops with expenses for staff members and/or Board members' payable through the professional development account. Travel may include mileage reimbursement specified below per Chapter 53, Public Law 2007, NJSA 18A:11-12, NJAC 6A:23A-1 that all mileage will be reimbursed at the maximum NJ Circular 08-19-OMB rate currently at \$0.35 per mile.

	Name	Position	School	Cost	Event/Location	Ref	Date(s)
a.	Amerise, Carmella Brautigam, Morgan Cucci, Taylor Paradiso, Lisa Rideout, Hannah Rossi, Amy Scrape, Jordan Zeleny, Tia	Teacher Teacher Teacher Teacher Teacher Literacy Coach Teacher Teacher	RV VV RV LV BOE RV	\$850/ person Title I funds	person Title I Teachers College Summer Boading Institute		
b.	Cuccurulli, Tony Paradiso, Lisa Rideout, Hannah Scrape, Jordan Teschemacher, Kim Wallach, Michelle Zeleny, Tia	Teachers	RV RV LV RV VV	\$850/ person Title I funds	Staff to attend virtually upon acceptance Teachers College Summer Writing Institute	2D	
c.	Amerise, Carmella Martelon, Jennifer Rideout, Hannah Scala, Evan	Teacher Teacher Teacher Vice Principal	RV LV LV	\$650/ person Title I funds	Staff to attend virtually upon acceptance Teachers College Summer Phonics Institute	2D	
d.	McCabe, Todd Zeleny, Tia	Counselor Teacher	RV	\$850/ person	Staff to attend virtually upon acceptance Teachers College Summer Equity Institute	2D	
e.	Rossi, Amy Wallach-Novak, Michelle	Literacy Coach Teacher	BOE VV	\$650/ person	Staff to attend virtually upon acceptance Teachers College Summer Black History Institute - "Black History is American History"	2D	

ROLL CALL (Motion 1)

Mr. Cappello-Y, Mr. Casse-Y, Mr. Andersen-Y, Mr. Luer-Y, Mr. Kim-Y, Mrs. Gould-Y, Mrs. Wagner-Y.

C. OPERATIONS (Includes Technology) - Chair, Don Casse

Mr. Casse moved, seconded by Mr. Kim, to approve the following Resolutions under Operations:

1. TRANSPORTATION

2. BUILDING AND GROUNDS

2.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approve the plan to replace the HVAC in the RV All Purpose Room/Gym with air conditioning.

The Board discussed the HVAC project for Riverview and its impact on the students and the budget. There are 56 classrooms in the District throughout the 3 buildings that remain without air conditioning at a cost of \$2,500 per room for a total of \$140,000.

ROLL CALL (Motion 2.1)

Mr. Cappello-Y, Mr. Casse-Y, Mr. Andersen-Y, Mr. Luer-Y, Mr. Kim-Y, Mrs. Gould-Y, Mrs. Wagner-Y.

D. FINANCE (Includes Technology) - Chair, James Kim

Mr. Kim moved, seconded by Mr. Luer, to approve the following Resolutions under Finance:

1. **BE IT RESOLVED,** that the tentative budget be approved for the 2021-2022 school year using the 2021-2022 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit to the Executive County Superintendent for approval in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:7F-5 and 18A:7F-6:

 General Fund
 \$37,998,856.

 Special Revenue Fund
 \$ 343,570.

 Total
 \$38,342,426.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there should be raised for taxes for the General Funds \$32,489,754 for the ensuing School Year (2021-2022).

And, to advertise said tentative budget in the Daily Record in accordance with the form suggested by the New Jersey Department of Education and according to law; AND a public hearing on the budget for the 2021-2022 school year will be held at 1 St. Mary's Place, Denville, NJ 07834 on April 26, 2021, at 7:30p.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget includes the use of maintenance reserve withdrawal of \$200,000 to assist in funding building repairs and equipment District-Wide. These improvements and upgrade will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2021-2022

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget includes the use of capital reserve withdrawal of \$2,925,125 to assist with the Lakeview Elementary school roof replacement, to assist with the Riverview Elementary school HVAC upgrade, the security project 911 inform, and interior door project in order to comply with building code. These improvements and upgrade will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2021-2022

WHEREAS, the Denville Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per event where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this event threshold for a staff member is exceeded during July 1 through June 30; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, a board of education must establish a maximum dollar limit for travel expenditure, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq.,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Township of Denville approve to establish a maximum travel expenditure amount of \$ 41,800 for the 2021-2022 school year. The maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2020-2021 school year is \$52,800, of which, \$ 14,712 has been spent and \$26,527 is encumbered to date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approve a maximum annual expenditure for professional services in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2(1):

 Auditor
 \$32,500

 Attorney
 \$80,000

 Architect
 \$ 5,000

ROLL CALL (Motion 1)

Mr. Cappello-Y, Mr. Casse-Y, Mr. Andersen-Y, Mr. Luer-Y, Mr. Kim-Y, Mrs. Gould-Y, Mrs. Wagner-Y.

- **V. NEW BUSINESS (NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN)** The following resolutions have been recommended by the Superintendent of Schools to the Board of Education for approval.
 - A. PERSONNEL (Includes Technology) Chair, Michael Andersen

To approve the following Resolutions under Personnel:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the following resignations, retirements, salary adjustments, payments, employee leave requests, reassignments, appointments (pending approval from the State Department of Education Office of Student Protection and subject to the New Jersey Criminal Background Check, "Pass the Trash" Employment Verification and Pre-Employment Drug Testing), etc.:

1. BE IT RESOLVED - NEW HIRES / RESIGNATIONS / RETIREMENTS / EMPLOYEE LEAVES / EXTRA PAY / SALARY / ADJUSTMENT - that the Board approve the following pertaining to staff members' new hire, resignation, retirement, placement on paid/unpaid leave*, payment for the performance of duties or extra duties**, and/or a deduction in pay:

	Name	Position	School	Description	Ref	Amount
a.	Simonis, Linda	Secretary	VV	Cash-out 5 vacation days 20/21 SY		\$1,381.25
b.	Bias, Susan	Secretary	RV	Cash-out 5 vacation days 20/21 SY		\$1,381.25
c.	Stark, Ann	Secretary	RV	Fill in substitute caller for staff member on leave, not to exceed 6 hours. (\$207.18)		\$34.53/hr
d.	Kasper, Alyson	Teacher	VV	Yearbook Club Advisor for 20/21 SY		\$2,489 Step-A4
e.	Smith, James	Perm Sub	Dist	Permanent substitute teacher for 20/21 SY		\$160/day AM/ \$210/day AM/PM
f.	Frugal, Erica	Instr. Aide	RV	Move across the Guide to Instr. Aide/Cert, TE 0.55, retroactive to 2/1/2021		\$13,538.80 Step-8
g.	Hill, Danielle	Psychologist	RV	Complete CST evaluations between 4/12/2021 - 6/25/2021, not to exceed 58 hours (\$2,408.16)	2B	\$41.52/hr
h.	Waltner, Erica	Behaviorist	LV	Provide additional ABA consultation services for student #20301852 for 20/21 SY, not to exceed 48 hours (\$1,978.08)	2B	\$41.21/hr

^{*}Any staff member approved for leave will pay their portion of their health benefits while on leave and upon their return the Superintendent will assign them to a position.

- **2. BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board rescind from November 23, 2020 Meeting, Personnel #7, from attached list, Lisa Schwarz and Alyson Kasper, Yearbook Club.
- **3. BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board approve Mr. Todd McCabe to complete an internship for CSA certification through Montclair State University with Dr. Forte and Dr. Cullis from May 2021 August 2021.
- **4. BE IT RESOLVED SUBSTITUTES -** that the Board approve the following new hire substitute(s) for the district:

	Name	Position	Effective Date	Per Diem Rate
a.	Smith, James	Teacher	3/22/2021 or after	\$90/day

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B. POLICY REVISIONS

To approve the following Resolutions under Policy Revisions:

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adopt the following policies and/or regulations as first reading or second reading/adoption as indicated: Ref 1-4

Policy/ Reg #	Policy/Regulation Name	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading/ Adoption
P4150	Discipline		Χ

C. FINANCE (Includes Technology) - Chair, James Kim

To approve the following Resolutions under Finance:

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approve the enclosed check list(s) in the following amounts:

Amount	Description	Check Register
		Milk Fund
		Current Expense
		Elementary Enrichment

2. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board approve PlanConnect as the third party administrator (TPA) for the 403(b) & 457(b) to perform certain plan administration, plan compliance and related services for the plan for Denville Board of Education per attached agreement, at no cost to the District.

D. OPERATIONS (Includes Technology) - Chair, Don Casse

To approve the following Resolutions under Operations:

- 1. TRANSPORTATION
- 2. BUILDING AND GROUNDS
 - **2.1 BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board approve the following programs to use school facilities pending completion of district policy requirements:
 - Denville Township Recreation Summer Plus Program: Valleyview School June 28-August 13, 2021
 - Headfirst Camps (NY Yankees) baseball camp: Riverview School July 12-16, 2021
 - Pro Sports Experience Camps (NFL Football): Riverview School July 19-23, 2021

VI. GOOD OF THE CAUSE

- A. COMMITTEE REPORTS
- **B. CORRESPONDENCE**
- C. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - Budget 2021-2022
 - Board Meeting Highlights, Ref 1-4
 - Board of Education adopts Preliminary 2021-2022 Budget March 8, 2021
 - Public Hearing for 2021-2022 School Budget April 26, 2021
- D. OTHER

Mrs. Wagner provided a LV PTA update:

- Virtual talent show was held at the end of February.
- Virtual tricky tray will be held on April 15th, more details to be provided.
- Next meeting is March 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Forte stated that there will be a Health and Wellness Day on March 25th instead of the virtual afternoon program which will include local businesses, YMCA, and library. Information will be shared as soon as possible.

Dr. Cullis stated that virtual Read Across America program provided guest readers who virtually presented in the classrooms. The program shifted from Dr. Seuss to include diverse authors to promote positive reading.

Mrs. Gould provided information on the "Coping with Covid" seminar. She attended the parents portion and shared that it was helpful information on how to deal with the stress of Covid. Dr. Forte stated that the link to the PowerPoint presentation can be found on the Covid website.

Dr. Forte discussed new legislative updates pertaining to marijuana usage which added alcohol; students found drinking and/or smoking or in the possession of marijuana that police cannot inform parents. The Board discussed the impact of this on the school district.

Mr. Cappello provided an update on the state legislative committee and stated there was a mistake/oversight in the Bill pertaining to marijuana usage and informing parents. Bills pertaining to inclusiveness and diversity as well as Governor Murphy's budget proposal were also discussed.

Mr. Casse attended the Leading Through Chaos course on February 24th offered by the NJSBA. Dealing with Covid was discussed and he commended the District's preparedness. Mr. Casse also asked about the inventory of Dr. Seuss books in the schools and whether there are any that contain the offensive language.

Dr. Cullis stated that we have many Dr. Seuss titles and a review will be completed of the books in the District.

Mr. Luer thanked Mrs. Gurowsky for her time in reviewing the budget with him. He also thanked Mrs. Plumb for going above and beyond to distribute rocks to virtual students for a presentation he will be providing.

Dr. Cullis and Mrs. Gurowsky thanked Dr. Forte for his leadership during the Covid crisis.

The Board discussed the referendum process and the long-range facilities plan.

Board Highlights:

- Preliminary Budget passed on March 8th
- Final Budget presentation and vote on April 26th
- Riverview HVAC Replacement and upgrade to include AC in All Purpose Room and Gym
- Congratulations to Mrs. Baisley on her retirement on July 1

VII. OPEN TO COMMENTS

Opened: 9:37 p.m. Closed: 9:40 p.m.

Mrs. Kenah stated that the VV Builders Club recorded themselves reading for the Dr. Seuss week and distributed the recordings to the lower grades. The club was commended on their work.

Dr. Forte stated there is going to be a mural on back of VV for school spirit.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Andersen moved, seconded by Mr. Luer, to adjourn the meeting.

ACTION ON MOTION:

Yeas 7 Nays 0 Abstentions 0 Time: 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Damaris Gurowsky Business Administrator/Board Secretary