

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY**

February 12, 2013

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Meeting A Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Valley Middle School on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Mr. Scerbo.

Meeting Notice Mr. Scerbo led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Open Public Meetings announcement as follows: The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Oakland Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on January 25, 2013 in the Municipal Building, the Board Offices, all school offices and copies sent to newspapers serving Oakland: The Record, Ridgewood News and Suburban News. The Board reserves the right to limit public discussion of personnel items, so as to preserve individual privacy.

The Board appreciates the concerns and comments expressed by the public and will take them into consideration. However, please remain advised that, neither the Board nor the administration may comment on or respond to public inquiries or statements regarding any internal personnel matters involving a District employee.

Please be further advised that there is no privilege or qualified privilege with regard to any statements that you make before the Board of Education. Furthermore, in addition to their respective rights to privacy, employees of this school district retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according the laws of New Jersey.

Roll Call The following members were present: Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Matts, Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Talamini Also present were Dr. Jeffrey P. Feifer, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Joan C. Dunn, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and approximately 15 members of the public.

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Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Principal/Liaison Reports

- Ms. Ciambra - School Updates, Highlights, Commendations - thanked PTO Parent coordinators for January 17th event at the school.
- Mr. Clark - School Updates, Highlights, Commendations; HIB Report
- Mr. Desiderio - School Updates, Highlights, Commendations; "Skills for Successful Living" - Gr. 7, "World of Work" - Gr. 8, "Foods" Elective - Gr. 8
- Mr. Silverstein - School Updates, Highlights, Commendations - annual visit to Japanese School.
- Ms. Rockefeller - "Public Speaking Elective" - Gr. 7; Gifted & Talented Revised Progress Report

- Full Day Kindergarten - due to declining enrollment, the District will have the space and staff to implement this program next year. Typical day might include: shared reading time, math explorations, writing workshops.

- Literacy Initiative with Northern Valley Regional Staff Development Team

- Bandwidth/Communications Proposal - This is a response to the challenge of expanding bandwidth to schools in order to accommodate the PARCC assessments that will be required by the State beginning in 2014.

- Winter Break - February 18-22, 2013

Audience Participation

Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Akovity seconded to open meeting for public comment on the Agenda of this meeting. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Open to Public at 7:45 PM

Ms. Cooper asked about the Kindergarten training for next year. Dr. Feifer responded.

Mr. Scerbo stated that for five years, the Board and the Administration have been trying to implement this program.

Ms. Matthews thanked the Board for its consideration of full day kindergarten.

Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Akovity seconded to close meeting for public comment on the Agenda of this meeting. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Closed to Public at 7:55 PM

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Minutes

**Special Meeting/
Work Session
1/15/13** Mr. Gaffney moved and Mr. Akovity seconded to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting/Work Session of January 15, 2013. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Executive Session
1/15/13** Mr. Gaffney moved and Mr. Akovity seconded to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of January 15, 2013. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Regular Monthly
1/22/13** Mr. Gaffney moved and Mr. Akovity seconded to approve the minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of January 22, 2013. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried. ABSTAINED: Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini.

**Closed Session
1/23/13** Mr. Gaffney moved and Mr. Akovity seconded to approve the minutes of the Closed Session of January 23, 2013. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Closed Session
1/24/13** Mr. Gaffney moved and Mr. Akovity seconded to approve the minutes of the Closed Session of January 24, 2013. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Buildings & Grounds

Safety Drill Report Mr. Talamini moved and Ms. Matts seconded to approve the safety drill report for the month of January. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Talamini, Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Matts, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Rajan Mistry Mr. Talamini moved and Ms. Matts seconded to approve the start date for Mr. Rajan Mistry, custodian, of February 4, 2013. (Mr. Mistry's appointment was approved at the December 18, 2012 Regular Monthly Meeting.) On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Talamini, Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Matts, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Mr. Akovity thanked the Business Administrator and Mr. Jacod for their work on the boiler project.

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Cafeteria

Cafeteria Report Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded to approve the cafeteria report for the month of January 2013. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Matts, Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Bills List Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded to approve the payment of the attached list of bills for February 2013 when in proper legal form and subject to audit, provided funds are available in their respective accounts. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Matts, Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Regular Education

**Conferences/
Workshops** Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve staff participation in professional conferences/workshops outside the District, as per the attached. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Field Trips Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve the field trips for students in the Oakland School District for the 2012/2013 school year, as per the attached. On a roll call vote: AYES: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Library/Media
Center Report** Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve the monthly Library/Media Center Report for January 2013, as per the attached. On a roll call vote: AYES: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Nursing Services Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve the Nursing Services Report for January 2013, as per the attached. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

HIB Report Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve the HIB Report for January 2013 as follows:

Number of HIB Investigations	-	1
Number of Affirmed HIB Incidents	-	0

On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

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Regular Education (continued)

Lipper Museum Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve participation of Valley Middle School Grade 7 students in the Lipper Program with the Museum of Jewish Heritage in their study of the Holocaust. This includes a pre-visit with students by Lipper Fellows on February 8, 2013, a Museum visit on March 15, 2013, and a post museum visit on March 22, 2013 with students and Lipper Fellows. All costs associated with participation are funded by a grant, including bus transportation to and from the Museum. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Ruth Kokkinakis Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve a half day leave without pay on Tuesday, February 5, 2013, for Ms. Ruth Kokkinakis. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Full Day Kindergarten Program Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve a full day program for Kindergarten students to begin September 2013. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Mr. Scerbo said it was great to be able to propose the full day Kindergarten program.
Mr. Gaffney urged the public to support the budget if they want to have the Full Day Kindergarten.

Safety Town 2013 Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve the operation of the District's *Safety Town 2013 Program*, at the Heights School, from Monday, July 8, 2013 through Thursday, July 18, 2013. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Summer Threshold 2013 Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve the operation of the District's *Summer Threshold 2013 Program* at Dogwood Hill School during June/July 2013. (Program dates will be established upon completion of the end-of-year calendar.) On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

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Regular Education (continued)

**Summer
Enrichment 2013** Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve the operation of the District's *2013 Summer Enrichment School Program*, at the Valley Middle School for students, at a tuition rate of \$100 per course. (Program dates will be established upon completion of the end-of-year calendar.) On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

VMS Track Team Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve the appointment of each of the following teachers as Coach of the Boys/Girls Track Team for the 2012/2013 school year at an annual stipend of \$2,421 for each coach:
Mr. Bart Blanken
Mr. Jay Wordsman
Mr. Timothy Hausch
On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Revised
Curriculum** Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve the following revised Curriculum/Services for implementation in the 2012/2013 school year:
Skills for Successful Living - Gr. 7
World of Work - Gr. 8
Foods Elective - Gr. 8
Public Speaking - Gr. 7
On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

John LaCugna Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve a request for Mr. John LaCugna, Long Term Substitute Teacher for the Oakland Public Schools for a leave without pay on Tuesday, March 12, 2013. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Erin Sterbinsky
Substitute** Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve the appointment of Ms. Erin Sterbinsky as a Substitute Teacher in the Oakland Public Schools for the 2012-2013 school year. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

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Regular Education (continued)

Erin Sterbinsky Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve the appointment of Ms. Erin Sterbinsky as a Long Term Substitute Language Arts Teacher at Valley Middle School, at a per diem salary of \$245.41, effective February 25 through the last day of school. (Ms. Sterbinsky will work alongside Ms. Gallotta on February 13-15 as a substitute teacher.) This appointment is contingent upon satisfactory completion of all employment requirements. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Literacy Initiative Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve the Balanced Literacy Initiative with The Northern Valley Curriculum Center as follows:

- Proposal: (1) The Northern Valley Curriculum Center will provide classroom based and job-embedded support for four, ½ days of training, per grade level, K-8, with the development of four units of study. We propose a total of 18 days in the 2013-2014 school year and one day in June 2013. Each grade level meeting will include shared learning on the topic of Writing Workshop (year one) and Unit Design, practice of instructional approaches in a labsite, and application activities.
- (2) School administrators will be invited to engage in administrative training in Balanced Literacy. This training will provide the administrative leadership team with strategies to support learning, evaluate implementation and notice trends in student growth.
- (3) Teachers will be invited to attend additional workshops that are designed to enhance their learning on topic.
- (4) Ongoing support beyond the four units of study will be available through Skype, Facetime, and electronic coaching.

Cost: Not to Exceed \$28,900

On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Special Education

Preschool

Disabled Summer

2013

Mr. Gaffney moved and Ms. Matts seconded to approve the operation of the District's *Preschool Disabled Summer 2013 Program*. (Dates and school location will be determined at a later date.) On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

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Special Education (continued)

- M. Bellifemine** Mr. Gaffney moved and Ms. Matts seconded to approve the start date for Ms. Michelle Bellifemine, full-time Classroom/Student Aide at Manito School, of February 1, 2013. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.
- Out-of-District** Mr. Gaffney moved and Ms. Matts seconded to approve the out-of-district placement of one middle school student in the Bergen County Special Services District, Paramus, NJ, including related services and transportation, effective January 22, 2013 for the remainder of the 2012/2013 school year. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.
- G&T Student Progress Report** Mr. Gaffney moved and Ms. Matts seconded to approve the revised Gifted and Talented Workshop Program Student Progress Report, effective January 30, 2013, as per the attached. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.
- Home Instruction** Mr. Gaffney moved and Ms. Matts seconded to approve home instruction for one out-of-district student with an effective date of February 5, 2013 for an indefinite period of time. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.
- Christie Choman** Mr. Gaffney moved and Ms. Matts seconded to approve Ms. Christie Choman as a Home Instructor for the 2012-2013 school year. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.
- Casey Eichler** Mr. Gaffney moved and Ms. Matts seconded to approve Ms. Casey Eichler as a Home Instructor for the 2012/2013 school year. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.
- Susan Dishuk** Mr. Gaffney moved and Ms. Matts seconded to approve the extension of the workday for Ms. Susan Dishuk, Classroom/Student Aide, by 10 minutes per day at her hourly salary of \$12.60 effective February 4, 2013, for the remainder of the 2012/2013 school year. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

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Special Education (continued)

Nubia Tamayo Mr. Gaffney moved and Ms. Matts seconded to approve the appointment of Ms. Nubia Tamayo as a Part Time Instructional Aide, effective January 28, 2013, for 2.5 hours/day at an hourly salary of \$14.50. This appointment is contingent upon satisfactory completion of all employment requirements. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Finance

Payroll

Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded to approve the January 2013 certified gross (net & agency) payroll in the amount of \$1,574,552.51 as per the attached. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Matts, Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Board Secretary's
Certification**

Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded to approve the Board Secretary's certification to the Oakland Board of Education that, as of January 22, 2013 no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which, in total, exceed the line item appropriation in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)3; and further,

Approve the Oakland Board of Education's certification that, after a review of the Board Secretary's and Board Treasurer's monthly financial reports and the advice of District officials, there is no reason to doubt that any major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)4.

On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Matts, Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Bills List

Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded to approve the payment of the attached list of bills with the run date of January 22, 2013 when in proper legal form and subject to audit, provided funds are available in their respective accounts. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Matts, Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**NJ Department
of Labor
Unemployment**

Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded to approve the payment of NJ Department of Labor for NJ Unemployment Compensation of \$22,527.50 for Quarter 4 of 2012. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Matts, Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

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Finance (continued)

Budget Transfers Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded to approve January 2013 school year Budget appropriation transfers, as per the attached list. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Matts, Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

E-Rate Contracts Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded to approve the following contracts generated via the E-Rate process:

1. Power IT - web site hosting (7/1/13-6/30/16)
2. Teacher Web - classroom web site (7/1/13 - 6/30/16) hosting services

On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Matts, Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

SEMI Waiver Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded to approve a waiver request to the Bergen County Executive Superintendent of Schools of the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) requirements for the 2013/2014 school year, due to the fact that the estimated number of eligible pupils, which is 17, is less than 40, as per the attached. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Matts, Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Optimum Lightpath Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded to approve a five year contract to Cablevision Lightpath/aka Optimum Lightpath, beginning with the 2013-2014 school year to provide all internet, phone service and equipment per the attached. This contract is being awarded after considerations of other proposals from Verizon and from ACT (Data Network Solutions). It has been determined that the Cablevision/Optimum contract is the most advantageous to the Board, price and other factors considered; and will provide the highest quality service at fair and competitive prices. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Matts, Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Transportation

Veronica Hurtado Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve the request of Ms. Veronica Hurtado, School Bus Driver, for a leave without pay on Wednesday, January 29, 2013. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

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Audience Participation

Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded to open meeting to public participation. On a voice vote: ALL AYES.

Meeting opened to the public at 8:10 PM

A member of the audience asked about volunteering to help bring out the vote. Mr. Scerbo responded that the BOE takes nothing for granted and will get out the vote with the assistance of the PTO.

Ms. King asked about the Math-In-Focus program. Dr. Feifer responded.

Ms. Kilpatrick thanked the BOE for working to implement a full day kindergarten next year.

Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Akovity seconded to close meeting to public participation. On a voice vote: ALL AYES.

Meeting closed to the public at 8:15PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Akovity seconded that it be resolved:
WHEREAS, The Board of Education must discuss subjects concerning the Superintendent Search, and
WHEREAS, the aforesaid subject is not appropriate to be discussed in a public meeting; and
WHEREAS, the aforesaid subject to be discussed is within the exemptions that are permitted to be discussed and acted upon in closed executive session pursuant to P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, it is therefore
RESOLVED, that the aforesaid subject shall be discussed in a closed executive session by this Board and administrative staff at the conclusion of the public segment of this meeting and information pertaining thereto will be made available to the public as soon thereafter as possible and once the reasons for nondisclosure no longer exist.
On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

Executive Session was entered at 8:15 PM

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Adjournment

Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Matts seconded to adjourn meeting.
On a voice vote: ALL AYES.

Meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Joan C. Dunn
Board Secretary/Business Administrator