

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY**

March 17, 2015

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**Meeting** A Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Administration Office on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by Mr. Gaffney.

**Meeting Notice** Mr. Gaffney 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 May 3, 2014 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.

Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise, sign in, and state their names and addresses. Each speaker shall be limited to two minutes. A speaker who has not finished in the allotted time will be directed by the presiding officer to summarize quickly and relinquish the floor within 30 seconds.

**Roll Call** The following members were present: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Also present were Dr. Gina M. Coffaro, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Kyle Bleeker, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, six administrators, Councilman Talamini and approximately six members of the public.

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**Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

- Discussion of National History Day and the recipients
- Upcoming Dates
- Budget hearing and presentation with PTO - dates and times given
- Mr. Gaffney thanked all (parents/administrators/teachers) that were here for the 6th Grade Canteen - nice to see the students have time for themselves and have a lot of fun

**Audience Participation**

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

*Ms. Vivian King - 113 Hiawatha Blvd.*

- Asked if there has been any discussion on moving election from April to November?
- Mr. Scerbo - Are you asking us not to have the public vote on the budget?
- Mr. Scerbo - Responded that taking away the public right to vote on the budget and the ability to be partner and stakeholder in this process was not something he would support. We (the Board) have great partnership with community and the organizations in town and like the fact they have the opportunity to vote - people have the right to vote
- A lot of towns jumped right away to November because they do not have the community support - moving to November makes it a political issue and not a community issue
- Ms. King - agrees that it is a community issue - applaud the due diligence in consistently keeping it below 2% - it is all about the children
- Ms. King - feels that it is fair to let the people decide if they want the vote again like we did a few years ago
- Mr. Scerbo - That was done and it fell about 100 signatures short. We did not get it on the ballot and believes we are the only district in the State to explore moving the election by asking for the public to participate
- Mr. Gaffney - problem was that we as a BOE cannot promote the signatures - we could not advertise - people did not fully understand what they were being asked to sign - we tried to persuade and put a ballot on the November election - Mr. Gaffney gave history that we extended the deadline and to do that again is a discussion that can be had after this election has ended - The discussion of holding the April election is a continuous item for the Board that is discussed and reevaluated regularly - the money for this year has already been budgeted.

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

**Minutes**

**Work Session  
2/24/15**

Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the minutes of the Work Session of February 24, 2015. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**Executive Session  
2/24/15**

Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of Public Work Session of February 24, 2015. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**Regular Meeting  
2/24/15**

Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of February 24, 2015. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**Buildings & Grounds**

**Safety Drill Report**

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

**Prestige Security  
Services**

Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve a contract with Prestige Security Services for the installation of security cameras at Dogwood Hill School in the amount of \$13,535. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

*Mr. Akovity discussed the security cameras and that this is an example of our continued partnership with the Police Department and working to improve the safety and security of our schools.*

**Patwood Roofing**

Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve Change Orders 1, 2 and 3 to the contract with Patwood Roofing in the amounts of \$900, \$5,900 and \$11,625, respectively. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

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**Cafeteria**

**Cafeteria Report** Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve the cafeteria report for the month of February 2015. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Bills List**

Ms. Shelkin moved and Mr. Scerbo seconded to approve the payment of the attached list of bills for March 2015 when in proper legal form and subject to audit, provided funds are available in their respective accounts. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Personnel**

**Substitutes**

Ms. Shelkin moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve the list of daily substitute personnel, including teachers, nurses, teacher aides, playground/cafeteria aides, secretaries, vehicle drivers, technology aides and custodians for the 2014/2015 school year, subject to New Jersey Department of Education Criminal History Review (NJSA 18A:6-7.2) and Chemical Screening, if newly employed by the District, as per the attached lists. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Conferences/  
Workshops**

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

**Leaves Without  
Pay**

Ms. Shelkin moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve the requests for leave without pay, as per the attached. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Home Instructors**

Ms. Shelkin moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve Ms. Mary Richter and Ms. Lauren Russo as Home Instructors for the 2014/2015 school year. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

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**Personnel (continued)**

**Track Officials** Ms. Shelkin moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve the appointment of the following as Valley Middle School Interscholastic Track and Field Officials for the 2014/2015 Season, at the Board approved \$42 per game, upon submission of an approved voucher:

Mr. Jason Clark	Ms. Stacy Kasper	Mr. Ryan Gilligan
Ms. Lauren Binder	Ms. Allyson Englishman	Mr. Bart Blanken
Mr. Steven Cohen	Ms. Gina Gaboda	Ms. Tracey Scala

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

*Mr. Scerbo commented that it is great to see the interscholastic track program and other interscholastic programs continue as it is a great feeder for the high school and gives the students another opportunity for athletic participation.*

**Lina Hajaluga** Ms. Shelkin moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve the request of Ms. Lina Hajaluga, Driver for the Oakland Public Schools, for Board Policy Leave starting on March 25, 2015 with an anticipated return date on or about June 1, 2015. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Casey Eichler** Ms. Shelkin moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve Ms. Casey Eichler to provide Orton-Gillingham instruction for one student, not to exceed three sessions per week, (30 minutes per session) at her prorated annual salary, upon submission of an approved voucher. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**John LaCugna** Ms. Shelkin moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve New Jersey Family Leave for Mr. John LaCugna, Teacher for the Oakland Public Schools, for two (2) days on or about June 3, 2015. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Diane Adams** Ms. Shelkin moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to accept, with regret, the retirement/ resignation of Ms. Diane Adams, Teacher at Valley Middle School, effective July 1, 2015. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

*Mr. Scerbo recognized the acceptance of Ms. Adams retirement. She has given many years of service to the district and formal recognition of her retirement will be at a later date.*

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**Personnel (continued)**

**Kristen Hedden** Ms. Shelkin moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve the attached Resolution granting the leave request of Ms. Kristen Hedden, Teacher in the Oakland Public Schools. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Shelkin, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Regular Education**

**Field Trips** Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve the field trips for students in the Oakland School District for the 2014/2015 school year, as per the attached. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**HIB Report** Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve the HIB Report for the period of February 25, 2015 through March 17, 2015 as follows:

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

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

**Revised 15/16 Calendar** Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve the *REVISED* 2015/2016 School Year Calendar, as per the attached. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**Track Schedule** Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve the 2014/2015 Valley Middle School Interscholastic Track Schedule, as per the attached. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**Home Instruction** Mr. Akovity moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to approve the home instruction of one middle school student effective on or about March 18, 2015 through the end of the 2014/2015 school year. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**Finance**

**Payroll** Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the February 2015 certified gross (net & agency) payroll in the amount of \$1,686,837.67. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

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**Finance (continued)**

**Board Secretary Certification** Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the Board Secretary's certification to the Oakland Board of Education that, as of March 17, 2015 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,

Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to 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: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**List of Bills** Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the payment of the list of bills with the run date of March 17, 2015, which in proper legal form and subject to audit, provided funds are available in their respective accounts. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**Board Secretary's Report** Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the Board Secretary's Financial Report for the month of January 2015. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**Treasurer of School Monies** Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the Treasurer of School Monies Report for the month of January 2015. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**Budget Transfers** Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the school year Budget appropriation transfers for January 2015, as per the attached list. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**VMS PTO Gift** Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to accept, with appreciation, a gift from the VMS PTO, not to exceed \$1,800, for the updating of cabinets, countertop and sink for the VMS faculty room. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

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**Finance (continued)**

**Dogwood Hill PTO Gift** Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to accept, with appreciation, a gift from the Dogwood Hill PTO of two (2) document cameras valued at \$250.00. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

*Mr. Gaffney recognized the two donations from the PTO's and thanked them for their continued support of supporting the facilities and the students.*

**Computer Solutions, Inc.**

Mr. Scerbo moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to approve the agreement between the Oakland Board of Education and Computer Solutions, Inc., as per the attached, for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Shelkin. Motion carried.

**Audience Participation**

Mr. Scerbo moved moved and Ms. Shelkin seconded to open meeting to public participation. On a roll call vote: ALL AYES.

None

Mr. Scerbo moved moved and Ms. Cooper seconded to close meeting to public participation. On a roll call vote: ALL AYES.

**Executive Session** Mr. Gaffney moved and Mr. Akovity seconded to enter Executive Session. On a voice vote: ALL AYES.

Executive Session was entered at 7:50 PM

**Return to Open** Ms. Cooper moved and Mr. Akovity seconded to return to Open Session. On a voice vote: ALL AYES.

Open Session Returned to at 9:30 PM

**Adjournment**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Kyle J. Bleeker  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator