

**REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017**

MINUTES

An open finance meeting of the Board of Education was held this day in the Chatham Township Municipal Building located at 58 Meyersville Road, Chatham, NJ.

OPEN FINANCE MEETING

The meeting opened at 6:32 PM.

Present: Dr. Michael LaSusa, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Peter Daquila, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Ms. Karen Chase, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Board Members including Sal Arnuk, Ann Ciccarelli, Michelle Clark, Lata Kenney, Michael Valenti, and Jill Weber and twenty (20) members of the public.

Dr. LaSusa and Mr. Daquila presented the financial report and preliminary 2017/2018 budget.

Dr. LaSusa and Mr. Daquila then responded to questions from the Board.

Ms. Weber asked Dr. LaSusa and Mr. Daquila to create a list of items that can be reduced in the budget to bring the tax increase from 3.09% to under a 3.0% increase.

The Open Finance Meeting closed at 7:04 PM.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

A regular business meeting of the Board of Education was held this day in the Chatham Township Municipal Building located at 58 Meyersville Road, Chatham, NJ.

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the Board President, Jill Weber.

II. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT: Ms. Weber read the following statement:

In accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, I wish to announce that the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice and to attend the meetings of the Public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act the School District of the Chathams Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Board Administrative Office, sent to the Clerks of Chatham Borough and Chatham Township, the Library of the Chathams, the Chatham Courier, the Daily Record, and the Star Ledger.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Sal Arnuk, Ann Ciccarelli, Michelle Clark, Richard Connors (arrived at 7:26 PM), Kim Cronin (arrived at 7:30 PM), Lata Kenney, Michael Valenti, and Jill Critchley Weber

Absent: Matthew Gilfillan was absent.

Also Present: Dr. Michael LaSusa, Superintendent, Mr. Peter Daquila, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Ms. Karen Chase, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Dr. Vincent D’Elia, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services, Ms. Beth Grant, Human Resources Manager, Ms. Tatiana Gilbert, Assistant to the Business Administrator, and approximately 160 members of the public and press.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ms. Weber led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:04 PM Ms. Weber moved the following:

WHEREAS: The Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-11, permits the Board of Education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: The Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss legal matters; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: The minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Clark and approved by unanimous voice vote.

VI. PUBLIC SESSION – The board reconvened in Public Session at 7:25 PM

VII. BOARD PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

- Ms. Weber welcomed everyone in attendance and noted that the last Board of Education meeting was typical and in no means contentious. She then addressed the public as follows:

I want to clarify the expectations regarding tonight’s meeting. The students frequently use the statement “WE ARE CHATHAM”. The essence of the motto speaks to the respect they have for themselves, the respect they show to those around them and it speaks to their integrity and their strength of character.

The board is going to take a page out of their playbook tonight and our behavior and conduct will exemplify their behavior and their motto... WE ARE CHATHAM.

To recap the discussion at the last BOE meeting and the events that have taken place in the last month, the board and the district have received many requests to set the record straight and to correct patently false statements that were made on national television and other statements made during interviews with other online publications regarding lessons on Islam and suggestions that the lessons are intended to indoctrinate students.

First, let me summarize what took place so we are all working off the same set of facts: At our last Board meeting held on February 6, 2017, there were two speakers who expressed opposition to the study of Islam in their children’s 7th grade social studies class during the public commentary portion of the meeting. Nothing out of the ordinary really. Members of the community often share their

opposition on any number of topics. At the last BOE meeting the discussion was around some of the lessons that are part of the 7th grade social studies unit on the Middle East. One speaker said the lesson was an attempt to convert and promote religion and violates the district policy (reference to 2270). The speaker suggested eliminating teaching about Islam. The other speaker echoed the previous speakers concerns and suggested that Christianity and Judaism be taught in the same depth that Islam is being taught. She also suggested that this be discussed at the Curriculum and Policy Committee meetings.

Dr. LaSusa responded to the speakers and noted that teaching Islam is part of New Jersey's Core Curriculum. It is intended to broaden all students' learning. Dr. LaSusa went on to read the state Social Studies Standard 6.2, which in part calls for students to **“Compare and contrast the tenets of various world religions . . . (i.e., Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, and Taoism), their patterns of expansion, and their responses to the current challenges of globalization.”**

After graciously listening to all the public speakers (total of 5 that night) the board responded that we would review the curriculum, meet with supervisor and teachers and discuss their concerns at the next Curriculum Committee meeting and Policy Committee meeting and we would report back at the next BOE meeting on March 6th (tonight).

And for the record, the board always listens to all public speakers and at our last BOE meeting there were only 5 speakers who were all given **unlimited** time to speak. In fact, the meeting ended on the early side by about 8:50. So no one was cut off or limited in the length of time they had for their public comments.

About a week after our last meeting BOE meeting these same individuals went on National Television and made statements about the curriculum and the district that were patently false and those statements subsequently caused quite a distraction that the school administrators had to focus resources on.

I want to set the record straight right now. The statements that were made when asked about the lessons on Islam...and I quote:

“... crosses the line because it teaches one religion and not all others”, “No other religion is taught”. The other false statement made on national television was that all **“the curriculum committee meetings are not public”**. The irony of that statement cannot be ignored. Just before last month's BOE meeting we held an open public curriculum committee meeting where we discussed the K-12 English Language Arts curriculum. A couple months before that we held an open meeting to discuss the K-12 math curriculum, before that social studies and before that we discussed the changes in the state standards to the science curriculum that will impact our students. In addition to the 2-3 open curriculum meetings hold each year there are also occasions when the curriculum topic is so significant that we add the topic to the regular board agenda and review and discuss openly to ensure the public can see the presentation and also have an opportunity to comment or ask questions. A recent example of this type of significant topic would be when the district made considerable changes to the design and technology curriculum. Another example would be every year the principals of the middle school and high school review the changes to the program of studies for the upcoming school year in an open public forum. So people can certainly say they chose not to attend the public curriculum meetings but we have many open to the public meetings to discuss curriculum.

Now, getting back to why all of you are here tonight and the more significant false statements made on national TV. The statement that drew the most violent and vulgar hate mail, emails and phone

calls were the statements claiming that only Islam being taught and “*no other religion is being taught*”

“... *crosses the line because it teaches one religion and not all others*”. With that I would like to pause and invite the experts in the room to help us all better understand what is actually being taught in our K-12 Social Studies curriculum, and specifically talk about the 7th grade social studies program, which was a topic of discussion at the last BOE meeting.

- At this point Dr. LaSusa spoke. He commented about his first year in Chatham. In the 2001/2002 school year and after the tragic events of 911, the social studies curriculum was well versed in diversity. He spoke about the curriculum and noted that the district constantly evaluates the curriculum and looks for way to improve.
- Mr. Steven Maher, Supervisor of Social Studies K-12, presented an overview of the Social Studies curriculum and how religion is taught for all grades K-12. He noted the importance of religion to people and the importance of teaching it properly to the students.
- Ms. Stephanie (Coviello) Lukasiewicz presented an overview of the grades 6-8 Social studies curriculum.
- Dr. LaSusa thanked Mr. Maher and Ms. Lukasiewicz for their presentations and all the work that was put into the presentation.
- Ms. Weber continued her Board President’s comments. She thanked Dr. LaSusa , Mr. Maher and Ms. Lukasiewicz for their presentation and continued as follows:

Not seeing any evidence of indoctrination or lessons that favor one religion over another. If I had to quantify the time spent discussing religions in historical context it seems Christianity is discussed quite a bit in the context of our early American history as part of their studies on studying the puritan migration and the pilgrims, the protestant revival and the great awakening movement of the 1730 and 1740’s, study of the civil war and the use of the old testament slaveholders in the south used to justify slavery, and the study of the civil rights movement. It also seems that Judaism is discussed at length given the 8th graders spend an entire marking period on the study of the holocaust which covers anti-Semitism and religious persecution. Unfortunately, topics like anti-Semitism and religious persecution are in the news often these days and our students will have a better understanding because of the instruction they received. **Here’s the thing**, the students in our schools are on a 13 year journey where they develop an understanding of the world around (taking a quote from Dr. LaSusa’s recent newsletter” which is “...**something only achievable through deliberate work with material and topics previously unfamiliar to students**”. It is that deliberate and measured approach to education that makes Chatham schools so successful. It is why many of us chose to live in Chatham. And it is a choice; there are so many great reasons to live in Chatham and very close to the top of that list are the great schools and the education the children receive. Excellent schools do not happen by accident. They are the direct result of the strong and professional leadership of the Superintendent, the administration and supervisors. It also comes from the exceptionally skilled and gifted teachers in the district. And from an incredibly supportive community, not just parents, but an entire community that, through their support, allows these gifted professionals to do their jobs all with one purpose; To provide the children of our community with the very best education possible that prepares them with the confidence and knowledge to be incredible successful when they leave Chatham to pursue their own futures. This is why we chose to live in Chatham. And going back to the students’ motto, this is why **WE ARE CHATHAM**.

- Ms. Clark thanked the administration, supervisors and staff for all the time spent and the positive effort that is put into their work.

- Mr. Connors noted that the policy and regulations were reviewed along with the curriculum. The curriculum and classes are well within the district's policy and regulations. He is very happy that the issue has been addressed civilly.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Enrollment – Dr. LaSusa reported that state aid is flat again and enrollment is rising again, which presents a budget challenge. Enrollment is being monitored and the incoming K and grade 1 classes are below last year's level.
- Dr. LaSusa noted that as of today the district has used only one (1) snow day. If no additional days are used, three (3) additional days off will be given. This will be discussed at the March 20 board meeting.

B. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Daquila reported that Verizon/T-Mobile plans to construct (with a variance) a permanent cell tower at the Gloria De Evangelical Lutheran Church, 300 Shunpike Road in Chatham, which is next to Cougar Field. There will be a public hearing at 7:30 PM on March 16, 2017.
- Mr. Daquila gave the following project update:
 - Cougar Field Bleacher Phase I Re-Bid – March 29
 - CMS Interior Improvements (classroom work around auditorium) Bid opening – March 29
 - CHS, CMS, LAF Partial Roof Replacement Bid Opening – March 29
 - CHS auditorium plans are almost finished and the bid will be issued soon.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel** – Ms. Ciccarelli reported the next meeting is on March 8.
- B. Curriculum** – Ms. Clark reported that the committee met on February 27 with Steve Maher to review teaching about religion in the schools. The committee agreed that no changes are necessary in the curriculum.
- C. Finance/Facilities** – Ms. Weber reported that there was an Open Finance Meeting prior to tonight's board meeting. The health increase is 14.50% and without and new items, the current tax increase is 3.09%.
- D. Policy and Planning** – Mr. Connors reported that the committee met on February 27 to review policy/regulation regarding religion and deemed the district is in compliance. They also reviewed the visitor policy and it is being presented for first reading tonight.

Liaisons

Chatham Borough – Mr. Connors had nothing to report.

Chatham Township – Ms. Clark reported that the Chatham Township summer camp will not be hosted at Southern Boulevard School this summer.

Athletic Boosters – Mr. Connors had nothing to report.

Music & Theatre Boosters – Mr. Arnuk gave the following update:

- Congratulations to the CHS Select Choir, who received a last-minute invitation to perform on the Valentine's Day Fox & Friends morning show on February 14th. CHS was invited by the

Band Foreigner to perform “*I Wanna Know What Love Is*” with the band in the main studio. Students reported to CHS at 4am, were in sound check by 5am, and performed live at 8:50am

- Congratulations to the CMS 8th grade Band and Glee Club, who performed in the lobby of the Prudential Center at the NJ Devils game on February 16th. This tradition was started 4 years ago, and continues to grow in popularity with over 250 CMS music fans in attendance!
- The Chatham Performing Arts Boosters had their annual fundraiser *Breakfast with the Musicians* on Saturday, March 4th in the CHS Cafeteria. Between 8:30 and 11:30am, instrumental ensembles from grades 5-8 and the CHS *Addams Family* Cast entertained the large crowds. The CPAB thanks the community for their support of this annual event!
- Please mark your calendars for the CHS production of *The Addams Family*, which will be the final production on the existing CHS stage Thursday, March 23rd at 6pm, and Friday/Saturday March 24th & 25th at 7:30pm. Tickets will become available through brownpaperbagtickets.com in March, and will also be available at the door prior to each performance. Prior to the March 22nd senior performance, the popular (and highly festive) senior citizen dinner will take place in the CHS Band room.
- Congratulations to CHS bass trombonist Sean McCarty, who has been named the Mayo Center Brass Musician of the month.
- The Chatham Performing Arts Boosters invites new members to support the Performing Arts throughout our district schools. Their next meeting will be Wednesday, April 5th at 7pm in the Lafayette Faculty room.

Chatham Education Foundation – Ms. Kenney noted that the Board is accepting a donation from Chatham Education Foundation in the amount of \$1,200.00 tonight. She also announced that tickets for the Casino Royale fundraising event are now on sale.

Recreation – No report available.

PTO District Cabinet – Ms. Cronin reported that the committee discussed the referendum projects.

X. MINUTES

The December 19, 2016 minutes for both the public and private sessions were not moved. There was not a quorum of board members at the meeting to approve these minutes.

Ms. Weber moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education approves the minutes from the following meeting(s):

- February 6, 2017 - public session

The motion was seconded by Mr. Connors and approved 8-0 on a roll call vote.

Ms. Weber moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education approves the minutes from the following meeting(s):

- February 16, 2017 - public and private sessions

The motion was seconded by Mr. Connors and approved 6-0-2 on a roll call vote (Ms. Clark and Ms. Cronin abstained).

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTARY

- Mali Cassak, a Chatham High School student, spoke on behalf of the student body, indicating she has obtained approximately 423 signatures in the last two school days supporting the world religion curriculum as it is.
- Julia Contorno, another Chatham High School student, noted that she has learned about various religions since Kindergarten and that this has prepared her to be able to deal with and be tolerant of all cultures.

- Sally Allen spoke on behalf of parents of students of the district support the curriculum being presented to the students; parents feel the curriculum meets and exceeds the state required curriculum. They appreciate the time and efforts addressing all the media attention. The statements she read supporting the district was signed by 332 parents.
- Luka Batljan, a 9th grade student, thanked the parents that raised the issue and thanked the teachers and administration for all the efforts addressing the issue. He noted that religion was one of the first things created by mankind and fully supports the district and staff in its current curriculum.
- Laurie DiBiase, indicated that the Chatham Education Foundation is unwavering in its support of the district and the Board in its current curriculum.
- Lori Reed noted that her four children attend the school district and she is in full support of teaching information about all world religions. She warned the district to be careful not to cross the “fine line” and verify the information being taught to the students. She noted that some of the comments on social media have been inappropriate.
- Jane Devlin said that in her opinion the teaching of religion is proper and she wishes some of the efforts on this topic would be spent on other district topics and issues.
- Stacey Ewald complimented the Chatham High School students who spoke earlier. She is always impressed with the district, Board of Education, administration and staff and fully supports the current curriculum.
- Jessica Romeo, a township resident, presented a huge stack of thank you notes prepared by the community for the administration, Board and schools.
- Casey Delsandro, a Chatham Middle School student, said he feels the public is misinformed about what was being taught at the middle school. The class informed the students about religion, and in no way was intended to convert any students.
- Donna Leyens thanked Dr. LaSusa and the Board of Education for ensuring that the students receive a world class education that enables the students to see a person and not a stereotype. She commended the Board of their work.
- Jen Rowland lives in the township and said she and her husband are the parents of three children and two adopted children. She finds the towns very welcoming and realizes it is a privilege to live in this town. The teachers and administration are amazing and she hopes we continue to welcome diversity.
- Samantha Ekert noted that the negative press and threats were not typical of Chatham and is not acceptable Chatham behavior. She feels that the School District of the Chathams is warm and nurturing and she fully supports the Board. She noted ignorance is not a virtue.
- Kate McCabe thanked Mr. Maher for his presentation. She is the Principal of McNair Academy in Jersey City and feels the teaching of Islam and all religions should be taught to instill pride in each person.
- Bob Higgins, a township resident, noted that there was police presence at Chatham Middle School last week and asked how this affects the budget.
- Kanchana Leung, a township resident with two students at Southern Boulevard School, supports the district and Board in the choice of curriculum. She volunteers as an alumni interviewer for ten universities. She feels the Chatham students are strong academically and express a caring attitude for the world.
- Tara Burke, a borough resident, stated that is assisting her 7th grade student study for his social studies test, she was impressed with the curriculum and how well the material was presented to the students.
- Sameer Joshi, a township resident, said in his 18 years he has always felt welcome in Chatham. He thanked Steve Maher and Stephanie Lukasiewicz for their presentations and is proud to live in Chatham.
- Bill Heap is not a supporter of social media and is impressed that people are speaking to one another this evening.

- Beverly Lapuma, a township resident for 44 years, knows that the district does a fabulous job and the students who spoke were well versed. She feels that people with differences of opinion need to be respected.

XII. ACTION ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL

On a motion by Ms. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mr. Connors, consent agenda items A.1 – A.20 (A.20as amended) were approved by an 8-0 roll call vote.

1. (276-16/17) *Acceptance: Retirement*

RESOLVED: Upon *recommendation* of the Superintendent, the Board of Education accepts the *retirement* of the following staff member:

Name	Location/Position	Effective Date
Lewycky, Lydia	MAS/Teacher of the Handicapped	07/01/2017

2. (277-16/17) *Acceptance: Resignation*

RESOLVED: Upon *recommendation* of the Superintendent, the Board of Education accepts the *resignation* of the following staff member:

Name	Location/Position	Effective Date
Loushine, Patricia	CHS/Paraprofessional	03/03/2017
Gilling, Jayme	SBS/Paraprofessional	03/17/2017

3. (278-16/17) *Approval: Termination*

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the termination of employee #10625, retroactive to January 26, 2017.

4. (279-16/17) *Approval: Contract - Leave Replacement Teacher*

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the contract for the following Leave Replacement Teacher for the 2016/2017 school year:

Name	Position	Location	Column/Step	Salary	Effective Date	Termination Date	Notes
Rodriguez, Nicole	Teacher of Spanish	CHS	\$281.45 per diem	N/A	05/22/2017	06/23/2017	Approval includes up to three transition days payable at \$100 per diem.

5. (280-16/17) *Amendment: Contract - Leave Replacement Teacher*

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education amends the contract for the following Leave Replacement Teacher for the 2016/2017 school year:

Name	Position	Location	Column/Step	Notes	Effective Date	Termination Date	Notes
Murphy, Alyssa	Teacher of Special Education	CMS	BA/2	\$56,289 Prorated \$20,545.50	01/11/2017	04/28/2017	Supersedes action on 01/09/2017 to amend start and end date.

6. (281-16/17) Amendment: Contract - Leave Replacement School Nurse

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education amends the contract for the following Leave Replacement Nurse for the 2016/2017 school year:

Name	Position	Location	Column/Step	Salary	Effective Date	Termination Date	Notes
Zotti, Erin	School Nurse	WAS	BA/2	\$56,289 Prorated \$28,144.51	01/31/2017	06/30/2017	Supersedes action on 01/09/2017 to amend start date.

7. (282-16/17) Approval: Contract - Custodial Staff

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following contract as per the agreement between the School District of the Chathams and the Chatham Custodial Employees:

Name	Position	Location	FTE	Category/Step	Salary	Effective Date	Termination Date	Notes
Toney, Daryl	Custodian	District Wide	1	IV/B	\$38,354.00 Prorated \$11,666.06	03/13/2017	06/30/2017	Salary includes \$2,000 night differential (prorated).

8. (283-16/17) Amendment: Contract - Custodial Staff

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education amends the following contract as per the agreement between the School District of the Chathams and the Chatham Custodial Employees:

Name	Position	Location	FTE	Category/Step	Salary	Effective Date	Termination Date	Notes
Paul, Joel	Custodian	LAF	1	IV/C	\$38,558.00 Prorated \$13,174.04	2/27/2017	06/30/2017	Supersedes action on 02/06/2017 to amend start date and salary.

9. (284-16/17) Approval: Maternity Leave of Absence

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following maternity leave of absence:

Employee #	Leave Start Date	Accumulated Sick Days Applied	FMLA Start Date (unpaid with benefits)	NJFLA Start Date (unpaid with benefits)	Extended Leave Start Date (unpaid without benefits)	Date of Return (Anticipated)
ID# 8311	05/18/2017	23	09/01/2017	09/01/2017	N/A	11/27/2017

10. (285-16/17) Approval: Use of Accumulated Family Illness Days

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the use of accumulated family illness days, as listed below:

Employee #	Location	Dates	Total Number of Days	Notes
ID# 4642	LAF	N/A	3	To be used during the 2016/2017 school year.
ID# 4980	CHS	N/A	10	To be used during the 2016/2017 school year.

11. (286-16/17) Approval: Unpaid Absences

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following unpaid absences during the 2016/2017 school year:

Name	Position	Location	Number of Requested Unpaid Days	Start Date	End Date
Malatesta, Lucy	Paraprofessional	WAS	4	03/02/2017 03/06/2017 03/07/2017 03/08/2017	N/A
O'Connor, Anne	Paraprofessional	WAS	6	03/20/2017	03/27/2017
Buckman, Karyn	Paraprofessional	WAS	5	03/20/2017	03/24/2017
Silverman, Abigail	School Counselor	SBS	1	02/28/2017	02/28/2017
Collett, Adriane	Teacher	LAF	1	03/03/2017	03/03/2017
Hyde, Anne	Paraprofessional	CMS	5	03/27/2017	03/31/2017

12. (287-16/17) Rescission: Unpaid Absences

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education rescinds the following unpaid absences during the 2016/2017 school year:

Name	Position	Location	Number of Requested Unpaid Days	Start Date	End Date
Simoni, Meghan	Teaching Staff	CHS	0.50	01/17/2017	01/17/2017

13. (288-16/17) Approval: Contract - Paraprofessional

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the contract for Paraprofessional Staff for the 2016/2017 school year as per the agreement between the School District of the Chathams and the Chatham Education Association (CEA):

Name	Position	Location	Salary	Effective Date	Termination Date
Gapusan, Roseann	Paraprofessional	SBS	\$17.47	03/01/2017	06/30/2017

14. (289-16/17) Amendment: Contracts - Paraprofessionals

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education amends the contracts for Paraprofessional Staff for the 2016/2017 school year as per the agreement between the School District of the Chathams and the Chatham Education Association (CEA).

Name	Position	Location	Salary	Effective Date	Termination Date	Notes
Campbell, Donna	Paraprofessional	SBS	\$21.14/hourly	01/17/2017	06/30/2017	Supersedes action on 02/06/2017 to amend salary.
Cerverizzo, Sharon	Paraprofessional	CHS	\$21.14/hourly	On or about 03/20/2017	06/30/2017	Transfer from SBS to CHS.

15. (290-16/17) Approval: Contracts - Extra Duty Stipends

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the contracts for Extra Duty Stipends, for the 2016/2017 school year, as per the agreement between the School District of the Chathams and the Chatham Education Association (CEA).

Name	Position	Location	Ratio	Salary	Effective Date	Termination Date
Fertakos, Barbara	Musical Production Third Assistant (Costumer)	CHS	.25	\$2,463.90	09/01/2016	06/30/2017
Horowitz, Jill	Musical Production Assistant (Production Manager)	CHS	.25 (shared)	\$1,234.95	09/01/2016	06/30/2017

16. (291-16/17) Approval: Extra Class - Certificated Staff

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves an *Extra Class* for Certificated Staff, detailed as follows:

Name/Position	Location	Effective Date	End Date	Salary
Albanese, Eugene Teacher of PE	WAS	09/01/2016	02/15/2017	\$1,755.00
Aneiros, Marisa Teacher of French	CMS	03/01/2017	06/23/2017	\$4,980.00
Tesla, Natalija Teacher of French	CMS	03/01/2017	06/23/2017	\$4,980.00

Noble, Melissa Teacher of Spanish	CMS	03/01/2017	06/23/2017	\$4,891.19
Purcell-McPherson, Margaret Teacher of Spanish	CMS	03/01/2017	06/23/2017	\$4,671.24
Vintimilla, Gabriela Teacher of Spanish	CMS	03/01/2017	06/23/2017	\$4,980.00

17. (292-16/17) Approval: Additional Paraprofessional Hours

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves Lucy D’Costa, Paraprofessional at SBS, to provide paraprofessional support during extracurricular activities as indicated by an IEP, for one half hour per week, for 13 weeks, at the rate of \$17.47 per hour, effective January 11, 2017 through April 19, 2017, not to exceed \$113.56

18. (293-16/17) Approval: District Substitutes

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following substitutes for the 2016/2017 school year:

Teacher	Para	Clerical	Nurse	Last Name	First Name
x	x	x		Press	Kathryn
x	x			Hourani	Abeer
x	x			Glass	Mark
x	x	x		Collier	Erin
x	x	x		Collins	Elizabeth

19. (294-16/17) Approval: Student Teacher

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following student teacher for the fall, 2017 semester:

Student	University	School	Subject	Semester
Mariah Cunha	Graduate Student Fairleigh Dickinson University	CHS	Math	Fall, 2017

20. (295-16/17) Approval: Travel – (AS CORRECTED)

WHEREAS: In accordance with the State of New Jersey School District Accountability Act (A-5) and the School District of the Chatham’s *Policy 6471 - School District Travel*, travel by school district employees and Board of Education members must be approved in advance; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following expenses for faculty, staff, administrators, and board members for seminars, conferences and workshops. The expense includes travel costs, if applicable:

Month	Day	Year	First	Last	Position	Vendor	Purpose	Location	Cost
March	23	2017	Catherine	Bruner	Special Education Teacher	Association of Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey	Integrating New Standards Using Technology	Piscataway, NJ	\$199*

March	23	2017	Daniel	Hrdina	Special Education Teacher	Association of Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey	Integrating New Standards Using Technology	Piscataway, NJ	\$205*
March	24	2017	Gail	Hatch	Physical Therapist	Vyne Education	Let's Roll-The Art of Performing Seating & Mobility Evaluations	Edison, NJ	\$215
March	25	2017	Karen	Leister	School Nurse	New Jersey State School Nurses Association	Annual Conference	Iselin, NJ	\$240
March April	28 2	2017	Kristen	Crawford	Supervisor of Science	National Science Teachers' Association	Annual Conference	Los Angeles	\$307
April	6-8	2017	Yanfei	Li-McGurrian	Teacher of Chinese	College Board	2017 National Chinese Language Conference	Houston, Tx	\$977
April	25	2017	Susan	Butler	School Nurse	Bureau of Education and Research	Best Current Practices for School Health Emergencies	West Orange, NJ	\$250
April	27	2017	Colleen	Mullen	Speech Language Pathologist	NJ Speech, Language Hearing Assoc	Annual Convention	Long Branch, NJ	\$250
April	27	2017	Elizabeth	Walker	Speech Language Pathologist	NJ Speech, Language Hearing Assoc	Annual Convention	Long Branch, NJ	\$250
May	4	2017	Lydia	MacIntosh-Haye	School Psychologist	PESI	Privacy, Confidentiality & Disclosure of Mental Health Info in New Jersey	Parsippany, NJ	\$227
May June	31 1	2017	Lisa	Forte	ESL Teacher	NJ Teachers of English as a 2nd Language	NJTESOL	New Brunswick, NJ	\$295**
June	7-9	2017	Peter	Daquila	Business Administrator	Annual Business Administrator Conference	New Jersey Association of Business Officials	Atlantic City, NJ	\$785

*NCLB Title I funded

**NCLB Title III funded

B. FINANCE/FACILITIES

On a motion by Mr. Arnuk, seconded by Ms. Cronin, the consent agenda items B.1 – B.17 were approved by an 8-0 roll call vote.

Mr. Arnuk thanked the Routh family, Chatham Education Foundation, Southern Boulevard School PTO, and Phil Franz for their donations which are being accepted by the Board this evening.

Ms. Weber thanked Phil Franz for his time spent as a board member and his donation.

1. (239-16/17) Approval: Payments - Bills List & Payroll

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following payments: (Attachment B.1)

Description	Totals
Bills List - Feb. 17 , 2017	\$444,894.99
Bills List – March 6, 2017	\$879,572.11
February 2017 Payroll	\$3,956,216.37
TOTAL:	\$5,280,683.47

2. (240-16/17) Approval: *PRELIMINARY Budget 2017/2018 School District of the Chathams*

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the PRELIMINARY 2017/2018 school district budget using the 2017/2018 state aid figures and for submission to the Executive County Superintendent for review and approval in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5 and 18A:7F-6 as follows:

General Fund Current Expenses	\$ 65,052,266
Capital Expenditures	\$ 140,000
Assessment for SDA Debt Service	\$ 112,459
Withdrawal from Capital Reserve	\$ 2,100,000
Appropriation of Excess Surplus	\$ 500,000
Summer Instruction	\$ 184,700
Grants and Entitlements	\$ 871,000
Debt Service Fund	<u>\$ 2,863,958</u>
Total	<u>\$ 71,824,393</u>

The proposed budget includes sufficient funds to provide curriculum and instruction which will enable all students to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards and is in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A and N.J.A.C Title 6 and 6A:

The Anticipated Enrollment for the school year 2017/2018 is 4,213 students.

WHEREAS: The district has a taxing authority of the 2% cap increase over the prior year tax levy which totals \$1,202,943 and which can be used in the 2017/2018 budget;

WHEREAS: In addition to the 2% cap increase the district is using the Health Benefit Waiver of \$444,617 and the Enrollment Waiver of \$56,989 both generated in the 2017/2018 budget process and is using Banked Cap of \$156,273 that was generated in 2016/2017 budget process;

BE IT RESOLVED: The Board approves that there should be raised for the General Fund a tax levy of \$62,007,960, which is a 3.09% tax levy increase for the ensuing 2017/2018 school year;

BE IT RESOLVED: The Board approves a Withdrawal from Capital Reserve and an Appropriation of Excess Surplus to be used for Construction of a New Central Office Building;

WHEREAS: School district policy and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq. 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 and the 2017/2018 budget includes a maximum travel appropriation of \$120,000; now, therefore,

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

WHEREAS: NJAC 6A:23A-5.2(1), the proposed budget provides for a maximum expenditure amount that is annually established for each type of professional service including public relations, with appropriate notification to the board of education if it becomes necessary to exceed the maximum; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon such notification, the board of education may adopt a dollar increase to the maximum amount through board action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a public hearing will be held at the Chatham Township Courtroom on May 1, 2017, at 7:30 PM for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget and the board approving the 2017/2018 budget.

3. *(241-16/17) Approval: Transfers - January 2017*

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the January 2017 transfers within the 2016/2017 budget in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(A)2. *(Attachment B.3)*

4. *(242-16/17) Approval: Monthly Report of County Transfers - January 2017*

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the Monthly Report of County Transfers for January 2017. *(Attachment B.4)*

5. *(243-16/17) Approval: Report of the Board Secretary - January 2017*

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the Report of the Board Secretary for January 2017. *(Attachment B.5)*

6. *(244-16/17) Approval: Report of the Board Treasurer - January 2017*

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the Report of the Board Treasurer for January 2017. *(Attachment B.6)*

7. *(245-16/17) Approval: Finance Certification - January 2017*

RESOLVED: Pursuant to N.J.A.S. 18A:17-9, the Board Secretary does certify that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.S. 18A:17-9. Pursuant to N.J.A.S. 18A:17-36, the School District of the Chathams Board of Education has reviewed for the minutes of this meeting the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's monthly financial reports for January 2017 that no account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.S. 18A:17-36.

8. *(246-16/17) Approval: Investment Management Company*

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Investors Bank of Jackson, New Jersey as the Investment manager to the district for the proceeds of the 2016 referendum funds per the terms of the proposal submitted on January 25, 2017.

9. (247-16/17) Approval: Lease for Central Office Space

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the lease agreement between Chatham Township and the School District of the Chathams for administrative office space at the Chatham Township Municipal Building effective March 1, 2017, for up to five (5) years. (Lease is on file in the Business Office)

10. (248-16/17) Reject Bids: Cougar Field Renovations (Phase 1) – Bleacher Replacement

WHEREAS: On February 24, 2017, the Board of Education received bids for the Cougar Field Renovations (Phase 1) – Bleacher Replacement Project:

· Catcord Construction, Whippany, NJ	\$ 848,080.00
· Your Way Construction, Irvington, NJ	\$ 952,990.00
· Tec-Con, East Orange, NJ	\$ 958,000.00
· Athletic Fields of America, Montville, NJ	\$ 958,900.00
· Rochelle Contracting, Landing, NJ	\$ 965,000.00
· Berto Construction, Rahway, NJ	\$ 1,191,194.00

AND WHEREAS: The base bids received from all the bidders were above the projected construction budget and the amount of funds budgeted for the project, and upon the architect’s recommendation, all bids are being rejected for this project; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education rejects all of the bids received on February 24, 2017 for the Cougar Field Renovations (Phase 1) – Bleacher Replacement Project.

11. (249-16/17) Approval: Acceptance of Funds

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the acceptance of additional funds from the New Jersey Department of Education for the Nonpublic Auxiliary and Handicapped Services Aid (Chapter 192/193) for the 2016/2017 school year as follows:

Chapter 192 - Compensatory Education \$914.00
Chapter 193 - Corrective Speech \$1,325.00

12. (250-16/17) Approval: Allocation of NCLB Title III Immigration Funds to Salary Stipends

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following staff members to serve as advisors for the Proficiency Achievement and Communication in English Program for the 2016/2017 School Year at the rate of \$75.00 per hour as funded by the 2016/2017 NCLB Title III Immigration funds:

Name	Total
Anne Sherbatuk	Not to exceed \$3,375.00
Melissa Bryan	Not to exceed \$1,800.00

13. (251-16/17) Acceptance: Routh Family Scholarship Grant

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education accepts a grant from Fidelity Charitable in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the 2017 Routh Family Scholarship for the Performing Arts.

14. (252-16/17) *Acceptance: Chatham Education Foundation Grant to CHS*

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, and as approved by the Chatham High School Principal, the Board of Education accepts a grant from the Chatham Education Foundation in the amount of \$1,190.00 to be used for the CHS Pulse Action Sports Grant project.

15. (253-16/17) *Acceptance: SBS PTO Donation*

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, and as approved by the Southern Boulevard School Principal, the Board of Education accepts a donation in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the Southern Boulevard School PTO to be used to create a book room/professional development room in the school's faculty room for the teachers.

16. (254-16/17) *Acceptance: Bank of America Matching Gift Donation*

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent and as approved by the Washington Avenue School Principal, the Board of Education accepts a donation from the Bank of America Matching Gift Program on behalf of Phil Franz, in the amount of \$500.00 to be used for a Buddy Bench at the Washington Avenue School.

17. (255-16/17) *Approval: Placement of Out-of-District Student*

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the tuition cost for the 2016/2017 school year to Summit Speech School for special education student #4296209910 not to exceed \$22,040.00.

C. CURRICULUM

On a motion by Ms. Clark, seconded by Ms. Ciccarelli, the consent agenda items C.1 – C.3 were approved by an 8-0 roll call vote.

1. (044-16/17) *Acceptance: Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Investigative Report for the period from February 7, 2017 through March 6, 2017.*

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education accepts the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Investigative Report for the period of *February 7, 2017 through March 6, 2017* pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1 et seq.

2. (045-16/17) *Approval: Overnight Field Trip*

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the CHS Robotics Team field trip.

3. (046-16/17) *Approval: Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) Equivalency Application*

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the QSAC Equivalency waiver extending the district's certification as a high performing district for an additional three years.

D. POLICY

On a motion by Mr. Connors, seconded by Ms. Cronin, the consent agenda item D.1 was approved by an 8-0 roll call vote.

1. (012-16/17) Approval: First Reading of Policy/Regulation

RESOLVED: Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the first reading of the following policy/regulation:

- Policy/Regulation 9150 - School Visitors

XIII. BOARD BUSINESS

- Ms. Weber asked Mr. Daquila to track the additional security expenses and report back at the March 20th board meeting.
- Dr. LaSusa noted that if there are three unused snow days, one will be used on the Monday after Easter and the remaining two will be used around Memorial Day weekend.
- Ms. Clark asked that positive energy be brought into the Board meetings more often. It is important to remember the key items.
- Mr. Connors noted that he is always impressed by every student who has ever spoken at the Board meetings. He noted that it is okay to ask a question about all topics and we need to keep our passion about education.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTARY

- Nabil Mouline thanked the Board for their time and all they do. He congratulated the Chatham High School Robotics Teams, Ms. Ryan, and the administration for their support of robotics.
- Jane Devlin asked what measures have been taken to deal with any negative messages received.
- Dr. LaSusa noted that the students are fine and not affected by the issue.
- Jane Devlin said she hopes that the hostility ends regarding the issue.
- Mariel Kolker announced that the Chatham Education Foundation is presenting \$1,190.00 for the Chatham High School.
- Rebecca Kline asked about solar panels at Chatham High School and the amount of electricity produced.
- Mr. Daquila responded that he will get the details and there is a PC in Chatham High School that indicates the amount of power being generated.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Weber, seconded by Mr. Connors, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Minutes recorded by:

Peter Daquila
Business Administrator/Board Secretary