

**BOGOTA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BOGOTA, NEW JERSEY  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 23, 2021  
Virtual Public Meeting  
Webinar ID: 868 4307 9889**

**CALL TO ORDER** by Mrs. Kathy VanBuren, Board President at 7:00 p.m.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

*The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure 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 Bogota Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Bogota Borough Hall, communicated by letter to The Record, filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Bogota and posted on the Bogota Board of Education website.*

**ROLL CALL** by Mr. Irfan Evcil, Board Secretary

Members Present: Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Miranda, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Ortega, Ms. Ruckett, Mr. Chavez and Mrs. VanBuren.

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Damian Kennedy Superintendent, Mr. Evcil, SBA/BS, Nathanya Simon, Board Attorney and Elizabeth Ruiz Assistant BS.

Absent: Elsie Luque, Student Representative.

**HEARING OF PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Mr. Chavez moved, seconded by Ms. Ruckett a motion to open the meeting for public comments on agenda items only. Motion unanimously approved by voice call vote.

-Mrs. Carpenter asked about agenda items **2-23-21-01** thru **2-23-21-04** grants and estimated amounts that District is receiving.

-Mr. Kennedy responded these are smaller grants for smaller projects that we are planning to do. The first grant is to get books. Other one we ran last summer was \$3,000 or \$4,000 to help pay teachers to run summer programs. So, these are some of the smaller grants that we try to apply for and get as many as we can.

Mrs. Kohles moved, seconded by Mr. Chavez, a motion to close the meeting for public comments on agenda items only. Motion unanimously approved by voice call vote.

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Kennedy informed the following:

-Addendum tonight is awarding of the Solar Power Agreement - over 15 years we should save over \$800,000.

- All three buildings were opened this week with hybrid learning.
- Preschool will be combining cohorts in March – we are able to do this because of the number of virtual students. We are looking at the data for K-12 students to see if we will be able to do this in all grade levels, a survey will be going out this week to see who would keep students home or if we bring kids back.

COPS Security Grant update:

- Window Film was installed in all three buildings that are ground level and first floor, to help prevent anyone from breaking in and help with shattering of windows.
- Visitor software has been delivered to do background checks for visitor screening, we will be using it once visitors are allowed back in the building.
- Over 120 cameras are being installed in all three building in the next couple of weeks, to film and view dead spots.
- Two-way radios have been ordered and we are waiting on delivery – 41 radios District wide that we will be able to tie in to the Police station with the class three officers, to have immediate response if anything is needed.
- Installation of 36 new doors in HS are being finalized – once measurement is complete they will be sent to the manufactures.
- Rekeying the district was finalized and sent to manufacture.
- The Governor is now allowing fans to attend in person games, two caregivers per player are now permitted to attend with all safety and social distancing measures in place.
- Finally, we are awaiting word from the DOE on standardized testing for this year, it has been pushed back to start later and the DOE was applying for a waiver to not test students this year, but we are hearing that Federal Government will not be granting waivers this year to states. So we are waiting for DOE directions.

**MINUTES**

Approval of the following minutes as submitted by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary:

**January 5, 2021 Reorganization - Open**  
**January 5, 2021 Reorganization - Closed**  
**January 12, 2021 Work Session/Action Meeting – Open**  
**January 12, 2021 Work Session/Action Meeting - Closed**  
**January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting – Open**

Mr. Miranda moved, seconded by Mrs. Alvarez, a motion for the approval of the Minutes for the **January 5, 2021 Reorganization – Open, January 5, 2021 Reorganization – Closed, January 12, 2021 Work Session/Action Meeting – Open, January 12, 2021 Work Session/Action Meeting – Closed and January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting – Open as amended.** On a roll call vote Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Miranda, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Ortega, Ms. Ruckett, Mr. Chavez and Mrs. VanBuren voted yes. Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda Resolutions**

**Education**      **2-23-21-01, 2-23-21-02, 2-23-21-03, 2-23-21-04, 2-23-21-05, 2-23-21-06, 2-23-21-07, 2-23-21-08**  
**Personnel**      **2-23-21-10, 2-23-21-11, 2-23-21-12**

## EDUCATION

### **Approval of 2021 Dollar General Literacy Foundation Grant Submission**

**2-23-21-01 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the submission of an application for the Dollar General Literacy Foundation Grant. This application's purpose is to provide funding for summer reading instruction to targeted students reading below grade level. If approved, the board will support its budget and operational plan.

### **Approval of 2021 Dollar General Adult Literacy Foundation Grant Submission**

**2-23-21-02 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the submission of an application for the Dollar General Adult Literacy Foundation Grant. This application's purpose is to provide funding for adult literacy instruction targeted to Bogota nonnative English speakers who would like to improve their English literacy skills. If approved, the board will support its budget and operational plan

### **Approval of 2021 Snapdragon Book Foundation Grant Submission**

**2-23-21-03 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the submission of an application for the Snapdragon Book Foundation Grant. This application's purpose is to provide funds to improve school libraries when many schools are reallocating their funds to technology and AV technology. If approved, the board will support its budget and operational plan.

### **Approval of 2021 Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries Grant Submission**

**2-23-21-04 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the submission of an application for the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Library's Grant. This application's purpose is to provide funds to schools so that they can extend, update, and diversify the book and print collections in their libraries with the goal of encouraging students to develop a love of reading and learning. If approved, the board will support its budget and operational plan.

### **Approval of Professional Conferences**

**2-23-21-05 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves/ratifies the following professional conferences (pending fund availability).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Maria Castillo	Level I Wilson Dyslexia Certification	Virtual	Multiple days outside school hours	\$2,000 (CARES Funding)
Maria Castillo Shabnam Walele Veronica Sivori Lisa Finizio	Advanced Thinking Through Writing I	Virtual	Multiple days outside school hours	\$3,600 (Title IIA Funding)
Eunice Lee	2021 TESOL Virtual Spring Conference	Virtual	5/25/21 through 5/27/21	\$299 (Title IA Funding)
<b>Michelle Hassan</b>	<b>Resilience, Grit &amp; Psychological Flexibility in the Middle School Student</b>	<b>Virtual</b>	<b>2/25/21</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Michelle Hassan</b>	<b>Nurtured Heart Approach</b>	<b>Virtual</b>	<b>3/10/21</b>	<b>None</b>

#### **Approval of Out of District Placement**

**2-23-21-06 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves/ratifies the placement of Student #27546 at Windsor School for the 2018 ESY Program at a contractual rate of \$10,650.

#### **Approval of Out of District Placement**

**2-23-21-07 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves/ratifies the placement of Student #28257 at New Jersey Elks Developmental Disabilities Agency at a contracted rate not to exceed \$42,000, prorated, for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year.

#### **Approval of Practicum Experience**

**2-23-21-08 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves Stephanie Calamita a Caldwell University Student to complete her 115 hours of practicum experience under the supervision of Krista DiGiacomo at Steen School.

Mrs. Kohles moved, seconded by Mrs. Alvarez a motion for the approval of consent agenda items **2-23-21-01 thru 2-23-21-08**. On a roll call vote Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Miranda, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Ortega, Ms. Ruckett, Mr. Chavez and Mrs. VanBuren voted yes. Motion carried.

#### **Approval of Educere**

**2-23-21-09 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves Educere to provide virtual instruction to students requiring online or home instruction, not to exceed \$20,000 for the 2020/2021 school year.

Mr. Ortega moved, seconded by Mr. Chavez a motion for the approval of agenda item **2-23-21-09**. On a roll call vote Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Miranda, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Ortega, Ms. Ruckett, Mr. Chavez and Mrs. VanBuren voted yes. Motion carried.

### **PERSONNEL**

**All personnel appointments are contingent upon receipt of an affirmative criminal history record check and the holding of proper certification.**

**This following appointments or contracts are contingent upon and could be modified based on student participation and the district's receipt of sufficient State School Aide and other revenue funding. Payment shall be made only if the services are provided and performed in full.**

#### **Approval of Resignation due to Retirement**

**2-23-21-10 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board accepts with regret the resignation due to retirement of **Arlene Crugnola**, Business Teacher at the High School effective June 30, 2021.

#### **Approval of Maternity Leave**

**2-23-21-11 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the maternity leave of **Jennifer Moyer**, Gifted and Talented Teacher, as follows:

March 22, 2021 through April 16, 2021 using 15 sick days  
April 19, 2021 through June 30, 2021 FMLA and NJFLA running concurrently.  
Returning to work September 2021  
\*above dates subject to change pending used sick days prior to the start of  
maternity leave and actual date of leave.

#### **Approval of CPIS and PIRT Stipend**

**2-23-21-12 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the revision to the stipend payments to Kathleen Molina as Community and Parent Involvement Specialist (CPIS) (Resolution #7-28-20-18) and to Gina Acosta as Preschool Intervention and Referral Team Specialist (PIRT) (Resolution #7-28-20-06), at \$5,000 for each position for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid out of Preschool Aid (PEA) funds **semi-annually**.

-Mrs. Kohles thanked Mrs. Crugnola for her time in the District and wish her well on her retirement.  
-Mr. Ortega also thanked Mrs. Crugnola for her time at Bogota High School, he had her in his class as well.

Mr. Miranda moved, seconded by Mr. Ortega a motion for the approval of consent agenda items **2-23-21-10 thru 2-23-21-12**. On a roll call vote Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Miranda, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Ortega, Ms. Ruckett, Mr. Chavez and Mrs. VanBuren voted yes. Motion carried.

#### **Approval of CARES After School Reading Program Teacher**

**2-23-21-13 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the appointment of CARES After School Reading Program teacher at a salary of \$40 per hour for 20 total hours for a total of \$800 per teacher. To be paid through CARES relief funding. Teachers are as follows:

**Julia Contino**

Mr. Miranda moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis a motion for the approval of agenda item **2-23-21-13**. On a roll call vote Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Miranda, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Ortega, Ms. Ruckett, Mr. Chavez and Mrs. VanBuren voted yes. Motion carried.

### **FINANCE**

**This following appointments or contracts are contingent upon and could be modified based on student participation and the district's receipt of sufficient State School Aide and other revenue funding. Payment shall be made only if the services are provided and performed in full.**

#### **Approval of Bill List**

**2-23-21-14 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the payment of bills in the amount of \$1,517,772.36 dated February 23, 2021 as per the attached, which will become part of this resolution.

#### **Approval of Budgetary Line Item Expenditure**

**2-23-21-15 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(C1), that, as of January 31, 2021 no budgetary line item account has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(C3), no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C.

6A:23-2.11(B), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's fiscal obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

**Approval of Payroll Transfer**

**2-23-21-16 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves/ratifies the payroll and fund transfer for the month of January 2021 in the amount of \$1,172,264.32 dated January 15, 2021 and January 29, 2021 as attached, which shall be made a part of this resolution.

**Approval of Report of the Secretary**

**2-23-21-17 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board approves the Report of the Secretary for the month of January 2021 as attached, which shall be made a part of this resolution.

**Approval of Report of the Treasurer**

**2-23-21-18 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board approves the Report of the Treasurer for the month of January 2021 as attached, which shall be made a part of this resolution.

**Approval of Budget Transfers**

**2-23-21-19 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves/ratifies budget transfers for the month of January 2021 as attached, which shall be made a part of this resolution.

**Approval of Addendum to Transportation Contract with SBJC**

**2-23-21-20 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves addendum to shared transportation contract with South Bergen Jointure Commission for the term of the 2020-2021 school year, which agrees that if schools are closed and/or operating under virtual or remote instruction as a result of the current public health emergency, thereby not requiring transportation services for the Board's students, the Board shall continue to make payments under its Agreement with SBJC, as if the school facilities remained open, for SBJC to pay its contracted transportation service providers in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.

**Approval of National Cooperative Purchasing Agreement**

**2-23-21-21 WHEREAS**, The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) national cooperative purchasing program meets the New Jersey standards for purchasing under a National Cooperative Purchasing Agreement according to the State of New Jersey Local Finance Notice 2012-10,  
**BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves using The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) national cooperative purchasing agreement to purchase goods or to contract services which will result in cost savings after all factors have been considered.

**Approval of Contract with C&M Door Controls, Inc.**

**2-23-21-22 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves award of contract with C&M Door Controls, Inc. located at 20 Markley Street, Port Reading, NJ 07064 for door replacement for Bogota Jr./Sr. High School, in the amount of \$84,873.50 under TIPS Cooperative Purchasing Contract#200203. The amount of \$47,700 will be funded by COPS SVPP grant.

**Approval of Contract with Northeast Roof Maintenance, Inc.**

**2-23-21-23 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves award of contract with Northeast Roof Maintenance, Inc. located at 649 Catherine Street, Perth Amboy NJ 08861 for garage and maintenance/custodian office renovation at Bogota Jr./Sr. High School, in the amount of \$17,200 under TIPS Cooperative Purchasing Contract# 200201-5164.

-Mr. Miranda asked about agenda item **2-23-21-23** if there is a possibility that these older computers are cleared off and if we could share them with the community

-Mr. Kennedy responded they do not work anymore and they are occupying space.

-Ms. Ruckett asked is there a cost to the disposal and are we wiping these drives.

-Mr. Evcil responded we are recycling them (with a certified company), there is no cost to us.

Mr. Miranda moved, seconded by Mr. Chavez a motion for the approval of agenda items **2-23-21-14 thru 2-23-21-23**. On a roll call vote Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Miranda, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Ortega, Ms. Ruckett, Mr. Chavez and Mrs. VanBuren voted yes. Motion carried.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

**Approval of Disposal of Computer and Electronic Equipment**

**2-23-21-24 BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the disposal of old or broken computer and electronic equipment as per the attached list. It has been determined there is minimal or no value to these assets.

Mr. Miranda moved, seconded by Mrs. Lewis a motion for the approval of agenda item **2-23-21-24**. On a roll call vote Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Miranda, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Ortega, Ms. Ruckett, Mr. Chavez and Mrs. VanBuren voted yes. Motion carried.

**ADDENDUM**

**FINANCE**

**Approval of Awarding a Power Purchase Agreement**

**2-23-21-25 WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Borough of Bogota in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the "Board") wishes to contract with a qualified vendor for a power purchase agreement (the "Solar PPA") for a term of fifteen (15) years for the installation and maintenance of photovoltaic panels for the purpose of generating electricity at various school facilities (the "Solar Project") as set forth in the as set forth the hereinafter defined RFP; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board issued a request for proposals ("RFP") for the Solar PPA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board received and opened one (1) response to the RFP on January 27, 2021, and

**WHEREAS**, an Evaluation Committee ("Evaluation Committee") evaluated said response and issued a report to the Board on February 8, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Evaluation Committee's report, which is on file with the Board Secretary and is incorporated by reference into this Resolution, was made available to the public in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A: 18A-4.5(d) not less than 48 hours prior to the date of this Resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, in its report the Evaluation Committee determined that the proposal of HESP Solar is advantageous to the Board and recommended that the Solar PPA be awarded HESP Solar at its proposed price of \$0.029 per kilowatt hour (kWh) subject to adjustment as set forth in its proposal, which price is estimated to generate approximately \$818,974 in total energy savings to the Board over the term of the Solar PPA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board wishes to accept the aforesaid recommendation of its Evaluation Committee;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Borough of Bogota, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey as follows:**

1. The Solar PPA is hereby awarded to HESP Solar at its proposed price of \$0.029 per kilowatt hour (kWh) subject to adjustment as set forth in its proposal in accordance with the terms stated in the RFP and its addenda, as applicable.
2. The Board authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute the Solar PPA substantially in the form included in the RFP subject to review and recommendation of the Board's attorneys, and additionally authorizes its staff and counsel to take such actions and prepare and execute such other and further documents as shall be necessary to implement this Resolution.
3. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A: 18A-4.5 (g), the Board Secretary shall publish a notice in an official newspaper of the Board summarizing the award of the Solar PPA including its amount and duration and the name of the selected vendor, and advising that a copy of this resolution and of the Solar PPA (following execution), are on file and available for public inspection at the office of the Board Secretary.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Mr. Miranda moved, seconded by Mrs. Chavez a motion for the approval of agenda item **2-23-21-25**. On a roll call vote Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Miranda, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Ortega, Ms. Ruckett, Mr. Chavez and Mrs. VanBuren voted yes. Motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

-Ms. Ruckett informed the Negotiation Committee meeting with the Administrators. They presented an updated version of the previously presented Power Point Presentation. Committee reviewed it; a meeting was held with Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Evcil to iron out some questions. Committee will convene again with the Administrators.

-Mrs. VanBuren informed School Boards discussed yesterday, Interscholastic Athletics that are opening up throughout the districts. Some districts are talking about coaches that were not allowed to coach if they were not in school or if they were only teaching remotely. Everything is done differently all around the state. Also, they talked about the Unsung Heroes Program, this is for a senior in high school who otherwise would not be recognized for being, let's say, the valedictorian or the football captain. That will be coming to the Superintendent's office and then go to the principal's office for someone to be recommended. This is an accolade for students that are not in the highlight.



## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

-Ms. Montgomery asked if there is a possibility that anyone of our schools could host a vaccine so that we can start a vaccination program for our teachers, administrators and staff. Is that something that has been offered to school districts or to apply for?

-Mr. Kennedy responded, they have not offered it yet, we have a county meeting tomorrow and on the agenda, is vaccines. We did talk about that. I've had a couple of Superintendent meetings where that's been discussed. But the question is, who's giving out the vaccine and who's storing them. From my understanding, there are not a lot of vaccines going out. I'm hoping to get more information on that.

## **HEARING OF PUBLIC**

Mr. Ortega moved, seconded by Mrs. Lewis, a motion to open the meeting for public comments. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote.

-Mrs. Carpenter informed that the OEM (Office of Emergency Management) Department could help with vaccination information. CARES ACT opened up today and if we were to do something like that they could help us out, speak with Rob. Also, Mrs. McHale worked for the Borough and has offered to give the shot as well.

-Mr. Kennedy informed that he is in touch with Rob weekly so anything that he sees, he sends when he can.

Ms. Ruckett moved, seconded by Mr. Chavez, a motion to close the meeting for public comments. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, C.231, P.L. 1975, also known as the Sunshine Law, authorizes a public body to meet in executive or private session under certain limited circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, said law requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting before it can meet in such an executive or private session:

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Bogota Board of Education, that:

1. It does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in Executive Session on February 23, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss matters involving litigation, attorney client privilege.
2. That the matter discussed will be made public when confidentiality is no longer required and action pursuant to said discussion shall take place only at a public meeting.

### ***ACTION MAY BE TAKEN UPON RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION***

Mr. Miranda motioned, seconded by Mr. Chavez a motion for closed session. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Miranda moved, seconded by Mrs. Alvarez a motion to open the meeting in public session. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote at 8:44 p.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Miranda moved, seconded by Mrs. Alvarez a motion for adjournment of the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Irfan Evcil  
Board Secretary