

BOGOTA BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOGOTA, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING
February 9, 2021
Virtual Public Meeting
Webinar ID: 879 8989 4799

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 Mr. Miranda a motion to open the meeting for public comments on agenda items only. Motion unanimously approved by voice call vote.

-Sherry Solomov, 350 Larch Ave., Bogota, NJ wanted to recognize a group of amazing students that are going by the name Bogota Helping Hands. They are taking the idea of community service hours and recruiting other students. They are putting a positive, kind spin on community service and helping out senior citizens. They are shoveling snow for senior's driveways and have also donated \$500 dollars while getting tips for shoveling snow, for Purple Ribbon Campaign. Would like to recognize the founders Shahem Albean and Ricardo Santana.

-Antoinette Ramirez, Queen Anne Road, Bogota, NJ asked if there will be a replacement for the Gifted and Talented teacher on maternity leave.

-Mr. Kennedy responded, job has been posted and we are waiting to fill position.

Mrs. Kohles moved, seconded by Mr. Miranda 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:

We will have an Addendum as an action item to agenda to urge Governor Murphy to include school staff on vaccination list.

We had to close Bixby School for in-person instruction due to couple of positive cases, it is scheduled to reopen On February 18.

Also moving forward, the public can submit questions to the panelist using the Q and A button when the meeting is open to the public during the appropriate times. The chat was not intended for running dialogue during the meeting and will be disabled moving forward. We are trying to run our remote meetings as we run our in-person meetings. The public can still raise their hand at the appropriate time or type in questions to the Q and A.

Finally, I am turning the meeting over to Matt Lee from NJ School Boards who will be doing a presentation on Ethics for School Officials.

Presentation

New Jersey School Boards Association

Matt Lee, field representative from NJSBA, presented Ethics for School Officials. He explained School Ethics Act and School Ethics Codes (SEC) 2020. He also discussed 2020 cases and the decisions made by the SEC/Commission. Mr. Lee replied to the Board member's questions regarding the details and process of the Code of Ethics.

WORK SESSION

ACTION ITEM

EDUCATION

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNOR MURPHY TO INCLUDE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL IN THE OFFICIAL EXPERT VACCINE ALLOTMENT PANEL'S DEFINITION OF FRONTLINE WORKERS

2-09-21-01 WHEREAS, the Bogota Board of Education recognizes that the United States, the State of New Jersey and local health authorities, as well as the World Health Organization, have declared a public health emergency regarding the Coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the federal and state authorities have put in place guidance detailing the precautionary measures schools must implement to stop its spread of this disease; and

WHEREAS, public schools have a profound impact on millions of students, families and staff and are charged with the care, education, nourishment of their students and are an integral part of the health and safety of our communities; and

WHEREAS, our district has responded to the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, providing students and staff members with the technology and

resources necessary to ensure the efficient delivery of instruction, virtually and in-person; and

WHEREAS, the board has a substantial public interest in protecting the health and safety of its students, staff, and community and ensuring that the district can provide staff and students with a safe and effective educational environment that supports student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the board recognizes that this health emergency made it necessary to close schools and reinvent the educational programs in a virtual setting and that this may have an adverse impact on student achievement and the emotional and social wellbeing of students; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Vaccination Plan published by the State of New Jersey Department of Health (December 15, 2020, pgs. 36-37) prioritizes the availability of vaccines to “essential workers” in Phase 1B of the vaccine protocol; and

WHEREAS, school district staff at all levels are essential to the day-to-day operations of this district, responsible for the thorough and efficient education of all students and their social and emotional wellbeing, are critical for virtual and in-class instruction and are “essential workers;”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bogota Board of Education finds a substantial public purpose exists to request that Governor Murphy give appropriate priority in the statewide administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to all public school district personnel.

COVID-19 Vaccination Plan published by the State of New Jersey Department of Health, see: <https://nj.gov/health/legal/covid19/NJ%20Interim%20COVID-19%20Vaccination%20Plan%20-%20Revised%2012-15-20.pdf>

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the member of the District 37 legislative district delegation, Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Governor Phil Murphy, and to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Mrs. Kohles moved, seconded by Mrs. Alvarez a motion for the approval of agenda item **2-09-21-01**. 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.

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

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

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 non native English speakers who would like to improve their English literacy skills. If approved, the board will support its budget and operational plan

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

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).

Name	Description	Location	Date	Amount
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 Ila Funding)
Moved: Eunice Lee	Seconded: 2021 TESOL Virtual Spring Conference	IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB Virtual	5/25/21 through 5/27/21	\$299 (Title I Funding)

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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

-Ms. Ruckett asked about agenda item **2-23-21-06** if it referred to the same student last meeting.
-Mrs. VanBuren responded, yes.

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

2-23-21-09 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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

Approval of Maternity Leave

2-23-21-10 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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

Approval of CPIS and PIRT Stipend

2-23-21-11 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**.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

-Mrs. Ruckett asked for an explanation of agenda item **2-23-21-11**.

-Mr. Kennedy responded that these are the two positions we have to have per preschool grant and paid by the grant.

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

2-23-21-12 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the payment of bills in the amount of \$ dated February 23, 2021 as per the attached, which will become part of this resolution.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

Approval of Budgetary Line Item Expenditure

2-23-21-13 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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

Approval of Payroll Transfer

2-23-21-14 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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

Approval of Report of the Secretary

2-23-21-15 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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

Approval of Report of the Treasurer

2-23-21-16 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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

Approval of Budget Transfers

2-23-21-17 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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

Approval of Addendum to Transportation Contract with SBJC

2-23-21-18 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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

Approval of National Cooperative Purchasing Agreement

2-23-21-19 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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

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

2-23-21-20 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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

Approval of Contract with Northeast Roof Maintenance, Inc.

2-23-21-21 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.

Moved: Seconded: IA, LK, EL, FM, AM, JO, BR, JC, KVB

-Ms. Ruckett asked about agenda item **2-23-21-18** why we are paying for services that we are not using.

-Mr. Kennedy responded, a law was passed last year that the bus companies had to be paid whether students are on the bus or not. This is for our out of district students.

-Ms. Ruckett asked about agenda item **2-23-21-19**, is there a place or record where we can see the savings from the TIPS program?

-Mr. Evcil responded, yes, when we participate in the Cooperative whether it is New Jersey or Nationwide the program itself sends us the savings report.

-Mrs. VanBuren asked about agenda item **2-23-21-20**, how many doors that it include in the high school.

-Mr. Kennedy responded it includes every door in the high school.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Approval of Participation in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Program

2-23-21-22 Whereas—The Bogota Board of Education seeks to participate in Sustainable Jersey for Schools to focus attention and efforts on matters of sustainability and pursue initiatives that will lead to Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification.

Whereas—The Bogota Board of Education and District Superintendent seek to support and work with school staff and administrators, students, and parents to ensure a safe and healthy environment for students by encouraging our school community to implement sustainable, energy-smart, eco-friendly, and cost-effective solutions.

Whereas—Extensive opportunities exist to teach students about ecological, economic and social sustainability, environmental health, and nutrition; to integrate sustainability education into classroom learning; and to support students in becoming leaders in making their schools healthier and more sustainable places.

Whereas—Many options and choices exist for schools to use resources more efficiently; to reduce, reuse, and recycle; to follow Green Building Standards for construction and major renovations; to form school partnerships; to eliminate toxic chemicals; to purchase (or produce) clean energy; and to purchase recycled paper, energy-efficient equipment and other green products to protect our global environment.

Whereas—Sustainability means using resources wisely, saving money, and reducing our impact on the environment, all of which will ensure the future health, safety, and prosperity of our children.

Whereas—The Bogota Board of Education commits to the formation of at least one Sustainability Leadership Team (also referred to as “Green Team”), based on the guidance of Sustainable Jersey for Schools.

Whereas—Green Team members help schools adopt policies and practices addressing areas such as sustainability education and professional training, green purchasing, waste reduction, indoor air quality, energy-saving initiatives, and community partnerships.

Whereas—The Bogota Board of Education will encourage Green Teams at all district schools by providing networking and educational opportunities.

Therefore, it is resolved that the Bogota Board of Education agrees to participate in Sustainable Jersey for Schools, and it is the board’s intention to pursue certification for schools in the district.

We hereby appoint Mr. Irfan Evcil, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to be the district’s liaison to Sustainable Jersey for Schools.

We do hereby recognize our Schools as the agents to carry out our commitment to building a sustainable school district through the implementation of Sustainable Jersey for Schools actions.

We agree to complete district actions and to support the district’s schools in completing their actions.

-Mrs. VanBuren asked about agenda item **2-23-21-22**, what would we be doing about forming a Green Team?

-Mr. Evcil responded that he would send a notice to the BEA President for participation from the teachers. We will need a Board member for program liaison. Will prepare the list of things and send it to the whole group.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

-Mrs. Alvarez informed that they had an Education/Policy Committee meeting to introduce new members to policy and educational school plan for the upcoming school year.

-Mr. Ortega informed that they had a brief Building & Grounds Committee meeting. He updated:
-St. Joseph and the Temple building, making sure that things are up to standards for inspections.
-ESIP program for the solar panels and energy saving costs.

-Small projects such as the dumbwaiter to transfer food in the schools; this will take away a lot of strain from employees going up and down the stairs. Also, looking into renovating the garage for building grounds use, getting some shelves and making sure everything is organized in there
- Security & safety projects, putting on the window films, master rekeying of all doors in the district, replacing doors in high school and making sure that they are functioning well.

-Mrs. Lewis informed the Board on Finance Committee meeting, discussed items would be included on next year's budget and things to take into account about staffing, benefits, projects etc.

OLD BUSINESS

-Ms. Montgomery asked what the next steps for Mr. Kennedy's contract are, whether a committee will handle or Board as a whole.

-Mrs. VanBuren said she will discuss procedure with Board attorney.

-Mr. Miranda asked how the RFP (for legal services) process is going.

-Mr. Evcil responded the submission due date is this Friday. RFP was sent to eight companies so far and have received two already.

-Mrs. Kohles asked how the interviews would be held.

-Mrs. VanBuren responded it will be as a full Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Montgomery congratulated Mr. Sterling for his 600th win in girls' basketball, a tremendous accomplishment.

HEARING OF PUBLIC

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

-Mrs. A. Ramirez, 98 Queen Anne Road, agenda item **2-9-21-06**, are we paying for something from 2018, extended school year program?

-Mr. Kennedy responded yes, that was a court case that finally was settled and we are the district responsible for the student. The Commissioner just gave us the ruling that we are responsible, so we have to pay now.

-Mrs. Meberg asked in Q&A if there is any update for getting a Biology teacher for the 9th grade.

-Mr. Kennedy responded we have posted the Biology job, but there are no applicants yet. There is a major teacher's shortage right now. We will keep it posted and as soon as we can hire someone, we will.

Mr. Miranda moved, seconded by Ms. Ruckett, 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 9, 2021 at 8:40 p.m. to discuss matters involving litigation and 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

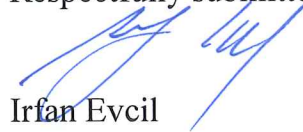
Mr. Miranda motioned, seconded by Mr. Chavez a motion for closed session. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote at 8:40 p.m.

Mr. Miranda moved, seconded by Mr. Ortega a motion to open the meeting in public session. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote at 9:39 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Miranda moved, seconded by Mr. Ruckett a motion for adjournment of the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Irfan Evcil
Board Secretary