

**BOGOTA BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOGOTA, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING
March 16, 2021
Virtual Public Meeting
Webinar ID: 856 8141 9201**

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, Sara Gober, Board Attorney, Elizabeth Ruiz Assistant BS and Elsie Luque, Student Representative.
Nathanya Simon, Board Attorney joined the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Absent: None.

HEARING OF PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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

None.

Mr. Ortega 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:

-This morning we sent out notification that we had three positive cases in BHS, after contact tracing we had to shut down the girls HS volleyball team. We spoke to Health Department today and they are comfortable with us continuing other sports now, wrestling and MS volleyball. The HS is virtual tomorrow and we are looking at our staff numbers who have to quarantine from this incident and other non-related school incidents if we will open the school on Thursday. Right now, the cases in HS can be traced to one person if we have another case not related to this case than we might have to close the HS for two weeks. I'd like to stress this that there were only 16 students in the HS today. We are hoping that in the future, our kids will start coming

back to school and they feel that it is safe. We have not seen a transmission in school, we have been fortunate with that.

Elementary schools will remain open and continue with the two cohorts rotating three days a week in person instruction, moving forward.

Vaccine update, County was able to set up location site this past weekend and we had eight staff members get the vaccine shot. Staff members have been helping each other get appointments and hopefully County will receive more dose to set up appointments for staff.

I want to stress to the community that it has been a changeling time the last year but we're starting to see daylight at the end of the tunnel. I am hoping as more teachers are vaccinated and the numbers come down that we will be able to increase instruction time. My hope is after spring break we will look at the data and look at combing cohorts. Virtual instruction will still be available to any student who wishes to remain at home.

-Mrs. Kohles asked during practice if students are wearing masks.

-Mr. Kennedy responded once they are in their cohort they do not have to, unless they are on the bench.

MINUTES

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

February 9, 2021 Work Session/Action Meeting – Open
February 9, 2021 Work Session/Action Meeting - Closed
February 23, 2021 Regular Meeting – Open
February 23, 2021 Regular Meeting – Closed

Mr. Miranda moved, seconded by Mr. Chavez, a motion for the approval of the Minutes for the **February 9, 2021 Work Session/Action Meeting – Open, February 9, 2021 Work Session/Action Meeting – Closed, February 23, 2021 Regular – Open and February 23, 2021 Regular – Closed.** On a roll call vote Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Miranda, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Ortega, Ms. Ruckett, Mr. Chavez and Mrs. VanBuren voted yes. Mrs. Alvarez abstained for **February 9, 2021 Work Session/Action Meeting – Open & Closed** and voted yes for **February 23, 2021 Regular – Open & Closed.** Motion carried.

-Mr. Chavez moved, second by Mr. Ortega the motion to the agenda this evening to list the matter of the appointment of the position of the attorney of the Bogota Board of Education, with the intent that the matter be moved and voted upon following this evening's executive session. On a roll call vote Mrs. Alvarez, Mr. Miranda, Mr. Ortega, Ms. Ruckett, Mr. Chavez voted yes. Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Montgomery and Mrs. VanBuren voted no. Motion carried.

-Mrs. VanBuren said, will we continue with the interviews this evening. Also, if we choose to take the action this evening there will be a matter of the appointment time, because you cannot appoint an attorney for more than one year. School Boards frowns on this, our field rep frowns on this, I have it in writing. But, if the majority rules. I think it's an insult to the attorney and poor business on our part to be doing something so hasty and not follow through and let the attorney finish her contract period.

-Mrs. Kohles said we can choose to hire, but we can also choose to keep her until the end of the school year.

Consent Agenda Resolutions

Policy	3-16-21-01, 3-16-21-02, 3-16-21-03, 3-16-21-04, 3-16-21-05, 3-16-21-06, 3-16-21-07, 3-16-21-08, 3-16-21-09, 3-16-21-10, 3-16-21-11, 3-16-21-12, 3-16-21-13, 3-16-21-14, 3-16-21-15, 3-16-21-16, 3-16-21-17, 3-16-21-18, 3-16-21-19, 3-16-21-20, 3-16-21-21,
Education	3-16-21-22, 3-16-21-23, 3-16-21-24
Personnel	3-16-21-27, 3-16-21-28

POLICY

First Reading of Policy 0145 Board Member Resignation and Removal (M) (Revised)

3-16-21-01 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the first reading of Policy 0145 Board Member Resignation and Removal (M) (Revised).

First Reading of Regulation 1642 Earned Sick Leave Law (M) (Revised)

3-16-21-02 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the first reading of Regulation 1642 Earned Sick Leave Law (M) (Revised).

First Reading of Policy 1643 Family Leave (M) (New)

3-16-21-03 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the first reading of Policy 1643 Family Leave (M) (New).

Abolishment of Policy 3431.1 Family Leave (M)

3-16-21-04 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the abolishment of Policy 3431.1 Family Leave (M).

Abolishment of Policy 4431.1 Family Leave (M)

3-16-21-05 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the abolishment of Policy 4431.1 Family Leave (M).

Abolishment of Policy 3431.3 New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program

3-16-21-06 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the abolishment of Policy 3431.3 New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program.

Abolishment of Policy 4431.3 New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program

3-16-21-07 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the abolishment of Policy 4431.3 New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program.

First Reading of Policy & Regulation 5330.01 Administration of Medical Cannabis (M) (Revised)

3-16-21-08 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the first reading of Policy & Regulation 5330.01 Administration of Medical Cannabis (M) (Revised).

First Reading of Policy 7425 Lead Testing of Water in Schools (M) (Revised)

3-16-21-09 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the first reading of Policy 7425 Lead Testing of Water in Schools (M) (Revised).

First Reading of Regulation 7425 Lead Testing of Water in Schools (M) (New)

3-16-21-10 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the first reading of Regulation 7425 Lead Testing of Water in Schools (M) (New).

Abolishment of Policy & Regulation 7430 School Safety (M)

3-16-21-11 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the abolishment of Policy & Regulation 7430 School Safety (M).

First Reading of Policy 2415 Every Student Succeeds Act (M) (Revised)

3-16-21-12 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the first reading of Policy 2415 Every Student Succeeds Act (M) (Revised).

Abolishment of Policy 2415.01 Academic Standards, Academic Assessments, and Accountability (M)

3-16-21-13 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the abolishment of Policy 2415.01 Academic Standards, Academic Assessments, and Accountability (M).

First Reading of Policy 2415.02 Title I – Fiscal Responsibilities (M) (Revised)

3-16-21-14 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the first reading of Policy 2415.02 Title I –Fiscal Responsibilities (M) (Revised).

Abolishment of Policy 2415.03 Highly Qualified Teachers (M)

3-16-21-15 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the abolishment of Policy 2415.03 Highly Qualified Teachers (M).

First Reading of Policy 2415.05 Student Surveys, Analysis, and/or Evaluations (M) (Revised)

3-16-21-16 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the first reading of Policy 2415.05 Student Surveys, Analysis, and/or Evaluations (M) (Revised).

First Reading of Policy & Regulation 2415.20 Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints (M) (Revised)

3-16-21-17 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the first reading of Policy and Regulation 2415.20 Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints (M) (Revised).

First Reading of Policy 4125 Employment of Support Staff Members (M) (Revised)

3-16-21-18 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the first reading of Policy 4125 Employment of Support Staff Members (M) (Revised).

First Reading of Policy 6360 Political Contributions (M) (Revised)

3-16-21-19 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the first reading of Policy 6360 Political Contributions (M) (Revised).

First Reading of Policy 8330 Student Records (M) (Revised)

3-16-21-20 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the first reading of Policy 8330 Student Records (M) (Revised).

First Reading of Policy 9713 Recruitment by Special Interest Groups (M) (Revised)

3-16-21-21 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the first reading of Policy 9713 Recruitment by Special Interest Groups (M) (Revised).

Ms. Montgomery moved, seconded by Mr. Ortega a motion for the approval of consent agenda items **3-16-21-01 through 3-16-21-21**. 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.

EDUCATION

Approval of Co-op Baseball Program

3-16-21-22 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves a Co-op Baseball Program with Saddle Brook High School for the 2021 season. Due to the overlapping of the seasons, it would be difficult to field a full team this year.

Approval of SAT/ACT Preparation Courses

3-16-21-23 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves Educational Services Center to provide SAT/ACT preparation courses for the Winter/Spring 2021 exams.

Mrs. Alvarez asked about 3-16-21-22, when the course can successfully begin, we are already in mid-March and what the cost is.

Mr. Kennedy responded courses are provided every month and one in-person course available somewhere else through the company. Students pay for the cost, if we run we should pay teachers.

Mr. Miranda moved, seconded by Mr. Chavez a motion for the approval of consent agenda items **3-16-21-22 through 3-16-21-23**. 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.

Approval of Professional Conferences

3-16-21-24 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
Arlene Luna	What the WIAT Can Do 4 You	Virtual	4/16/21	\$100
Irfan Evcil	Purchasing Update/Best Practices & NJSTART State Contract Purchasing	Virtual	3/16/21	\$50
Irfan Evcil	NJDOE – Overview of CRSSA	Virtual	4/13/21	\$25
Irfan Evcil	Preparing for the Audit, GASB84 and Internal Controls	Virtual	5/6/21	\$50
Mara Wilson	CBT with Latino Populations	Virtual	4/26/21	\$100
Mara Wilson	Teen Dating Abuse	Virtual	5/11/21	N/A
Carla Cespedes	Purchasing Update/Best Practices & NJSTART State Contract Purchasing	Virtual	3/16/21	\$50

Approval of School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Report

3-16-21-25 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill held on March 3, 2021 at 8:06 am for E. Roy Bixby Elementary School on Chestnut Avenue, supervised by Damon Englese, Principal for the second drill of 2020/2021 school year.

Approval of 2021-2022 New Jersey Americorps Grant submission

3-16-21-26 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the submission of an application for the New Jersey Americorps Grant. This application's purpose is to plan for the creation of after school, tutoring, and summer programs in Bixby and Steen Schools for students in grades PK-4. If approved, the board will support its budget and its operational plan.

Mr. Ortega moved, seconded by Mr. Miranda a motion for the approval of agenda items **3-16-21-24 through 3-16-21-26**. 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 Maternity Leave

3-16-21-27 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the maternity leave of **Lauren Sontag**, Elementary Teacher, as follows:

May 1, 2021 through May 28, 2021 using 20 sick days

May 31, 2021 through December 31, 2021 FMLA and NJFLA running concurrently. Returning to work January 1, 2022

*above dates subject to change pending used sick days prior to the start of maternity leave and actual date of leave.

Approval of Maternity Leave

3-16-21-28 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the maternity leave of **Jennifer Buonadonna**, School Nurse, as follows:

May 3, 2021 through June 9, 2021 using 27 sick days

June 10, 2021 through November 12, 2021 FMLA and NJFLA running concurrently. Returning to work November 15, 2021

*above dates subject to change pending used sick days prior to the start of maternity leave and actual date of leave.

Ms. Montgomery moved, seconded by Mrs. Alvarez a motion for the approval of consent agenda items **3-16-21-27 through 3-16-21-28**. 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 Resignation due to Retirement

3-16-21-29 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves/ratifies the medical leave of absence without pay for Luis Ramirez, Maintenance Worker from December 16, 2020 through March 5, 2021

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board accepts with regret the resignation due to retirement of Luis Ramirez, Maintenance Worker effective March 5, 2021.

Approval of Resignation due to Retirement

3-16-21-30 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board accepts with regret the resignation due to retirement of Mary Lou Schweitzer-Collins, School Nurse at Bixby School effective June 30, 2021.

Board members thanked for their services and wish happy retirement to Mary Lou Schweitzer-Collins and Luis Ramirez.

Mr. Miranda moved, seconded by Mr. Chavez a motion for the approval of agenda items **3-16-21-29 through 3-16-21-30**. 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

3-16-21-31 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the payment of bills in the amount of \$948,324.15 dated March 16, 2021 as per the attached, which will become part of this resolution.

Approval of Budgetary Line Item Expenditure

3-16-21-32 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 February 28, 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

3-16-21-33 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 February 2021 in the amount of \$1,146,918.68 dated February 12, 2021 and February 26, 2021 as attached, which shall be made a part of this resolution.

Approval of Report of the Secretary

3-16-21-34 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board approves the Report of the Secretary for the month of February 2021 as attached, which shall be made a part of this resolution.

Approval of Report of the Treasurer

3-16-21-35 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board approves the Report of the Treasurer for the month of February 2021 as attached, which shall be made a part of this resolution.

Approval of Budget Transfers

3-16-21-36 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves/ratifies budget transfers for the month of February 2021 as attached, which shall be made a part of this resolution.

Approval of South Bergen Jointure Transportation Services

3-16-21-37 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that, the Bogota Board of Education does hereby approve an agreement with South Bergen Jointure Commission, an approved coordinated transportation services Agency, for the purposes of transporting students in accordance with Chapter 53, P.L. 1997 for the time period 2021/2022 school year. The services to be provided include, but are not limited to, the coordinated transportation of nonpublic, out of district special education, vocational and summer programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, the Bogota Board of Education agrees to abide by the transportation services agreement as published by the South Bergen Jointure Commission and attached to this resolution.

Approval of Proposed Budget

3-16-21-38 BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and the School Business Administrator, the Board approves the Preliminary School District Budget for the 2021-2022 School Year for submission to the Bergen County Superintendent of Schools for approval as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$25,804,768	\$ 15,632,286
Special Revenue Fund	\$3,961,125	N/A
Debt Service	\$551,400	\$551,400
Total Budget	\$30,317,293	\$ 16,183,686

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bogota Board of Education requests the approval a capital reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$890,193. The District intends to utilize these funds for the upgrade IT infrastructure for new building (\$70,000), district-wide building envelope and roof improvement projects for all

schools (\$530,000), instructional equipment (\$126,000), non-instructional equipment (\$128,600), and debt assessment (\$35,593), and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator, the Board approves the tax levy for the General Fund \$15,632,286 for the 2021-2022 school year.

Approval of Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement

3-16-21-39 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator, the Board approves travel and related expense reimbursement:

WHEREAS, the Bogota Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and N.J.A.C. 6A:23b-1.29(b)

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive prior approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only as described in NJOMB Circular Letter 06-02, including amendments or revisions thereto, a threshold amount below which Board approval is not required; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education establishes, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$2,500.00 per staff/Board member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff/Board member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable are excluded from the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A: 23B-1.1 et seq;

WHEREAS, the Board had previously established maximum amount for the pre-budget year 2021-2022 as \$35,000; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has expended \$2,399 of the maximum amount for the pre-budget year to date; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board establishes a travel expenditure maximum for 2021-2022 not to exceed \$35,000, excluding federal sources. Be it further resolved that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded. Be it further resolved, included in this amount is a maximum of \$2,500 per employee or officer.

Award Contract for Internet and IT Infrastructure and Approval of E-rate Grant

3-16-21-40 WHEREAS, the Board of Education solicited Request for Proposal for E-rate Category One and Category Two services, at Bogota Jr./Sr. High, Lillian M. Steen Elementary, E. Roy Bixby Elementary Schools and new leased building, and

WHEREAS, the RFPs were reviewed in the office of the School Business Administrator

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Bogota Board of Education awards contracts for the following service providers for 2021-2022 school year, pursuant to RFP process as the lowest responsible bidder and approve to apply E-rate grant.

Category 1:

Vendor	Description of Services	Contract Amount	E-Rate Grant (60%)	District Cost (40%)
Altice Business	1 Gbps dedicated Internet,	Bixby \$13,620	\$8,172	\$5,448
	3 locations	Steen \$13,620	\$8,172	\$5,448
	1 year 7/1/21-6/30/22	Jr./Sr. HS \$13,620	\$8,172	\$5,448
	Private fiber network 1GB	New building \$13,911	\$8,347	\$5,564
	Annual Totals	\$54,771	\$32,863	\$21,908

Category 2:

Vendor	Description of Services	Contract Amount	E-Rate Grant (60%)	District Cost (40%)
Computer Design & Integration, LLC.	IT infrastructure, Category 2 eligible items Data Network, WAP, racks, cabling, fiber run, professional services	New building \$70,328	\$42,197	\$28,131

Ms. Ruckett moved, seconded by Mr. Chavez a motion for the approval of agenda items **3-16-21-31 through 3-16-21-40**. 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

-Mr. Ortega, Finance Committee met March 15, 2021 and spoke and reviewed briefly of the proposed budget. Further details can be found on resolution **3-16-21-38**.

-Ms. Ruckett, Negotiation Committee has met a number of times and pulled together our presentation for the group. I expect to have that discussion later this week, if not early next week.

-Mrs. Kohles, attended the library meeting, they discussed the passports. They have a lot of people coming for passports, because they are basically the only library doing them in Bergen County. They also said they had digitalized the Bogota High School yearbooks. They also asked about how senior citizens can be assisted with access for making Covid vaccine appointments. Maybe our students can help them make appointments for them.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Interviews of Candidates for the Board Attorney

At this time, the Board conducted interviews with the following three attorney firms:

- Frances Febres and Mark Wenczel from Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs LLC.
- William Soukas from Nowell P.A.
- Derlys Gutierrez and Cherie Adams from AG&L Adams Gutierrez & Lattiboudere, LLC.

Board members Mr. Chavez, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Miranda, Mr. Ortega and Ms. Ruckett asked the candidates questions. All candidates answered questions provided by the Board, with brief statements of their qualifications and reasons for wanting to work for the Bogota Board of Education.

HEARING OF PUBLIC

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

- Sherry Solomov, 350 Larch Avenue, said Bogota Helping Hands can help out senior citizens with vaccine appointments.

- Mrs. Kohles informed that this could be arranged with Chelsey from the Bogota Public Library.

- Antoinette Ramirez, 98 Queen Anne Road, asked question about students testing positive and teachers having to quarantine, you said it was four instead of nine.

- Mr. Kennedy responded some teachers have been vaccinated and are already through their vaccination period, so they do not have to quarantine. Some of them have also tested positive, so they don't have to quarantine either. For 90 days they are immune from it as per the Department of Health. If you get the Johnson & Johnson it's two weeks after the dose, if you get the others it's two weeks after the second dose.

Mr. Miranda 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 March 16, 2021 at 8:20 p.m. to discuss matters involving negotiations.
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

Mrs. Kohles motioned, seconded by Mrs. Alvarez a motion for closed session. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote at 8:20 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 9:17 p.m.

Approval of appointment of Board attorney

3-16-21-41 WHEREAS, the Board of Education has a need to retain an attorney to serve in the role as counsel for the Board of Education, to handle and address all legal matters of the Board of Education and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education issued a request for proposal for the position of Board counsel, labor counsel and special education counsel and conducted interviews of selected applicants on March 16, 2021 and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wished to appoint William C. Soukous of the Law Firm of Nowell P.A. to serve as counsel for all purposes effective immediately

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that William C. Soukous be hereby appointed Board attorney effective immediately and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that William C. Soukous shall submit the Board of Education a contract for services and such other documentation as customary required to be submitted by the Board attorney.

Mr. Chavez moved, seconded by Mr. Ortega a motion for the approval of agenda item **3-16-21-41**.

-Ms. Montgomery informed that it was recently brought to her attention that attorney William C. Soukous of Nowell P.A. firm, had contributed to the party of the campaign for the four new Board members. I am not saying that they did anything illegal at all; I just think that their decision to rush this decision and not allow the current attorney to finish out her contract, without good cause, should demonstrate something to everyone.

-Mr. Miranda responded to Ms. Montgomery that when you were informed of that it seems like it was in closed session and I'm not sure if you are in violation or not. A majority of the public voted for the new Board members to bring on change. We are learning through reading through understanding. For twenty some odd years someone controlled this Board prior to current attorney. We should go out for RFP's every year to see where the rates and the experiences are and should have fair and open interviews in public.

Ms. Montgomery moved, seconded by Ms. Kohles a motion to amend and add an additional attorney's name to resolution **3-16-21-41**, AG&L Adams Gutierrez & Lattiboudere, LLC. On a roll call vote Mrs. Alvarez, Mr. Miranda, Mr. Ortega, Ms. Ruckett and Mr. Chavez voted no. Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Montgomery and Mrs. VanBuren voted yes. Motion failed.

Mr. Chavez moved, seconded by Mr. Ortega a motion for the approval of agenda item **3-16-21-41**. On a roll call vote Mrs. Alvarez, Mr. Miranda, Mr. Ortega, Ms. Ruckett and Mr. Chavez voted yes. Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Montgomery and Mrs. VanBuren voted no. Motion carried.

-Ms. Montgomery, thanked Nathanya Simon Board Attorney for everything that she has done for the district and expressed her appreciation.

-Mrs. Simon responded that she would make herself available throughout the transition.

-Mrs. VanBuren read a letter that Mrs. Simon gave the Board:
Damian, Kathy and Irfan,

I have enjoyed being the Board Attorney for the Bogota Board of Education, and wanted our relationship to continue.

Over these past several years, I have resolved numerous cases and handled dozens of legal questions that have protected the district from additional litigation.

I am extremely proud of the guidance and services that I and members of my Firm have provided to the Bogota School District in so many areas of specialization. I believe that you have a wonderful administration and staff. They have always been responsive and cooperative with me.

I am also very appreciative of the support that has been given to me by the Administration. I have also appreciated the support by the Board of Education until now. I am confident that there is really no reason for choosing another counsel other than wanting a change. I believe in change. As a woman who fought for the civil rights of all people and the advancement of women in the profession of law, I understand that moving forward is important and relevant. I do not want to make this process of RFP for new Counsel any more difficult than it needs to be.

If a majority of the Members of the Board want to proceed in a new direction with new Counsel, please know that I am resigning as soon as your new appointment is made.

I will agree to provide supports for a smooth transition, and will be available to answer questions for the new Counsel, as authorized by the Board.

All the Best,

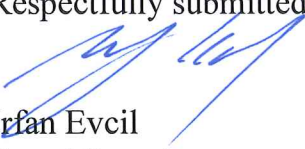
Nathanya G. Simon, Esq.

-Mrs. Kohles said that all she keeps hearing is the word change and change is always good. But when there is no warranted reason for change, we've been doing great for three years. Nathanya could have been kept until the end of her contract. You hired an attorney who donated to your campaign. You came in knowing nothing about Nathanya and you knew you were getting rid of her. As soon as you won your election, you knew you had to pay back somebody and that's what you did. It's a shame that she didn't even get a courtesy interview so that you could have known a little bit more about her firm and what they have done for the Board of Education.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Kohles moved, seconded by Mr. Miranda a motion for adjournment of the meeting at 9:38 p.m. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Irfan Evcil
Board Secretary