

ABSECON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, October 26, 2023
Cafetorium

FA. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm in the Cafetorium, with the president, Mr. Rynkiewicz, presiding.

B. FLAG SALUTE

C. SUNSHINE LAW

Mr. Rynkiewicz announced that the meeting is being held in compliance with the Sunshine Law, in that a notice was posted with the City Clerk, and on the Bulletin Board in the City Hall, and the newspapers were notified.

Mr. Rynkiewicz announced that a mechanical device will be used to record these proceedings.

D. ROLL CALL

Board Members	Present	Absent	Administration	Present
Ms. Hudson	X		John Hansen	X
Mr. Cottrell	X		Dr. Daniel Dooley	X
Mr. Rynkiewicz	X			
Ms. Wallace	X			
Ms. Law	X			
Ms. Marczyk		X		
Mr. Neal		X		

THE ABSECON BOARD OF EDUCATION USES A "CONSENT AGENDA" PROCEDURE.

E. MINUTES -

- a. Ms. Law moved to approve the following minutes as read as amended:

Board Meeting

September 26, 2023

The motion was seconded by Ms. Wallace, and unanimously carried by a roll call vote.. Mr. Cottrell, Abstain. Mr. Neal, Ms. Marczyk, Absent.

- b. Ms. Law moved to approve the following minutes as read:

Executive Session

September 26, 2023

The motion was seconded by Ms. Wallace, and unanimously carried by a roll call vote.. Mr. Cottrell, Abstain. Mr. Neal, Ms. Marczyk, Absent.

F. CORRESPONDENCE: None

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G. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Meeting was opened/closed to the public at 7:08 pm. No public comments.

H. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- ★ Superintendent
 - State Assessment Scores

Ms. Reed presented a Report on Testing Results. Ms. Reed presented a Learning Assessment Report.

- ★ Marsh
- ★ Attales
- ★ Special Services
- ★ Curriculum - State Assessment Results Presentation
- ★ Facilities Committee
- ★ Technology
- ★ Safety & Security
- ★ Enrollment - 921
- ★ Delegate to NJSBA

Dr. Dooley reviewed the monthly activities.

I. EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE:

1. HIB Reports -

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to confirm the September HIB reports.
- b. HIB Reports: October 2023
HAM: 1 Reported 0 Confirmed
ECA: 3 Reported 0 Confirmed

Ms. Law moved to approve items 1a, and 1b.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Wallace, and unanimously carried by a roll call vote. Mr. Neal, Ms. Marczyk, Absent.

J. PERSONNEL:

- 2. Retirement - Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to regrettfully accept the retirement of Susan Jamison, 2nd Grade Teacher, as of February 1, 2024.

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3. Resignation -

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to accept the resignation of Emma Pirie, Instructional Assistant, as of November 9, 2023.
- b. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to accept the resignation of Elizabeth Ewart, Preschool Social Worker, as of December 19, 2023.

4. New Hire -

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve William Straka as a Technology Coordinator at a prorated annual salary of \$92,500 from January 2, 2024 to June 30, 2024. [11-00-222-177]
Employment is provisional pending employment history and background check
- b. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to ratify Amy Arena as a Behavior Specialist at a prorated annual salary of \$69,481 on Step 6 of the MA salary guide from October 17, 2023 to June 15, 2024. [11-000-219-104]
Employment is provisional pending certification verification, employment history and background check
- c. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve Emily Johnson as an English as a Second Language Teacher at a prorated annual salary of \$69,481 on Step 6 of the MA salary guide from November 27, 2023 to June 30, 2024. [11-240-100-101]
Employment is provisional pending certification verification, employment history and background check
- d. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve Julianne Tuscano as a Special Education Teacher at a prorated annual salary of \$69,704 on Step 5 of the MA+15 salary guide from November 29, 2023 to June 15, 2024. [11-204-100-101]
Employment is provisional pending certification verification, employment history and background check
- e. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve Mackenzie Sklarew as a Substitute School Nurse at \$40 per hour from October 27, 2023 to June 30, 2024. [11-000-213-104]
Employment is provisional pending certification verification, employment history and background check

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- f. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to ratify Rasmiyyah Ali as an 80% Instructional Assistant at a prorated annual salary of \$17,256 based on Step 5 of the salary guide from October 23, 2023 to June 15, 2023.
[11-000-217-106]
Employment is provisional pending employment history and background check

 - g. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve Gillian Kerper as an Instructional Assistant at a prorated annual salary of \$21,570 on Step 5 of the salary guide from October 30, 2023 to June 15, 2024.
[11-000-217-106]
Employment is provisional pending employment history and background check

 - h. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve Ana Delgado as an Instructional Assistant at a prorated annual salary of \$21,570 on Step 5 of the salary guide from October 30, 2023 to June 15, 2024.
[11-000-217-106]
Employment is provisional pending employment history and background check

 - i. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve Scott Schromsky as a Maintenance/Custodian at a prorated annual salary of \$35,481 on step 1 of the salary guide from October 27, 2023 to June 30, 2024.
[11-000-262-100]
Employment is provisional pending employment history and background check

 - j. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to ratify Irma Poblete as a Bus Driver at a prorated annual salary of \$27,540 from October 4, 2023 to June 30, 2023. [11-000-270-160]
Employment is provisional pending employment history and background check
5. Medical Leave -
- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to ratify the medical leave of employee #37846581 as of September 25, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

 - b. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to ratify the medical leave of employee #11535499 as of October 27, 2023 through December 31, 2023, pending medical clearance.

 - c. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to ratify the medical leave of employee #95528691 as of October 10, 2023 through December 5, 2023.

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- d. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to ratify the medical leave of employee #16883563 as of October 13, 2023 through November 30, 2023.
- e. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to ratify the medical leave of employee #84059096 as of October 25, 2023 through November 8, 2023.

6. Administrative Leave -

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to ratify the administrative leave of employee #37768082 as of October 9, 2023 through October 13, 2023.
- b. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to ratify the administrative leave of employee #11535499 as of October 10, 2023 through October 26, 2023.

K. CURRICULUM:

7. Homebound Instruction Teacher - Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve the following as Homebound Instruction Teachers at \$40 per hour for the 2023-2024 school year:

Doug Scholder

Julianne Toscano

8. Homebound Instruction -

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to ratify Homebound Instruction for SID #6252619210, for 10 hours per week over no fewer than 3 days, pending special education eligibility determination, effective October 10, 2023, pending medical assessment.

9. Afterschool Intervention Teachers - Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to ratify the following as Afterschool Intervention Teachers at \$40 per hour, to begin October 17, 2023: [20-490-100-110/20-431-100-101]

Grace Vicente
Mary Hodgens

Gabriela Francisco
Robert Evans

Christine Urmson

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10. Lunch Detention - Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to ratify the following as Lunch Detention Monitors at \$40 per hour for the 2023-2024 school year:
[11-401-100-110]

Shelby Townsend

11. Lunch Chaperone - Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to ratify the following as Lunch Chaperone for the 2023-2024 school year at \$15 per hour:
[60-NON-910-100]

Elvia Valdez (10/4/23)

12. STARS Staff - Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve the following STARS Staff for the 2023-2024 school year at \$17 per hour: [61-NON-920-100]

Kaila Biggs

Hayley Owens

Kadinah Harris-Hood

13. STARS Intramural Sports Advisor - Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve the following as STARS Intramural Sports Advisors:
[61-NON-920-100]

\$40 per hour

Doug Scholder (Flag Football)

14. After School Nurse - Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to ratify Jenna DiBuonaventura as a Substitute After School Nurse at \$40 per hour from October 16, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

15. Bus Aide - Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to ratify the following staff as Bus Aides for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$20 per hour:
[11-000-270-107]

Desirae Champion

16. Phonics First Training -

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve the following staff for Phonics First Level I training at \$40 per hour, not to exceed 30 hours:
[20-488-200-100]

Stacie Allen

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- b. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve the cost of the Phonics First Level I training kit for \$1,135 per person.

Stacie Allen

17. Rate Increase -

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve the hourly rate increase for the following cafeteria aides, crossing guards, and substitute custodians from \$15 to \$15.50, effective January 1, 2024:

Kaila Biggs	Sara Busch-Thomason	Desirae Champion
Jahayra Chavez	Elizabeth Gonzalez	Alana Iachetti
Linda Meyer	Alexis Nadeau	Kitty Riffle
Elvia Valdez	Karina Torres Duarte	

- b. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve the daily rate increase for Certified Teacher Substitute, Substitute Certificate, Substitute Instructional Assistant positions as follows, effective January 1, 2024:

Certified Teacher Substitute - From \$104 to \$111
Substitute Teacher - From \$99 to \$106
Sub Instructional Assistant - From \$85 to \$91

- 18. Transfer - Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve the voluntary transfer of Anthony Errico from Maintenance/Custodian to Bus Aide/Lunch Chaperone/Custodian-Maintenance as of October 27, 2023 to June 30, 2023.

- 19. Softball Clinic - Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve a Softball Clinic on November 6 - November 7, 2023 from 3 - 5PM for all students interested in playing this season.

- 20. Thomas Jefferson University Occupational Therapy Intern - Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Committee moves to approve the following Thomas Jefferson University Occupational Therapy Intern for the 2023-2024 school year:

Name	Clinical Practice/Hours	Cooperating Teacher	Dates
Kathryn McLaughlin	Level II Fieldwork A	Ana Heald	January 2, 2024 - March 22, 2024
Augusta Miskovicz	MSOT	Ana Heald	January 8, 2024 - March 29, 2024

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21. Stockton University Psychology Student - Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Committee moves to approve the following Stockton University Psychology Student for the 2023-2024 school year:

Name	Clinical Practice/Hours	Cooperating Teacher	Dates
Hannah Murray	Internship 120 HRS	Melissa VanEmbden	Beginning January 2024

22. Field Trips - Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve the following Field Trips for the 2023-2024 school year:

GRADE/GROUP	DATE	FIELD TRIP	COST
Preschool	November 6, 2023	Absecon Fire Department	The Cost of Busing
7th Grade	November 16, 2023	Community Clean Up	The Cost of Busing

23. Out of District Workshops - Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve the following Out of District Workshops for the 2023-2024 school year:

DATE	NAME	LOCATION	EVENT	REGISTRATION
October 23-26,	Eric Neal, John Rynkiewicz, Megan Marczyk, Raquel Law, Theresa Hudson, Linda Wallace, Chris Cottrell, Dr. Dooley, Alaina Baner, Claire Sylvester, Amadis Terrero, Kevin Burns, Lindsay Reed, Ken Goglas, Don Snyder, Brian Kehoe, Jessica Waddington, Mary Alvarado, Tyrone Schrum, Mike Morris, Leslie Schiavo, John	AC Convention Center	NJSBA Convention 2023	Convention Parking

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DATE	NAME	LOCATION	EVENT	REGISTRATION
	Hansen, Mila Melton, Sharon Gaskill, Mimi Deleener			
October 30, 2023 November 14, 2023 November 28, 2023 December 5, 2023 December 12, 2023 January 2, 2024 January 9, 2024	Michele Miller Marybeth Cialini Lisa Maletta Shelby Townsend Michelle Grdic Christine Adams	Virtual	Atlantic County RAPID + PD on the Science of REading	\$40 per hour/per person/per session (45 Minute Sessions)
November 1, 2023	Christina King	SRI&ETTC	Ozobots in the K-8 Classroom	-
November 13, 2023	Cailin McCully	SRI&ETTC	Makerspace: 3D Printing	-
November 16, 2023	Brian Kehoe Leslie Schiavo	SRI&ETTC	Strategies to De-escalate Conflict & Respond Effectively to Disruptive Student Behavior	ETTC Hours
December 5, 2023	Christina King	SRI&ETTC	Physical Computing with Microbits	-

Ms. Law moved to approve items 2, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4i, 4j, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e, 6a, 6b, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16a, 16b, 17a, 17b, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Wallace, and unanimously carried by a roll call vote.
 Mr. Neal, Ms. Marczyk, Absent.

FISCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

L. FINANCE:

24. ESEA FY2024 - Amendment 1 - Motion to approve the submission of Amendment 1 of the ESEA FY2024 grant application to the NJDOE to include carry-over funds from FY2023, and to subsequently accept the grant funds as follows:

Title I \$ 375,680 (includes \$ - 0 - FY23 carry-over)

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Title IIA	\$ 63,705	(includes	\$16,590	FY23 carry-over)
Title III	\$ 18,047	(includes	\$ 4,446	FY23 carry-over)
Title III-Imm	\$ 4,207	(includes	\$ - 0 -	FY23 carry-over)
Title IV	\$ 30,430	(includes	\$ 8,959	FY23 carry-over)

25. IDEA FY2024 - Amendment 1 - Motion to approve the submission of Amendment 1 of the IDEA FY2024 grant application to the NJDOE to include carry-over funds from FY2023, and to subsequently accept the grant funds as follows:

Basic	\$ 381,095	(includes	\$23,739	FY23 carry-over)
Preschool	\$ 11,024	(includes	\$ - 0 -	FY23 carry-over)

26. NJ High Impact Tutoring - Motion to approve the submission of the NJ High Impact Tutoring grant application to the NJDOE in the amount of \$76,000, and to subsequently accept the grant funds.

27. Comprehensive Maintenance Plan - N.J.A.C. 6:24-4.2 requires that each Board of Education, annually, approve a Comprehensive Maintenance Plan. This is a budgetary planning document required to be submitted to the County Office by November 15th, annually. The 2023-2024 Plan Budget agrees with the budget adopted by the Board of Education for accounts 11-000-261-XXX and the 2023/2024 plan is estimated with minimal increase, if any.

28. Revise Lease Renewal of School Buses -Motion to approve the amended bus lease agreement with Carson Valley Leasing, LLC (with payment made to Sheppard Bus Company) for the lease of school buses for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:

Five (5) 54 Seat Buses (July-Jun)	\$ 98,905.85
Five (5) 54 Seat Buses (Sept-June)	\$ 105,702.72
One (1) 25 Passenger Bus with wheelchair access and air conditioning (July-Oct)	\$ 7,046.84
One (1) Full-Size Wheel Chair Bus with wheelchair access and air conditioning (Nov-June)	\$ 22,240.00
Total:	\$ 233,895.41

29. Professional Consultant Services. - Motion to ratify the Agreement for Professional Development and Consultant Services between Absecon Public Schools and Shelly Ward Richards, Ed.D, Educational Consultant, LLC in the amount of \$1,000 per day, not to exceed 20 days for the period October 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

30. Tuition Contract for DCF Student Received - The student has been placed by the Division of Children and Families and is attending Absecon School District. The contract is in the format prescribed by the State of New Jersey and is available in the Business Office for review. Motion to ratify the 2023-2024 tuition contract to receive one student,

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SID# 3790899007, Grade 5, from Dennis Township Board of Education, from September 13, 2023 to June 30, 2024, for a prorated tuition of \$14,506.38 (\$83.37/day @ 174 days).

31. Pleasantville Board of Education Tuition Contract 2023-2024 - Motion to approve the Pleasantville High School tuition contract for the 2023-2024 school year for \$612,500 as follows:

41 Students @ \$17,500	\$717,500
FY21-22 Tuition Adjustment	<u>\$ 55,188</u>
	\$772,688

32. Transportation Contract for DCF Student Sent - The student has been placed by the Division of Children and Families and is attending DCF Regional School, Ocean Campus, Toms River. Motion to ratify the 2023-2024 transportation contract to transport one student, SID# 8973485102, Grade 12, from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 at the rate of \$75.00 per diem.
33. Joint Transportation Agreement with Atlantic Community Charter School - Motion to amend the FY24 joint transportation agreement with Atlantic Community Charter School (joiner) and Absecon Public Schools (host), which was originally approved on August 29, 2023, to transport three (3) late-run routes from Atlantic Community Charter School at a lump sum cost of \$,50,581, inclusive of an administrative fee Effective October 2023 to April 2024 for 58 total days.
34. FY2022 NJSIG Safety Grant - Motion to accept the 2022 NJSIG Safety Grant award funds in the amount of \$2,000.00. The funds will be used to support school security.
35. Joint Transportation Agreement School Related Activities - Motion to approve the FY24 joint transportation agreement with Ventnor School District (joiner) and Absecon Public Schools (host) to transport field hockey sports teams in October 2023 at a cost of \$350.00 per bus.
36. Transfer of Current Year Surplus to Capital Reserve, as amended - WHEREAS, NJAC 6A:23A-14.3 and 14.4 permit a Board of Education to establish and/or deposit into certain reserve accounts at year end, and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned statutes authorize procedures, under the authority of the Commissioner of Education, which permit a board of education to transfer anticipated excess current revenue or unexpended appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June by board resolution, and

WHEREAS, the Absecon Board of Education wishes to deposit anticipated current year surplus into a Capital Reserve account at year end, June 30, 2023, and

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WHEREAS, the Absecon Board of Education has determined that an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 is available for such purpose of transfer;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Absecon Board of Education that it hereby authorizes the district's School Business Administrator to make this transfer consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

Mr. Cottrell moved to approve items 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Rynkiewicz, and unanimously carried by a roll call vote. Mr. Neal, Ms. Marczyk, Absent.

M. OTHER BUSINESS:

37. TREASURER'S & SECRETARY'S REPORT - Motion to acknowledge the receipt of the Treasurer's and Secretary's Report for September, *which is in agreement*.

38. BOARD SECRETARY MONTHLY CERTIFICATION - Motion, that after review and pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)4, the Absecon Board of Education certifies that as September 30, 2023, after review of the Secretary's and Treasurer's Monthly Financial Reports (Revenue and Appropriation Sections), and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that, to the best of our knowledge, no Major account or fund has been expended in violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1-8.2, and there have been no changes in anticipated revenue sources and/or amounts so that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

39. TRANSFERS -

- a. Motion to ratify September transfers.
- b. Motion to ratify June 30th transfers, as amended.

40. MONTHLY PURCHASE ORDERS/BILLS - Motion to approve the following:

Bills to be Approved for Payment	\$	830,513.39
Checks to be Ratified	\$	7,474.52
Payroll (September) to be Ratified	\$	1,279,972.80

Mr. Cottrell moved to approve items 37, 38, 39a, 39b, and 40.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Hudson, and unanimously carried by a roll call vote. Mr. Neal, Ms. Marczyk, Absent.

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N. OLD BUSINESS - None

O. NEW BUSINESS - None

P. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Meeting was opened/closed to the public at 7:54 pm. No public comments.

Q. NEXT MEETING DATE - November 28, 2023

R. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Ms. Law moved to adopt the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED by the Absecon Board of Education that, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et seq.) it shall enter into the Executive Session to discuss personnel, student matters and potential litigation. The information discussed can be disclosed to the public only upon formal written request to the board secretary at the next work, special, or regular meeting to determine if the time and circumstances would be appropriate to disclose the information discussed. At the conclusion of this session the Board of Education will reconvene the regular portion of the meeting and action may, or may not, be taken.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Hudson, and unanimously carried by a roll call vote.
Mr. Neal, Ms. Marczyk, Absent.

On a motion by Ms. Law, seconded by Ms. Hudson, and unanimously carried by a voice vote, the Executive Session was declared closed at 8:53 pm. Mr. Neal, Ms. Marczyk, Absent.

S. ADJOURNMENT - On a motion by Ms. Law, seconded by Ms. Wallace, and unanimously carried by a voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. Mr. Neal, Ms. Marczyk, Absent.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hansen,
Board Secretary