

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
LITTLE FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
LITTLE FALLS, NEW JERSEY**

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday December 10, 2024 Agenda

Mr. Miraglia called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. FLAG SALUTE
- III. PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Public Meetings Act, the Little Falls Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting by notifying the Board's official newspaper, the local parent-teacher associations, and posting same on the Community Bulletin Board and the District's Website.

IV. **ELECTION RESULTS -COUNTY OF PASSAIC CERTIFIED ELECTION RESULTS**

The results of the election held on November 4, 2024 were as follows:

There were two (2) positions open for a three (3) year term. One (1) person filed a petition for a (3) three-year term.

The results of the election, in order in which they appeared on the ballot are as follows:

THREE-YEAR TERM	TOTAL VOTES
Desiree DiBuono	3,314
Write – ins	
Janine Barone	27
Carlos Ortiz	15
Joshua Cooper	9

*Exhibit IV- A for additional write in votes

V. **ROLL CALL**

Board Members present: Mrs. DiBuono, Mr. Jandoli
Mrs. Lijoi, Mr. Miraglia, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Verdi

Board Members Absent: Dr. Capizzi, Mr. Tullo, and Mrs. Zurbruegg

Also, Present. Mrs. Tracey Marinelli, Superintendent, Mrs. Melissa Sanzari-Stevens,
Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE-None

VII. MINUTES

On motion of Mr. Jandoli and seconded by Mrs. DiBuono the following motions were offered for approval.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVE that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the Minutes of the following meetings.

1. Regular Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2024
2. Executive Meeting Minutes- November 12, 2024

AYES: 6

NAYES: 0

ABSENT: 3

VIII. OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC – **(Limited to Agenda Items Only)**

On motion of Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Jandoli, the meeting was opened for public comment.

Since no one wished to be heard,

On motion of Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Jandoli moved that the Little Falls Board of Education close the meeting to the public.

AYES: 6

NAYES:0

ABSENT: 3

IX. PRESENTATION-

1. Mrs. Marinelli presented the following Hornets of the Month with a certificate.
Kindergarten- Lian Maravilla, First Grade- Anna Martin,
Second Grade- Jerika Maksymowicz
Third Grade- Abigail Rosas, Fourth Grade- Dylan Lijoi
Fifth Grade-Kaylee Sproviero, Sixth Grade- Emma Kelly
Seventh Grade- Naya Bardaghji, Eighth Grade- Juliana Genao

The Board of Education honored Mrs. Lauren Verdi and Mr. Doug Jandoli for their years of service and presented both of them with a gift.

BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Little Falls Board of Education is pleased to honor:

Lauren Verdi

WHEREAS, Lauren Verdi has served as a Member of the Little Falls Board of Education from January 2013, and:

WHEREAS, Lauren Verdi has served as President of the Little Falls Board of Education from January 2016 to December 2018, and January 2023 through December 2023, and:

WHEREAS, Lauren Verdi has performed her duties in an exemplary manner, maintaining the highest degree of professionalism and commitment, and;

WHEREAS, the Little Falls Board of Education would like to express their deepest gratitude to Lauren Verdi for her dedication and service to the children and the community of Little Falls.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education extends their appreciation, along with the sincerest of best wishes to Lauren Verdi.

BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Little Falls Board of Education is pleased to honor:

Doug Jandoli

WHEREAS, Doug Jandoli has served as a Member of the Little Falls Board of Education from February 2017 to December 2024, and:

WHEREAS, Doug Jandoli has performed his duties in an exemplary manner, maintaining the highest degree of professionalism and commitment, and;

WHEREAS, the Little Falls Board of Education would like to express their deepest gratitude to Doug Jandoli for his dedication and service to the children and the community of Little Falls.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education extends their appreciation, along with the sincerest of best wishes to Doug Jandoli.

X. REPORTS

A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Dr. Rachel Capizzi

B. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Mrs. Tracey L. Marinelli)

1. Superintendent's Report.

- Mrs. Marinelli asked for a moment of salience for our beloved custodian Larry Chestnut
- Our Education News is being mailed out today. We also place this all on the website.
- Today grades kindergarten through fourth attended the Passaic Valley holiday show.
- Graduation is set for June 17, 2025 with a rain date of June 18, 2025
- New math programs are in full swing. We will be having some presentations in February at the Board of Education meeting for both Eureka and Mid School Math
- The fall play "High School Musical" was a huge success!

(Exhibit A)

On motion of Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mrs. DiBuono the following motion was offered for approval.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Little Falls Board of Education affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB investigations (SC3-002-10-02-24-LFD-004, SC3-003-10-07-24-LFD-005, SC1-003-10-18-24-LFD-006) for the reason set forth in the Superintendent's decision to the students' parents, and directs the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to affect students' parents.

AYES: 6

NAYES: 0

ABSENT: 3

C. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY REPORT-(Melissa Sanzari-Stevens)

D. FINANCE & INSURANCE COMMITTEE – (Mr. Vincent Miraglia)

On motion of Mrs. Lijoi and seconded by Mrs. Smith the following motions were offered for approval.

1. PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the list of bills dated December 10, 2024, Warrant No.'s # 31055 thru #31110 (Current Account) totaling \$1,500,183.42; Wire Transfer #1212024 (Health Insurance) totaling \$ 259,322.55 ; Warrant No. #1321 thru # 1327 (Cafeteria Account) totaling \$66,580.97 ; Warrant #1065 through #1066 (Before & After Care Account) totaling \$918.57; Warrant #1047 (SUI Account) totaling \$859.21 be paid if, properly

sworn to and funds are available in accordance with Board of Education Policy and to be appended to the minutes of this meeting. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11I3, certifies that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a) and the Board of Education, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)4, certifies that after review of the Board Secretary's & Treasurer's --monthly financial reports that no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b). Further, the Board of Education and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary certify that major accounts/fund balances have not been over-expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

(Exhibit B)

2. TRANSFERS – NOVEMBER 2024

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, move that the Little Falls Board of Education authorize the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary's action of making transfers prior to the Board Meeting as per the attached November 30, 2024 Transfer Report.

(Exhibit B-1)

3. TREASURER AND SECRETARY'S REPORTS – NOVEMBER 30, 2024

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, moved that the Little Falls Board of Education accept the Treasurer and Secretary's Reports for the month ending November 30, 2024.

(Exhibit C)

4. APPROVAL OF REORGANIZATION MEETING DATE

MOVE that the Little Falls Board of Education will hereby hold and advertise their Reorganization Meeting for the 2025 Calendar Year in the All Purpose Room of School No. 1 on Tuesday January 7, 2025.

5. APPROVAL OF INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION SERVICES

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve CQ fluency, 2 University Plaza Drive, Hackensack NJ 07601, to provide written translation services as well as interpretations services on an as needed basis.

6. APPROVAL OF OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENTS

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the following out of district placement for student 2003539 at P.G. Chambers School, Cedar Knolls, NJ for the 2024-2025 School Year in the amount of \$55,475.58, January 2 2024-June 2025.

7. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS

As per the recommendation of the Superintendent moved that the Little Falls Board of Education accept, pursuant to Board of Education Policy #7230, "Gifts, Grants and Donations,"

A. Donation of a mural and paint for School #2 donated by the School 2/3 PTA

AYES: 6

NAYES:0

ABSENT: 3

E. EDUCATION COMMITTEE – (Mrs. Nicole Smith)

On motion of Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Verdi the following motions were offered for approval.

1. APPROVAL OF NEW SUBSTITUTES SUPPLIED BY CONSORTIUM

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the following new substitute applicants supplied to us by the Northern Regional Educational Services Commission Substitute Teacher Registry. All substitutes have filed Federal Form I-9, and are in possession of acceptable clearance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1/18A:39-10.1/18A:6-4.14: (Exhibit D)

2. APPROVAL OF CALDWELL UNIVERSITY STUDENT TEACHER-SPRING 24-25

As per the recommendation of the Superintendent moved that the Little Falls Board of Education approve spring Clinical Practice I (student teacher) for the following Caldwell University student:

Natalie Garofalo

3. APPROVE/RATIFY APPROVAL OF HOME INSTRUCTION

RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve home instruction services to district student #2001974. Home instruction not to exceed 10 hours per week retroactive to December 2, 2024 through February 2, 2025.

4. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL TRIPS -24/25 SCHOOL YEAR

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the following field trips, as circulated.

(Exhibit E)

5. SUBMISSION OF THE STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE REGARDING THE PARAPROFESSIONAL STAFF FOR THE 24/25 SY

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the submission the district's Statement of Assurance Regarding the Paraprofessional Staff for the academic year 2024-2025 to the county office.

6. APPROVAL OF MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT TEACHER-
SPRING 24-25

As per the recommendation of the Superintendent moved that the Little Falls Board of Education approve thirty-six hours of spring ESL student teaching for the following Montclair State University student:

Brenna Macaluso

7. APPROVAL/RATIFY AFTERCARE FINANCIAL LITERATURE PROGRAM
RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve Visions Federal Credit Union, Saddle Brook, NJ, to provide an AfterCare financial literature visit on the following dates, at no cost to the program.

SCHOOL #3 DATES
December 9, 2024

SCHOOL #2 DATES
December 11, 2024

8. AMEND APPROVAL OF AFTERCARE PROGRAM
RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the Passaic Count Sherriff Department, to provide K-9 and Mounted Unit visit on the following dates, at no cost to the program.

SCHOOL #2
December 13, 2024- Mounted Visit

9. APPROVAL OF THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY STUDENT OBSERVATIONS
As per the recommendation of the Superintendent moved that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the following TCNJ student for student observations:

Hannah Schultz

AYES: 6
NAYES: 0
ABSENT: 3

- F. REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE/BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE-
(Mrs. Lauren Verdi)
On motion of Mrs. Verdi and seconded by Mrs. Smith the following motions were offered for approval.

1. SUBMISSION OF THE LEAD TESTING STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE FOR THE
24/25 SY
RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the submission the district's Lead Testing Statement of Assurance for the academic year 2024-2025 to the county office.

2. USE OF FACILITIES BY OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the use of district facilities by the following community groups who have filed the proper application form and have submitted proof of necessary insurance coverage:

School #3 *approve/ratify

Date	Event	Location and Time	Requested By:	Cost
*12/9-12/13/24 12/16-12/19/24 1/2-1/3/25 1/6-1/10/25 1/13-1/17/25 1/21-1/24/25 1/27,1/28,1/31/25	Basketball	APR 6:30pm-9:00pm	Little Falls Recreation	\$0.00

AYES: 6

NAYES:0

ABSENT: 3

G. PERSONNEL/NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – (Mrs. Lauren Verdi)

On motion of Mrs. Verdi and seconded by Mrs. Jandoli the following motions were offered for approval.

1. APPROVAL OF TRAVEL/CONFERENCE EXPENSES

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve travel/conference expenses as noted for the following district employees/board members: (Exhibit F)

2. APPROVE/RATIFY HOME INSTRUCTION

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve Kristy Gregory to provide home instruction for student #2001974 for up to 10 hours per week prorated from December 2, 2024 through February 2, 2025, at a fee of \$30.00/hr.

3. NOTICE OF INTENT TO RETIRE– TEACHER SCHOOL #1

As per the recommendation of the Superintendent moved that the Little Falls Board of Education accept, with regret, the notice of intent to retire of Susan Eckrote, teacher school #1, effective July 1, 2025. Last day of work will be June 30, 2025.

4. NOTICE OF INTENT TO RETIRE– TEACHER SCHOOL #1

As per the recommendation of the Superintendent moved that the Little Falls Board of Education accept, with regret, the notice of intent to retire of Elisabeth Billig, teacher school #1, effective July 1, 2025. Last day of work will be June 30, 2025.

5. RESCIND APPOINTMENT OF ABA PARAPROFESSIONAL 24-25 SY

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent, move that the Little Falls Board of Education rescind the appointment of Danny Valencia as an ABA paraprofessional.

6. PAYMENT TO STAFF –SCHOOL #1 PLAY

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent moved that the Little Falls Board of Education approve payment to the following individuals for chaperoning the School #1 play on December 5, and December 6, 2024 at the contractual chaperone rate of \$35 per hour for three hours, to be paid out of account number 11-401-100-100-00-00.

Employee	# of Hours	Amount
Irina Carroll	3 hours	\$105.00
Vincent Plateroti	3 hours	\$105.00
Briana Cruz	3 hours	\$105.00
Lindsey Enchelmaier	3 hours	\$105.00
Jim Delfino	3 hours	\$105.00
James Simmons	3 hours	\$105.00

7. PAYMENT TO STAFF – TREP\$ SCHOOL #1 -2024/2025 SY

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve payment to James Simmons for chaperoning TREP\$ on December 12, 2024 for three hours at the contractual chaperone rate of \$35.00 per hour.

8. PAYMENT FOR UNUSED SICK DAYS

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education authorize the payment for unused sick days pursuant to the contractual agreement between the Little Falls Board of Education employee #4368, in the amount of \$15,000.00.

9. APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO STAFF –SCHOOL #1 HORNET REFLECTION COVERAGE 24/25 SY

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the following employees for coverage of Hornet Reflection at the contractual rate of \$35.00 per hour, prorated. To be paid out of Title I, account number 20-280-100-101-10-00.

Vincent Plateroti

10. PAYMENT TO STAFF – EXTRACURRICULAR SUPERVISION

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent moved that the Little Falls Board of Education approve payment to Michelle Gennerelli for the Gingerbread House Decorating extracurricular supervision on December 11, 2024 at the contractual chaperone rate of \$25.00 per hour, for the 2024-2025 school year. To be paid out of account number 11-401-100-100-00-00.

11. APPROVAL OF COVERAGE

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent moved that the Little Falls Board of Education approve Tracey Marinelli and Melissa Sanzari-Stevens to be acting principal for School #1 from approximately January 1, 2025 through January 31, 2025, at no cost to the district. As compensation, each will receive five compensation days.

12. APPROVAL OF MATERNITY LEAVE OF ABSENCE 24/25 SY

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the following maternity leave of absence:

24/25 SY

Name	Position/ Location	Leave Start Date	Accumulated Sick days Applied	FMLA Start date	NJFLA Date	EXTENDED LEAVE Unpaid leave/no benefits	Date of Return (Anticipated)
4977	Sch. 1	03/03/2025	03/03/2025 04/17/2025 (33 days)		04/28/2025 Through 06/30/2025		09/01/2025

AYES: 6

NAYES:0

ABSENT: 3

H. HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE – (Mr. Doug Jandoli)- None

I. POLICY COMMITTEE – (Mrs. Desiree DiBuono)- None

J. STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE – (Mrs. Shannon Zurbruegg)- None

K. COMMITTEE REPORTS-None

L. PTA LIAISONS -(2/3 PTA Shannon Zurbruegg/S#1 Nicole Smith)-None

M. LITTLE FALLS EDUCATION LIASON -(Desiree DiBuono)-None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS- None

XII. OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

On motion of Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Lijoi, the meeting was opened for public comment.

Since no, one wished to be heard,

On motion of Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Jandoli moved that the Little Falls Board of Education close the meeting to the public.

AYES: 6

NAYES:0

ABSENT: 3

XIII. NEW BUSINESS- None

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Mr. Jandoli and seconded by Mrs. Smith move that the Little Falls Board of Education go into Executive Session to discuss three HIB issues. Approximate time ten (10) minutes. No action will be taken.

AYES: 6 7:00pm

NAYES:0

ABSENT: 3

On motion of Mr. Miraglia and seconded by Mrs. Smith move that the Little Falls Board of Education return from Executive Session.

AYES: 6 7:03pm

NAYES:0

ABSENT: 3

XV. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mrs. Verdi and seconded by Mrs. DiBuono the meeting was adjourned 7:05 pm.

AYES: 6

ABSENT: 3

NAYES: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Sanzari- Stevens
Business Administrator/Board Secretary