

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

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 Agenda
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE REORGANIZATION MEETING
Dr. Capizzi called the meeting to order at 6:10PM**

- 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. ROLL CALL

Board Members present: Mrs. Barone, Dr. Capizzi, Mrs. DiBuono, Mrs. Lijoi, Mr. Miraglia, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Tullo, and Mrs. Zurbruegg

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

V. CORRESPONDENCE- NONE

VI. MINUTES

On motion of Mrs. DiBuono and seconded by Mrs. Barone 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 – December 10, 2024
- 2. Executive Meeting – December 10, 2024

AYES: 8
NAYES: 0
ABSENT: 0

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

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

Since no one wished to be heard,

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

AYES: 8

NAYES:0

ABSENT: 0

VIII. PRESENTATION-

1. Mrs. Marinelli presented the following Hornets Of The Month with a certificate.
Kindergarten- Marley Mitchell, First Grade- Samantha Duffy,
Second Grade- Shakib Miah
Third Grade-Colten Gutschmidt, Fourth Grade- Ziya Akil
Fifth Grade-Vincenzo Castaldo, Sixth Grade- Brithany Llerena
Seventh Grade-Wyatt Ermolowich, Eighth Grade- A'Lanna Simpson

IX. REPORTS

A. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

- Dr. Capizzi welcomed back Mrs. Barone to the board. Mrs. Barone expressed her passion for education and excitement to contribute to the community.

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

1. Superintendent’s Report.

Mrs. Marinelli advised the Board of the following:

- Student Safety Data is on the agenda for approval. Mrs. Marinelli explained the report and the process to the Board. Four incidents at School 1, zero at School 2, and three at School 3. No new HIB or suspension to report since the last meeting.
- Enrollment Numbers: School 1 - 394, School 2 - 341, School 3 - 219.
- Safety and Security: All monthly safety and security drills have been conducted; we have a strong relationship with local police, including substations and camera access.
- Flooding Incident at School #1. A pipe burst caused significant damage, affecting the cafeteria and other areas. Quick response from staff and custodial team minimized further issues.
- Worked with Pomptonian to plan for lunches due to the cafeteria being inoperable.
- No afterschool activities for the next two weeks.

(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 (SC1-004-10-10-24-LFD-007, SC1-005-10-25-24-LFD-008, SC1-006-11-11-24-LFD-009, SC3-003-11-15-24-LFD-010) 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: 8

NAYES:0

ABSENT: 0

C. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY REPORT-(Melissa Sanzari-Stevens)
Mrs. Stevens advised the Board of the following:

- Budget preparations have started, will hold upcoming finance committee meetings.
- Annual training and QSAC preparations are underway, with reminders to board members to complete necessary requirements.

D. FINANCE & INSURANCE COMMITTEE

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

1. RESCIND- RE-SUBMISSION- PRE-K FACILITY GRANT SUBMISSION
RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education rescind the re-submission of the Pre-K facilities grant to the New Jersey Department of Education.

AYES: 8

NAYES:0

ABSENT: 0

E. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

On motion of Mrs. Zurbruegg and seconded by Mr. Tullo 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 B)

2. APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION - STUDENT SAFETY DATA SYSTEM (SSDS)
RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve in accordance with the law approve the mid-year submission of the SSDS, (Student Safety Data System).
3. APPROVE/RATIFY 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 C)
4. AMEND/APPROVE CST EVALUATOR AND RELATED SERVICES FOR THE 24/25 SY
RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent, move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve Bergen County Special Services School District Educational Enterprise Division to provide audiology services for **student 2002582** not to exceed the amount of **\$510.00**.
5. APPROVAL OF PRESENTATION
RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent that the Little Falls Board of Education approve Zufall Health Center to present an Oral Health presentation to School #1 students in grades five through eight.
6. APPROVE/RATIFY APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT
RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the agreement between the Little Falls Board of education and Nova Southeastern University to provide field and instructional opportunities to enrolled Nova Southeastern university students, January 6, 2025 through January 6, 2026.
7. APPROVE/RATIFY NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY STUDENT TEACHER-SPRING 24-25
As per the recommendation of the Superintendent moved that the Little Falls Board of Education approve spring Speech-Language Pathology externship (student teacher) for the following Nova Southeastern University student:

Haley Duffy
8. APPROVAL OF PRESENTATION
RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the Municipal Alliance to present the Beginning Awareness Education Studies, BABES, program to the second Grade students at School #2.

9. APPROVAL OF AFTERCARE PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve TGA of North Central Jersey, to provide an Aftercare sports program, Program will run Monday's at School #3 and Wednesday's at School #2, January 22, 2025 through March 12, 2025, at a total cost of \$2,425.00.

10. APPROVAL OF FIELDWORK

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the following psychical therapy student intern for fieldwork January 6, 2025 through March 7, 2025, pending all background checks.

Miriam Solomon

11. AMEND/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, **February 2, 2025 through February 11, 2025.**

AYES: 8

NAYES:0

ABSENT: 0

Mrs. Marinelli stated that there will be a math presentation at the next Board meeting and at a future meeting an Aftercare presentation from Mrs. Marchesani.

F. REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE/BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

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

1. 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 #2 *approve/ratify

Date	Event	Location and Time	Requested By:	Cost
*1-7, 1-16, 1-21, 1-21/25	Book Club	Room 107 3:30-4:00PM	School #2	\$0.00

AYES: 8

NAYES:0

ABSENT: 0

G. PERSONNEL/NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

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

1. APPROVE/RATIFY PAYMENT TO STAFF-7th and 8th GRADE WINTER CONCERT-2024/2025 SY

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve payment to the following individuals for chaperoning the 7th and 8th grade Winter Concert at School #1 to be held on December 17, 2024, at the contractual chaperone rate of \$35.00 per hour, for two hours.

Employees	Date	Amount
Hope Lachman	12/17/2024	\$70.00
Cindy Warren	12/17/2024	\$70.00
Maribel Bayo	12/17/2024	\$70.00

2. APPROVE/RATIFY PAYMENT TO STAFF-5th and 6th GRADE WINTER CONCERT-2024/2025 SY

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve payment to the following individuals for chaperoning the 7th and 8th grade Winter Concert at School #1 to be held on December 17, 2024, at the contractual chaperone rate of \$35.00 per hour, for two hours.

Employees	Date	Amount
Briana Cruz	12/17/2024	\$70.00
Quanisha Allen	12/17/2024	\$70.00
Kelly Keller	12/17/2024	\$70.00

3. PAYMENT TO STAFF –SCHOOL # 1 WINTER CONCERT

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent moved that the Little Falls Board of Education approve payment to Michelle Gennarelli for extracurricular supervision for the Winter Concert held on December 17, 2024 at the contractual chaperone rate of \$25.00 hr.

4. APPROVE/RATIFY PAYMENT TO STAFF-HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve payment to the following individuals for chaperoning the Holiday House Decorating at School #1 held on December 11, 2024, at the contractual chaperone rate of \$35.00 per hour, for two hours.

Employees	Date	Amount
Lisa Perrota	12/11/2024	\$70.00
Alison Cruz	12/11/2024	\$70.00

5. APPROVE/RATIFY MENTORING ASSIGNMENTS

RECOMMENDED ACTION of the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the following staff member and rate effective, January 2, 2024 through June 30, 2025 for the 2024-2025 school year.

Mentor	Provisional Teacher	School	Certificate	Rate	Weeks
Tiffany Studzinski	Amanda Roth	School #1	CEAS	\$256.62	14 weeks

6. AMEND/APPROVE PAYMENT TO STAFF

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve payment to Amy Kobelka, to accommodate change in bus schedule, at a rate of **\$23.10, per day effective November 13, 2024** on an as needed basis.

7. 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 D)

8. PAYMENT FOR UNUSED SICK DAYS

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education authorize the payment for a total of ten accrued vacation days and ten unused vacation days pursuant to the contractual agreement between the Little Falls Board of Education employee #4368, in the amount of \$7,260.47.

9. APPROVE/RATIFY ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION- ABA-PARAPROFESSIONAL

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent move that the Little Falls Board of Education accept the resignation of Nour Saliba, ABA- paraprofessional, last day of work January 31, 2025.

10. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT ABA- PARAPROFESSIONAL 24-25 SY

RECOMMENDED ACTION by the Superintendent, move that the Little Falls Board of Education approve the appointment of Ayah Yacoub Theeb as an ABA paraprofessional, effective February 3, 2025 through June 30, 2025. The rate of pay will be Step 1 as per the 2022-2025 LFEA collective negotiation agreement, paraprofessional salary guidelines, pending all background checks.

11. AMEND/APPROVE 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 **February 2, 2025 through February 11, 2025**, at a rate of \$30.00/hr.

AYES: 8
NAYES: 0
ABSENT: 0

Dr. Capizzi asked Board members to email requests for committee assignments. Dr. Capizzi also discussed condensing committees for efficiency, as suggested by best practices from New Jersey School Boards.

H. HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE -NONE

I. POLICY COMMITTEE -NONE

J. STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE -NONE

K. COMMITTEE REPORTS-NONE

L. PTA LIAISONS

Mrs. Zurbruegg stated that the next 2/3 PTA meeting will be on January 13, 2025 at School #3.

M. LITTLE FALLS EDUCATION LIASON

Mrs. DiBuono stated that Casino night will be held on February 21, 2025.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS- NONE

XI. 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. Tullo moved that the Little Falls Board of Education close the meeting to the public.

AYES: 8

NAYES:0

ABSENT: 0

XII. NEW BUSINESS- NONE

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION-NONE

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Barone the meeting was adjourned 6:40 pm.

AYES: 8

ABSENT: 0

NAYES: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Sanzari- Stevens
Business Administrator/Board Secretary