

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education in the City of Linden, County of Union, New Jersey, was held via Webex from the Administration Building Conference Room, 2 E. Gibbons Street, Linden, New Jersey on Thursday evening, April 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Vice President Rivas opened the meeting with a salute to the flag and the Board Secretary announced that in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, adequate notice of this meeting had been provided as follows:

On January 12, 2021, notice was sent to the Home News Tribune, Star Ledger, Union County Local Source, and the Clerk of the Municipality.

The following Board members and others were present:

**ROLL CALL: 7:01 p.m.**

<b>Board Members</b>		<b>Others</b>	
Ms. Thomas	P	Dr. Hazelton	P
Mr. De La Cruz	P	Mrs. Cleary	P
Mrs. Flemming	P	Ms. Gaylord	P
Mr. Gargano	P	Dr. Baldwin	P
Ms. Guillaume	P	Attorney, N. Simon	P
Mrs. Manganello	P		
Mr. Martucci	P		
Mr. Rivas	P		
Ms. Johnson	A		

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Motion to approve the Minutes of the Tentative Budget held on March 17, 2021, the Work Session held on March 23, 2021, and the Regular Meeting held on March 25, 2021. (Copies in the hands of Board Members).

Roll Call:

Board Member	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Thomas			X		
Mr. De La Cruz	X		X		
Mrs. Flemming			X		
Mr. Gargano		X	X		
Ms. Guillaume			X		
Mrs. Manganello			X		
Mr. Martucci			X		
Mr. Rivas			X		
Ms. Johnson			Absent		

Motion 1 carried.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

1. See information to the Board.
2. Congratulations to high school senior MacKenzie Barrett who signed a letter of intent to play Division I Women’s Soccer at Fairleigh Dickenson University in Teaneck. Congratulations!
3. Our district was named as one of the best communities for music in America for the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row. We are one of 685 districts across the country, 41 in New Jersey and 4 in Union County to receive this prestigious honor. Congratulations to all of the students involved in our Performing Arts Program and a special thank you to Mr. Matthew Lorenzetti who heads our Fine Arts Program, as well as all of the teachers involved.
4. We continue to celebrate the International Baccalaureate Program’s 20<sup>th</sup> year at Linden High School by spreading the word among middle schoolers, and younger high school students and their parents, of the value of the IB Program and all it has to offer them as juniors and seniors.
5. Linden High School senior Annika Labrador was chosen this month as a Scholar Athlete of the Week by News 12 New Jersey. Annika is captain of the girls’ soccer team, a member of the volleyball team and second-in-command of the NJROTC Unit. She is also a member of the National Honor Society. She plans to attend the University of Delaware and major in mechanical engineering. Congratulations!

6. Linden High School senior bowler James Fitz finished the season with the highest average in Union County at 219, and was named to the first team of the All Union County Conference. Congratulations!
7. Congratulations to senior Christian Calvo for leading a team from the Graphic Design III class and winning the statewide Cyber Security Poster contest for grade 12. Other students who contributed were Julien Flores, Kimora Massey, Elijah Motley, and Karl Jakob Cando, all under the supervision of teacher, Debra Heffernan. Congratulations to all.
8. All of our schools will remain in the hybrid learning platform for the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup>. Union County's COVID transmission rate has improved and is now in the "yellow" zone. We will continue to make decisions on whether to keep schools hybrid or return to virtual learning based on data from the Union County Department of Health. Linden's community COVID-19 transmission rate has also improved and is now in the "orange" zone. We will continue to keep everyone updated on any changes in our learning schedules. It remains a priority to return our students and staff to the classroom in the safest manner possible.
9. Next week begins Teacher Appreciation Week, starting May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Hazelton took this opportunity to thank all of our teachers for their tireless hard work. This has been a very difficult year, not only for our teachers, but for all of our employees, as well as our families and students. There are several special activities planned for next week and she is very excited and looks forward to meeting and greeting everyone as we celebrate.  
  
We have tremendous respect and honor for all of our teachers and employees, whether they be 10-month or 12-month employees and she wants to reiterate the importance of mental health and allowing our employees to work in a safe environment. Tonight we are going to be voting on our summer hours and she encouraged the Board Members to please keep the health and well-being of all of our employees, especially our teachers, in mind.
10. Dr. Hazelton reminded the Board and shared with the public that after a discussion with the Board Vice President, Mr. Carlos Rivas, she decided to remove item #18 on the Finance Report of tonight's agenda for further discussion. The Board has 60 days to award the roofing contract to the lowest bidder as per the law. This item will need to be placed back on the agenda in May for a vote.
11. Congratulations to the following retirees: Phyllis Bolden, Rita Cruz-Suarez, Karen Kocienski and Dona Preston. Dr. Hazelton gave a brief background on each retiree. Thank you and congratulations to all!

12. Finally, we are saddened to learn of the deaths of the following employees, both past and present: Brian Gooney, Marlene Rizzo and Kathleen Starling. Again, Dr. Hazelton gave a brief background history on each one. Heartfelt sympathies were offered to the families.

Mr. Rivas asked Ms. Gaylord where Old Business and New Business are on the agenda. Ms. Gaylord said that they come at the end of the meeting, after Public Comments. New and Unfinished Business are after Public Comments on the Order of Business. He suggested that in the future, such things are noted in the agenda.

No action this meeting.

The Education Committee, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Assistant Superintendent, present the following motions to the Linden Board of Education for approval:

1. Approve enrollment as required by state law, of the following handicapped students in a specialized program for the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) as shown below.

Classification	Recommended Placement	Effective Date	Tuition
Communication Impaired	Bonnie Brae 3415 Valley Rd. Basking Ridge, NJ 07920	2/8/21	36,120.00 pro rata 420.00 per diem
Other Health Impaired	Lamberts Mill Academy 1571 Lamberts Mill Rd. Westfield, NJ	4/19/21	13,640.40 pro rata 5,683.50/month per diem

2. Approve adjustment of tuition, as indicated as per New Jersey Department of Education audit:

School	Location	Tuition Year	Adjustment
Mt. Carmel Guild	Newark, NJ	2013-2014 2014-2015 2016-2017 2017-2018 2018-2019	Tuition Undercharge 7,584.00
New Road	Parlin, NJ	2019-2020	Tuition Undercharge 6,054.30
CPC High Point	Morganville, NJ	2019-2020	Tuition Undercharge 7,017.15

3. Approve payment for the related services as per Child Study Team evaluation.

Related Services	Fees Not to Exceed
EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION Educate Testing, LLC Rosaura Bagolie – Evaluator 21 Bear Brook Ln Livingston, NJ 07039	\$320.00

3. Continued:

Related Services	Fees Not to Exceed
BILINGUAL SPEECH EVALUATION Educate Testing, LLC Rosaura Bagolie – Evaluator 21 Bear Brook Ln Livingston, NJ 07039	\$450.00
BILINGUAL SPEECH EVALUATION Freda Glick - Evaluator 222 Cedar Lane Closter, NJ 07006	4 @ \$1,800.00
BILINGUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION Jeanette Pena - Evaluator 2009 Summit Ave. Union City, NJ 07087	2 @ \$900.00
BILINGUAL EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION Teresa Hernandez - Evaluator 10-50 <sup>th</sup> St. Weehawken, NJ	\$450.00
BILINGUAL (SPANISH - ENGLISH) SPEECH-LANGUAGE EVALUATOR Anthony Muscato - Evaluator 9 High Mountain Trl Lincoln Park, NJ 07035	\$350.00

4. Approve Occupational and Physical Therapy services for 2021-2022 school year and the 2021 extended school year, provided by Trinitas Children's Therapy Services, at the rate of \$87.72 per hour. Speech Therapy services for \$92.00 per hour.

5. Grant permission for the following *Use of Facilities and School Activities* on the dates/times listed:

School	Requested By	Date	Time/Location	Event	Expenses
One	Smith, Jennifer	6/7/21 through 6/18/21	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Nurse’s Office	Pre-Kindergarten Health Screening	None
One	Viana, Steven	9/8/21 through 11/30/21	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday Gymnasium	Volleyball	None
Two	Smith, Jennifer	6/7/21 through 6/18/21	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Nurse’s Office	Pre-Kindergarten Health Screening	None
Four	Smith, Jennifer	6/7/21 through 6/18/21	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Nurse’s Office	Pre-Kindergarten Health Screening	None
Five	Smith, Jennifer	6/7/21 through 6/18/21	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Nurse’s Office	Pre-Kindergarten Health Screening	None
Six	Smith, Jennifer	6/7/21 through 6/18/21	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Nurse’s Office	Pre-Kindergarten Health Screening	None
Eight	Smith, Jennifer	6/7/21 through 6/18/21	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Nurse’s Office	Pre-Kindergarten Health Screening	None
Nine	Smith, Jennifer	6/7/21 through 6/18/21	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Nurse’s Office	Pre-Kindergarten Health Screening	None
Nine	Viana, Steven	9/8/21 through 11/30/21	3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday Gymnasium/Field	Boys/Girls Soccer Practice/Games	None
Ten	Walker, David	5/20/21 6/10/21	7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Virtual	Parent Technology Night	None



5. Continued:

School	Requested By	Date	Time/Location	Event	Expenses
Ten	Smith, Jennifer	6/7/21 through 6/18/21	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Nurse’s Office	Pre-Kindergarten Health Screening	None
Ten	Viana, Steven	9/8/21 through 11/30/21	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday Gymnasium/Field	Boys/Girls Soccer Practice/Games	None
MMS	Viana, Steven	9/8/21 through 11/30/21	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday Gymnasium/Field	Boys/Girls Soccer Practice/Games	None
SMS/21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC	Scocozza, Isabella	5/6/21	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Parking Lot	Mother’s Day Flower Sale Distribution	None
SMS/21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC	Scocozza, Isabella	6/28/21 through 7/29/21	8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Gymnasium, Cafeteria & Classrooms	Summer STEM Academy	None
SMS/21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC	Scocozza, Isabella	9/13/21 through 6/10/22	2:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Classrooms	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center After School Program	None
LHS	Horre, Yelena	6/4/21 6/5/21	12:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Gymnasium	PTA Tricky Tray Set Up & Event	None
LHS	Viana, Steven	9/8/21 through 11/30/21	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday Gymnasium	Volleyball/Cheer Pre-Season Camp	None
LHS	Viana, Steven	9/8/21 through 11/30/21	3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Monday – Friday Gymnasium  8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Saturdays	Volleyball/Cheer	None
AOE	Viana, Steven	8/12/21 through 9/8/21	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday Gymnasium	Volleyball/Cheer Pre-Season Camp	None

5. Continued:

School	Requested By	Date	Time/Location	Event	Expenses
AOE	Viana, Steven	9/8/21 through 11/30/21	3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday – Friday Gymnasium	Volleyball/Cheer	None
Wheeler Park	Viana, Steven	9/8/21 through 11/30/21	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday	Boys/Girls Soccer Practice/Games	None
Wheeler Park	Viana, Steven	8/12/21 through 9/8/21	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monday – Friday	Boys/Girls Soccer Pre-Season Camp	None
Wilson Park	Viana, Steven	9/8/21 through 11/30/21	3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday	Tennis Practice/Games	None
Wilson Park	Viana, Steven	8/12/21 through 9/8/21	9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday	Tennis Pre-Season Camp	None
PAL	Viana, Steven	9/8/21 through 11/30/21	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday	Volleyball	None
PAL	Viana, Steven	8/12/21 through 9/8/21	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday	Volleyball Pre-Season	None
Tiger Stadium	Viana, Steven	9/8/21 through 11/30/21	7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Monday – Friday  7:00 a.m. – 9: p.m. Saturdays	Boys/Girls Football/Soccer/Cheer Practice/Games	None
Tiger Stadium	Viana, Steven	8/12/21 through 9/8/21	8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Monday – Saturday	Boys/Girls Football/Soccer/Cheer Pre-Season Camp	None
Warinanco Park	Viana, Steven	9/8/21 through 11/30/21	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday	Cross Country	None

6. Approve *Training for District Staff*, as listed:

Name	Workshop	Dates	Location	Cost
Abdelfattah, Sana	Mathematics- Cultivating a Discourse-Rich Classroom	6/2/21 6/3/21	Virtual	Registration \$650.00 20-271-200-500-00-000-55
Capanna, Lisa	ASCD Annual Conference: Empowered and Connected	6/23/21 6/24/21 6/25/21	Virtual	Registration \$149.00 11-000-221-580-PD-000-56
Caporale, Pamela	NJASBO Legislative and School Official Update	4/29/21	Virtual	Registration \$50.00 11-000-251-580-PD-00-000-02
Caporale, Pamela	Preparing for the Audit, GASB84 and Internal Controls	5/18/21	Virtual	Registration \$50.00 11-000-251-580-PD-00-000-02
Correia, Christine	Cultivating Writing Schoolwide	6/2/21 6/3/21	Virtual	Registration \$650.00 20-271-200-500-00-000-55
Fernandez, Mercedes	Savvas Learning Company: SIOP Virtual Conference Institute	7/14/21 7/15/21 7/16/21	Virtual	Registration \$275.00 20-241-200-300-00-000-54
Jaco, Nicole	NJCQR Master Teacher Trainings	4/26/21 5/3/21 5/11/21	Virtual	None
Kosty, Samantha	National Center for Youth Issues NJSCA Fall Conference	10/8/21	Edison, NJ	Registration \$99.00 11-000-223-580-PD-000-44
Kowalski, Patricia	ASCD Annual Conference: Empowered and Connected	6/23/21 6/24/21 6/25/21	Virtual	Registration \$149.00 11-000-221-580-PD-000-56
Larmore, Susanna	NJCQR Master Teacher Trainings	4/26/21 5/3/21 5/11/21	Virtual	None
Mason, Joanne	Handwriting without Tears: PreK Complete Curriculum Series I	5/18/21	Virtual	Registration \$350.00 11-000-223-580-PD-000-09-090
Mastriano, Audra	Mathematics- Cultivating a Discourse-Rich Classroom	6/2/21 6/3/21	Virtual	Registration \$650.00 20-271-200-500-00-000-55

6. Continued:

Name	Workshop	Dates	Location	Cost
Miskov, Christine	Mathematics- Cultivating a Discourse-Rich Classroom	5/12/21 5/13/21	Virtual	Registration \$650.00 <small>20-271-200-500-00-000-55</small>
Panzino, Kristin	NJCQR Master Teacher Trainings	4/26/21 5/3/21 5/11/21	Virtual	None
Ribeca, Alicia	Cultivating Writing Schoolwide	5/12/21 5/13/21	Virtual	Registration \$650.00 <small>20-271-200-500-00-000-55</small>
Rotola, Allison	Handwriting without Tears: PreK Complete Curriculum Series I	5/18/21	Virtual	Registration \$350.00 <small>11-000-223-580-PD-000-09-090</small>
Rynkowski, Agnieszka	IMSE: Phonological Awareness Training	5/20/21 5/21/21	Virtual	Registration \$550.00 <small>11-000-223-580-PD-000-54</small>
Skramovsky, Mary	New Jersey Library Association Conference	6/3/21 6/4/21	Virtual	Registration \$155.00 <small>11-000-222-580-PD-000-56</small>
Sumrein, Fatema	Cultivating Writing Schoolwide-Secondary	6/2/21 6/3/21	Virtual	Registration \$650.00 <small>20-271-200-500-00-000-55</small>
William-Warner, Lisa	Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT) and Tapping	5/18/21	Virtual	Registration \$219.99 <small>11-000-219-580-PD-000-33</small>

7. Approve *District Field Trips*. Copy in the hands of the board members.

8. Approve, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Extended After School Program called the Summer STEM Academy:

Event	Location	Date	Expense
Summer STEM Academy	SMS	June 28, 2021 – July 29, 2021 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Monday through Thursday)	8 Teachers, 19 days for 836 hours @ \$31 for a total of \$25,916 to be paid by 21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC Grant Funds. 6 Paraprofessionals, 19 days for 627 hours @ \$25 for total of \$15,675.00 to be paid by 21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC Grant Funds. 21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC Account# 20-454-100-100-00-35-070 1 Lead Teacher, 19 days for 114 hours @ \$35 for a total of \$3,990.00 to be paid by 21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC Grant Funds. 1 Counselor, 19 days for 95 hours @ \$35 for a total of \$3,325.00 to be paid by 21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC Grant Funds. 21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC Account# 20-455-200-100-00-001-35-070

9. Approve the following *Summer School Sessions*, as listed:

Location	Date	Time	Teacher
School One	June 28, 2021 Through July 29, 2021 (Closed July 5, 2021)	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday	9 Core Teachers 2 Enrichment Teachers 2 Title 1 Teachers
School Two	June 28, 2021 Through July 29, 2021 (Closed July 5, 2021)	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday	10 Core Teachers 2 Enrichment Teachers 2 Title 1 Teachers
School Four	June 28, 2021 Through July 29, 2021 (Closed July 5, 2021)	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday	7 Core Teachers 2 Enrichment Teachers 2 Title 1 Teachers

9. Continued:

Location	Date	Time	Teacher
School Five	June 28, 2021 Through July 29, 2021 (Closed July 5, 2021)	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday	6 Core Teachers 2 Enrichment Teachers 2 Title 1 Teachers
School Six	June 28, 2021 Through July 29, 2021 (Closed July 5, 2021)	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday	4 Core Teachers 2 Enrichment Teachers
School Eight	June 28, 2021 Through July 29, 2021 (Closed July 5, 2021)	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday	5 Core Teachers 2 Enrichment Teachers
School Nine	June 28, 2021 Through July 29, 2021 (Closed July 5, 2021)	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday	4 Core Teachers 2 Enrichment Teachers
School Ten	June 28, 2021 Through July 29, 2021 (Closed July 5, 2021)	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday	3 Core Teachers 2 Enrichment Teachers
McManus	June 28, 2021 Through July 29, 2021 (Closed July 5, 2021)	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday	15 Teachers (Subject Specific) 1 Counselor
Soehl	June 28, 2021 Through July 29, 2021 (Closed July 5, 2021)	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday	15 Teachers (Subject Specific) 2 Title 1 Teachers 1 Counselor
Linden High School	June 28, 2021 Through July 29, 2021 (Closed July 5, 2021)	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday	25 Teachers (Subject Specific) 1 Counselor

9. Continued:

Location	Date	Time	Teacher
Schools One, Two, Four, Five, Six, Eight, Nine & Ten	June 28, 2021 Through July 29, 2021 (Closed July 5, 2021)	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday	2 Counselors
District	June 28, 2021 Through July 29, 2021 (Closed July 5, 2021)	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday	1 Nurse

10. Approve Professional Development Activities, as listed:

Workshop	Provider(s)	Date(s)	Location	Cost
Restorative Justice & Practices	Carver & Associates Ty Miller Dr. Joy	5/5/21	School 6 Cafeteria & Virtual	\$5,250.00 11-000-223-320-00-000-13

11. Approve Back to School Night Dates and Use of Facilities for 2021-2022 school year as listed:

School	Date(s)	Time
One	9/27/21	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Two	9/22/21	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Four	9/29/21	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Five	9/29/21	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Six	9/22/21	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Eight	9/27/21	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Nine	9/21/21	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Ten	9/21/21	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
McManus	9/14/21	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Soehl	9/20/21	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Linden High School, Academy of Excellence	9/23/21	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

12. Approve the following curriculum writing, as listed:

Curriculum	Grade Level
Health	K-12
Physical Education	K-12

13. Approve the following summer hours for 12-month employees beginning Monday, June 28, 2021 and ending Friday, August 20, 2021.

Administrator/Teacher/Secretary/ Technology/CST/Nurse/Counselor	Monday through Thursday	7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. or 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Maintenance/ Custodian Shift 1	Monday through Thursday	7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Custodian Shift 2	Monday through Thursday	2:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

If coverage is required on Friday, staff will report for scheduled hours Tuesday through Friday.

*12-Month Staff – Administrator/Teacher/Secretary Unit*

Option 1

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. with a ½ hour lunch  
 Total hours work week = 32 hours

Option 2

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. with a ½ hour lunch  
 Total hours work week = 32 hours

*Custodian/Maintenance Personnel Unit*

Maintenance

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. with ½ hour lunch  
 and no breaks  
 Total hours work week = 32 hours

Custodian 1<sup>st</sup> Shift

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. with a ½ hour lunch and  
 no breaks  
 Total hours work week = 32 hours

\*If coverage is needed for Friday’s due to Board Activities:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday: 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. with a ½ hour lunch  
 and no breaks  
 Total hours work week = 32 hours



13. Continued:

Custodian 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 2:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. with a ½ hour lunch and no breaks

Total hours work week = 32 hours

14. Approve the application to the Center for Language Education and Cooperation, Beijing, China for Linden High School to restore its status as an official Confucius Classroom.
15. Approve the use of the New Jersey Physicians Advisory Group “YES You Can” program as a component of the health materials and resources used in the Linden Public Schools for the 2021 – 2022 school year.
16. Grant permission to submit the 2021-2022 ECPA/ELLI Preschool Program Plan Update and Budget Workbook.
17. Approve the 2021 – 2022 *Trimester Dates* for elementary schools, as listed:

Trimester	Beginning Date	Interim End Date	End Date
1	September 8, 2021	October 20, 2021	December 10, 2021
2	December 13, 2021	February 1, 2022	March 16, 2022
3	March 17, 2022	May 6, 2022	*June 23, 2022

\*Date may be moved up if inclement weather days are not used

18. Approve the 2021 – 2022 *Marking Period Dates* for middle and high schools, as listed:

Marking Period	Beginning Date	Interim End Date	End Date
1	September 8, 2021	October 8, 2021	November 12, 2021
2	November 15, 2021	December 17, 2021	January 28, 2022
3	January 31, 2022	March 2, 2022	April 1, 2022
4	April 4, 2022	May 11, 2022	*June 23, 2022

\*Date may be moved up if inclement weather days are not used

19. Approve the 2021 – 2022 *Elementary Parent/Teacher Conference Dates*, as listed:

Day	Date
Tuesday	October 26, 2021
Wednesday	October 27, 2021
Thursday	October 28, 2021
Tuesday	March 22, 2022
Wednesday	March 23, 2022
Thursday	March 24, 2022

20. Proclaim the week of May 3 – 7, 2021 as “*National Teacher Appreciation Week*” as outlined in the following resolution:
- WHEREAS, Linden Public School teachers make public schools great; and
- WHEREAS, Linden Public School teachers work to open student’s minds to ideas, knowledge, and dreams; and
- WHEREAS, Linden Public School teachers are lifelong learners, adopting 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning strategies and embracing digital learning to prepare students for their future; and
- WHEREAS, Linden Public School teachers work daily to foster the well-being of each student, regardless of widely differing backgrounds and abilities; and
- WHEREAS, Linden Public School teachers keep American democracy alive by laying the foundation for good citizenship; and
- WHEREAS, Linden Public School teachers fill many roles, as listeners, explorers, role models, motivators, and mentors; and
- WHEREAS, Linden Public School teachers continue to influence us long after our school days are only memories:
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Linden Public School Board of Education, and Superintendent recognize and send their gratitude to the Linden Public School teachers and hereby proclaim May 3 – 7, 2021, as “*National Teacher Appreciation Week*” throughout the Linden Public Schools and strongly encourages all members of our community to join with it in personally expressing appreciation to our teachers for their dedication and devotion to their work.

21. Approve the Superintendent’s determination and actions taken for all reported incidents of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying discussed at the March 25, 2021 regular meeting as listed:

Case	HIB	Action
LHS-82	Undetermined	Services provided, Monitored

In reference to item #13, Ms. Thomas personally thanked LEA President, Mr. Delgado, for calling into the meeting and speaking on behalf of the teachers, staff and administration. She has family members who are educators and she understands the hard work it takes to perform their duties. She is not against any 12-month employee or any employee. She is not going to make a sound vote without facts. With that, her vote is yes on the Education Report.

Mr. De La Cruz thanked Mr. Delgado and Dr. Hazelton for giving the Board information which they did not have previously. He is also not against teachers or staff. He has worked with them in the past as PTA President at School #6 and he knows they deserve everything they get because they work extra hours when there are extra-curricular activities at school, and nobody notices that. He thanked them for all of their hard work, especially this last year and a half with the pandemic. He also says yes to everything.

Mrs. Flemming echoed everything which was just said. The job of the Board is to ask for information to make votes because we put our children first. The Board is also financially responsible. Mrs. Flemming said yes to all of the Education Report. Thank you Eloy for calling in, and thank you for being here every week.

Mr. Martucci said he understands the situation of the 12-month staff because he lived it. He said the Board will always have their backs. He votes yes to the Education Report.

Mr. Rivas also echoed everything that has been said and he doesn’t want this to be any more of a controversy. He thanked Mr. Delgado, Dr. Hazelton and everyone that provided a comment. As Acting President, he said to Mr. Delgado that the Board wants to show good will and that’s what they’re showing tonight, good will as they are going forward to negotiations.

MOTIONS 1 – 21:

Roll Call:

Board Member	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Thomas			X		
Mr. De La Cruz			X		
Mrs. Flemming			X		
Mr. Gargano		X	X		
Ms. Guillaume	X		X		
Mrs. Manganello			X		
Mr. Martucci			X		
Mr. Rivas			X		
Ms. Johnson			Absent		

Motions 1 – 21 carried.

The Personnel Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools presents the following motions to the Linden Board of Education for approval. All appointments and reappointments are contingent upon, and may be modified based on student participation and the districts receipt of sufficient State School Aide and other revenue funding.

1. WHEREAS, BRIAN GOONEY, in his lifetime was a truly dedicated employee of the Board of Education who gave of his time and talents for the benefit of the students, staff and parents of the Linden School district, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education of the City of Linden hereby, give expression of their feelings for the loss in the passing of BRIAN GOONEY, on Saturday, April 3, 2021 do tender to the members of his family their heartfelt sympathy and condolence in this time of bereavement and sorrow.

2. WHEREAS, MARLENE RIZZO, in her lifetime was a truly dedicated employee of the Board of Education who gave her time and talents for the benefit of the students, staff and parents of the Linden School district, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education of the City of Linden hereby, give expression of their feelings for the loss in the passing of MARLENE RIZZO, on Monday, January 18, 2021 do tender to the members of her family their heartfelt sympathy and condolence in this time of bereavement and sorrow.

3. WHEREAS, KATHLEEN STARLING, in her lifetime was a truly dedicated employee of The Board of Education who gave her time and talents for the benefit of the students, staff and parents of the Linden School district, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education of the City of Linden hereby, give expression of their feelings for the loss in the passing of KATHLEEN STARLING, on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 do tender to the members of her family their heartfelt sympathy and condolence in this time of bereavement and sorrow.

4. The following retirements be accepted with regret:

#	Name	Assignment	Location	Effective Date
1.	Bolden, Phyllis	Part-time School Aide	School 5	7/1/21
2.	Cruz-Suarez, Rita	Teacher of Spanish	MMS	7/1/21
3.	Kocienski, Karen	Paraprofessional	MMS	6/1/21
4.	Preston, Dona	Principal	School 1	7/1/21

WHEREAS, the above employees are retiring from active service in the public schools of Linden; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the members of the Board of Education of the City of Linden to express their appreciation for their loyal and unselfish service during their years; therefore; be it

RESOLVED, that the gratitude and best wishes of the members of the Board of Education of the City of Linden and hereby be tendered to the employees in acknowledgement of the service they so faithfully and conscientiously rendered, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread on the minutes of the Board of Education.

5. Accept the resignation of the following staff:

#	Name	Position	Location	Effective Date
1.	Corsale, Christopher	Freshman Football Coach	Athletics	3/22/2021
2.	Figueiredo, Andreia	Assistant Athletic Trainer	Athletics	4/30/21
3.	Gross, Beverly	LHS Assistant Cheerleading Coach	Athletics	4/20/21
4.	Murphy, Erin	Girl's Assistant Varsity Soccer Coach	Athletics	4/15/21

6. Amend Board action on past Personnel Reports, as listed:

Date	Item #	Action
3/25/21	6	Amend the leave of absence for 8312 <sup>3</sup> to read 4/9/21-4/28/21 – NJFLA.
3/25/21	3	Amend Findlay, Kevin end date to read through 6/30/21.

3) UNPAID

7. Approve the following staff for the 2020-2021 School Year as follows;

#	Name	Effective Date	Degree	Credited Exp./ Step	Assigned Subj. Area	Bldg./ Dept.	Spec. Prog. Or Budget	Total Annual Salary Rate
<b>NON-CERTIFIED</b>								
1.	*McMahon, Hydrie Rose	5/3/21		7	Custodian	School 8	Budget /R	\$52,251.00

\*Pending New Hire Requirements

8. Approve the transfer of the following staff for the 2020-2021 School Year effective 5/5/21 as listed:

#	Name	Position	Current Location	Position	New Location
1.	Wilson, Victoria	Paraprofessional	School 10	1:1 Paraprofessional	School 2

9. Approve the following Leave(s) of Absence:

a) Medical

Employee ID#	Location	From	Through	Reason
6710 <sup>1</sup>	School 2	4/6/21	4/16/20	FMLA
5734 <sup>1</sup>	MMS	6/4/21	6/23/21	Medical
5734 <sup>3</sup>	MMS	9/2/21	11/23/21	FMLA/FLA
6499 <sup>1</sup>	LHS	6/11/21	6/23/21	Medical
6499 <sup>3</sup>	LHS	9/2/21	11/23/21	FMLA/FLA
4578 <sup>1</sup>	School 8	2/3/21	3/15/21	Medical
6479 <sup>3</sup>	PDRC	4/27/21	5/7/21	NJFLA
6480 <sup>1</sup>	MMS	4/21/21	6/15/21	FMLA
4187 <sup>1</sup>	School 9	4/6/21	4/23/21	Medical
4187 <sup>3</sup>	School 9	4/26/21	4/30/21	FMLA
4173 <sup>1</sup>	Maintenance	1/19/21	4/13/21	Medical
4298 <sup>1</sup>	School 6	4/6/21	4/16/21	Medical
4368 <sup>1</sup>	School 8	4/6/21	4/30/21	Medical
4775 <sup>3</sup>	School 2	4/8/21	4/30/21	Medical

1). SICK 2). ACCUMULATED LEAVE 3). UNPAID

9. Continued:

b) Personal

Employee ID#	Location	From	Through	Reason
7804 <sup>3</sup>	School 1	4/29/21	4/30/21	Personal

3). UNPAID

10. Reimburse staff listed for tuition costs in accordance with the associated agreement between the Linden Board of Education and the Linden Education Association:

#	Name	Location	Fall 2020 Tuition Reimbursement
1.	Cordero, Rachel	School 5	\$3,474.00
2.	Grygo, Andrew	LHS	\$1,737.00
3.	Hu, Lin Lin	LHS	\$1,737.00
4.	Jachowski, Juliet	LHS	\$3,474.00
5.	Livingston, Angela	AoE	\$3,474.00
6.	Marsh, Nicole	MMS	\$1,737.00
7.	Miller, Gary	LAST	\$ 653.00
8.	Paternostro, Angela	School 8	\$3,474.00
9.	Rodriguez, Alice	School 2	\$3,474.00
10.	Walker, Kate Lynn	LHS	\$1,737.00

11. Appoint the following staff to work the Saturday Academy Virtual WebEx: Soar into Saturdays in May at School #2 via WebEx on 5/1/21, 5/8/21, 5/15/21, and 5/22/21 from 8:30 am –12:30 pm at the contractual rate. Not to exceed \$3,700.00. Acct. # 20-231-100-101-09-000-55-090 Title I.

#	Name
1.	Dort, Rasheeda
2.	Dolan, Claudia
3.	Dybas, Christina
4.	Gonzalez, Lisa
5.	Hoff, Carrie
6.	Petrin, Nicole
7.	Williams, Mercedes



12. Approve additional Summer Work from June 28, 2021 to August 5, 2021 for the following Social Worker at the per diem rate. Dates are to be mutually decided by Social Worker and Director. Acct. #11-000-219-104-00-000-33.

#	Name	Location	Number of Days
1.	William-Warner, Lisa	AOE	20

13. Appoint the following staff to conduct Parent Technology Nights at School 10. To be paid at the contractual rate. Acct. # 11-120-100-101-00-000-17-170

#	Name
1.	Kefalas, Kim Marie

14. Appoint James Orth as the Student Activities Manager for Linden High School at the non-instructional rate of \$28/hr. for up to 15 hours per month throughout the 2021-2022 School Year. Acct. #11-401-100-100-000-00.

15. Appoint the following staff as tutors for the 2020-2021 CARES Act Tutorial Program. To be paid at the contractual rate of \$31/hr. Acct. #20-477-100-100-00-000-55.

#	Name	School
1.	Abalos, Roxanne	AOE
2.	Alvarez, Robert	AOE
3.	Marchesi, Renata	AOE

16. Appoint the following staff as administrator for the 2020-2021 CARES Act. Tutorial Program. To be paid at the contractual rate of \$50/hr. Acct. #20-477-200-100-00-000-55.

#	Name	School
1.	Zahir, Kcyronne	AOE

17. Appoint the following staff as instructor for the 2020-2021 CARES Act Tutorial Program. To be paid at the contract rate of \$31/hr. Acct. #20-477-200-100-00-000-55.

#	Name	School
1.	Banks, Jenise	AOE

18. Appoint the following presenter for the 2020-2021 CARES Act Tutorial Program. To be paid at the contractual rate of \$200/hr. Acct. #20-477-200-300-00-000-55.

#	Name	School
1.	Davis-Gomez, Natasha	AOE

19. Approve the following job description:

#	Title
1.	Director of Grants

20. Approve the following revised job descriptions:

#	Title
1.	Director of Health/Physical Education/Athletics
2.	Director of Special Education
3.	Director of Mathematics, Vocational, and Technology Subjects (Administrative)
4.	Supervisor of Instructional Technology
5.	Supervisor of Student Services

21. Appoint the following Home Instructors for the 2020-2021 School Year. To be paid at the contractual rate of \$31/hr. Acct. #11-150-100-101-00-000-44.

#	Name
1.	Abalos, Roxanne
2.	Ausman, Ilju
3.	James, Kathleen
4.	Mazurek, Gary
5.	Murphy, Meghan
6.	Sepulveda, Holly
7.	Taylor-Peeples, Karen

22. Approve additional summer work hours for the Counselor/Social worker to be paid at the per diem rate. Dates are to be mutually decided by Counselor and Principal or Supervisor. Acct. #11-000-218-104-00-101-000.

#	Name	Location	Number of Days
1.	Volker, Kathleen	LHS	20

23. Appoint the following staff to work Athletic Security detail at their assigned locations for various events throughout the 2020-2021 school year. To be paid at the contractual rate. Acct.#11-402-100-100-00-000-00.

#	Name
1.	Phipps, Kyle

24. Approve additional Nursing Staff hours for Summer Registration for the 2021-2022 School Year. Dates to be mutually scheduled by the Nurse and the Director/Supervisor. Total cost not to exceed 150 hours at per diem rate. Acct. #11-000-213-100-00-001-00.

#	Name	Location	Hours
1.	Aguirre Digna	School 4	20
2.	Bjukovic, Tomislav	School 2	20
3.	DeMartinis, Colleen	McManus	20
4.	Grassi, Louisa	School 10	20
5.	Jacobs, Nornette	LHS	20
6.	Kolar, Rebecca	School 8	20
7.	McCarthy, Tara	SMS	20
8.	Radil, Elizabeth	School 6	20
9.	Shahamat, Aliyyah	School 5	20
10.	Smith, Diane	LHS	20
11.	Warner, James	School 2	20
12.	Wegrzynek, Candace	School 1	20
13.	Zatko, Stella	School 9	20

25. Appoint the following substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year at the rates listed:

Days	Fully-Certified	Provisional/County Certified
1-25	110.00	100.00
25 +	125.00	110.00

Fully certified substitutes assigned to the same position will receive 1/200 of the BA step 1 on the L.E.A. salary guide commencing with the 11<sup>th</sup> day in that position. Credit will be given for the number of days worked in the district for the next school year if total exceeds 75.

#	Name
1.	Cruz, Neftalie
2.	Garcia, Maria
3.	Hidalgo, Gina
4.	Rojas, Luz
5.	Solorzano, Karina

26. Appoint the following staff for the 2020 – 2021 school year as follows:

#	Name	Effective Date	Degree	Credited Exp./ Step	Assigned Subj. Area	Bldg./ Dept.	Spec. Prog. Or Budget	Total Annual Salary Rate
<b>NON-CERTIFIED</b>								
1.	*Langley, Tahji	5/3/21			Part-Time School Aide	School 9	Budget /R	\$24.59

\*Pending New Hire Requirements

MOTIONS 1 – 26:

Roll Call:

Board Member	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Thomas			X		
Mr. De La Cruz			X		
Mrs. Flemming			X		
Mr. Gargano			X		
Ms. Guillaume		X	X		
Mrs. Manganello			X		
Mr. Martucci	X		X		
Mr. Rivas			X		
Ms. Johnson			Absent		

Motions 1 – 26 carried.

The Finance Committee, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, present the following motions to the Linden Board of Education for approval:

1. BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)(4) the Linden Board of Education certifies that, after review of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's monthly financial report (appropriation section), and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(a)(1) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.  
 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Linden Board of Education accepts the reports of the Secretary and the Treasurer, and certifies that they are in agreement for the month March, 2021. (Copies in the hands of Board members and on file in the Office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary).
2. Authorize the Board Secretary to draw warrants due for the salaries and supplemental payroll for the month of April 2021.
3. Authorize the Board Secretary to draw warrants in the amounts specified in favor of the persons named: (as per list submitted in the files and bookkeeping journal – copy of which will become a part of these original minutes). (See attachment).
4. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3 the Linden Board of Education approves the list of transfers and adjustments for the month of March, 2021. (Copies in the hands of Board members and on file in the Office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary).
5. Student Activities Report (Linden High School) for the month of March, 2021. (Copies in the hands of Board Members and on file in the office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary).
6. Accept funds in the total amount of \$27,230.78 from New Jersey Schools Insurance Group (NJSIG), Mount Laurel, NJ, representing a refund of member contributions due to COVID-19 as follows:

2019/2020 Workers Compensation COVID-19 partial refund:	\$26,767.28
2019/2020 Auto Liability COVID-19 partial refund:	\$ 463.50
TOTAL 2019/2020 COVID-19 partial refund:	\$27,230.78

7. Accept the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center IDEA Supplemental Grant Award from the New Jersey Department of Education in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the 2020-2021 grant year.
8. Accept funds in the amount of \$104.80 from Campus Box Media, LLC, Fort Worth, TX, representing a donation or royalty from the live-stream video service.
9. Accept the donation of a Clarinet, Bundy serial #1249979, for the students at School 10, donated by Lina Rosa Torres.
10. Approve payment in the amount of \$3,900.50 to Lenox, Socey, Formidoni, Giordano, Lang, Carrigg & Casey, Lawrenceville, NJ, for professional services rendered in the matter of D.M. v Linden Board of Education.
11. Approve a Contract in the amount of \$28,500.00 with Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Elizabeth, New Jersey for consultations with a behaviorist, for the period September 2021 through June 2022. Account No. 20-218-200-321-03-000-34
12. Approve a Contract in the amount of \$75,000.00 with Trinitas Healthcare Corporation Children’s Therapy Services, Springfield, New Jersey for Occupational Therapy for the period September 2021 through June 2022. Account No. 20-218-100-321-03-000-34.
13. Approve a Lease Agreement with Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Church for the use of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary School, 170 Hussa Street, Linden, NJ, for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026 in the amounts as follows:

Year	Annual Rental	Monthly Rent
2021-2022	\$579,643.00	\$48,304.00
2022-2023	\$591,241.00	\$49,270.00
2023-2024	\$603,060.00	\$50,255.00
2024-2025	\$615,121.00	\$51,260.00
2025-2026	\$627,424.00	\$52,285.00

and to authorize the Superintendent and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to submit all documentation to the Department of Education as required by the New Jersey Statute and Code.

14. Approve the application of the Linden Board of Education to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to receive compensation for operating the Summer Food Service Program from June 28, 2021 through July 30, 2021.

15. Approve the Summer Food Service Program Contract Renewal Addendum with Pomptonian, Inc., Fairfield, NJ, for food service operation from June 28, 2021 through July 30, 2021.
16. Approve the Student Price List from Pomptonian, Fairfield, NJ for the 2021/2022 school year as follows:

High School Paid Lunch	\$ 2.70
Middle School Paid Lunch	\$ 2.60
Elementary Lunch	\$ 2.40
Reduced Lunch (all schools)	\$ .00
Milk – pint (all schools)	\$ .80
Elementary Breakfast	\$ 1.25
Middle School Breakfast	\$ 1.50
High School Breakfast	\$ 1.60
Reduced Breakfast (all schools)	\$ .00

17. Approve a contract with Xerox Corporation, State Contract #40469, for a 60-month lease of equipment as follows:

Location	Description	Monthly Cost
School #5 Faculty Room	B9110	\$ 661.49
School #6 Main Office	C9070	\$ 506.52
School #6 Main Office	DMPCTRL	\$ 92.45
School #6 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Faculty Room	B9110	\$ 573.99
Total Monthly Cost:		\$1,834.45
Total Monthly Savings		\$ 163.09

18. Award a contract in the amount of \$158,000.00 to Northeast Roof Maintenance, Inc., Perth Amboy, NJ, for Roofing Replacement and Related Work at the Administration Building, based on low bid received April 20, 2021.
19. Approve a contract for the 2021-2022 school year between the Union County Educational Services Commission and the Linden Board of Education to transport special education, and non-public students for out-of-district placements.



20. Approve the following renewal routes for student transportation for the 2021-2022 school year:
- a) 2021-2022 School Transportation Renewal Contracts – Regular and Special Education:

Company	Route	Route Cost Per Diem 21-22	Aide Cost Per Diem 21-22	TOTAL 21-22
Dapper Bus Co	HS-1E/2-1	\$313.74	\$79.51	\$393.25
Dapper Bus Co	HS-1F/2-2	\$324.60	\$79.51	\$404.11
Dapper Bus Co	MM-3/SE-1B	\$321.87	\$79.51	\$401.38
Dapper Bus Co	MM-6/SE-1A	\$321.87	\$79.51	\$401.38
Dapper Bus Co	SE-8	\$253.11	\$64.45	\$317.56
Dapper Bus Co	SE-8A	\$253.11	\$64.45	\$317.56
Dapper Bus Co	SE-12A/2-4	\$320.30	\$65.32	\$385.62
Dapper Bus Co	SM-2A/SE-2A	\$320.98	\$79.51	\$400.49
J&J Transportation	L-MED/TOP	\$339.75	\$57.52	\$397.27
Villani Bus Co	VT-1	\$289.29	\$89.69	\$ 378.98
Villani Bus Co	VT-3	\$309.95	\$89.69	\$ 399.64
Villani Bus Co	HS-1C/SE-2C	\$291.41	\$89.69	\$381.10
Villani Bus Co	HS-1D/SE-1D	\$291.41	\$89.69	\$381.10
Villani Bus Co	HS-1G/SE-2E	\$291.41	\$89.69	\$381.10
Villani Bus Co	HS-2B/BIL-1	\$277.87	\$89.69	\$367.56
Villani Bus Co	HS-2C/BIL-3	\$281.76	\$89.69	\$371.45
Villani Bus Co	HS-2D/2-3	\$311.17	\$89.69	\$400.86
Villani Bus Co	MM-1/SE-1	\$311.73	\$89.69	\$401.42
Villani Bus Co	MM-2/BIL-2	\$279.98	\$89.69	\$369.67
Villani Bus Co	MM-4/SE-1C	\$311.73	\$89.69	\$401.42
Villani Bus Co	MM-5/SE-2B	\$309.61	\$89.69	\$399.30
Villani Bus Co	MM-7/SE-2F	\$364.05	\$89.69	\$453.74
Villani Bus Co	SM-1/SE-2	\$264.19	\$89.69	\$353.88
Villani Bus Co.	SM-2	\$326.80	\$41.37	\$368.17
Villani Bus Co	SM-3/SE-2D	\$308.93	\$89.69	\$398.62
Villani Bus Co.	SE-10	\$291.67	\$62.95	\$354.62

20. Continued:

Company	Route	Route Cost Per Diem 21-22	Aide Cost Per Diem 21-22	TOTAL 21-22
Villani Bus Co	SE-11	\$259.00	\$89.69	\$348.69
Villani Bus Co	SE-11M	\$294.61	\$89.69	\$384.30
Villani Bus Co	SE-12	\$275.34	\$89.69	\$365.03
Villani Bus Co	SE-13	\$273.20	\$89.69	\$362.89

b) 2021-2022 Parent Transportation Route – Special Education

Parent	Route	Per Diem Cost 20/21	Not to Exceed
BG	SEPA-6	\$69.75	\$14,647.50
GW	SEPA-8	\$59.09	\$12,408.90

c) 2021 Extended School Year Transportation – Special Education

Company	Route	Route Cost Per Diem 2021	Aide Cost Per Diem 2021	TOTAL 2021
J & J Transp.	ESY-1	\$173.11	BOE Aide	\$173.11
J & J Transp.	ESY-2	\$173.11	BOE Aide	\$173.11
J & J Transp.	ESY-3	\$173.11	\$53.36	\$226.47
J & J Transp.	ESY-4	\$173.11	\$53.36	\$226.47
J & J Transp.	ESY-5	\$173.11	\$53.36	\$226.47
J & J Transp.	ESY-6	\$220.23	\$59.09	\$279.32
J & J Transp.	ESY-7	\$173.11	\$53.36	\$226.47
J & J Transp.	ESY-L-MED	\$220.23	BOE Aide	\$220.23

20. Continued:

d) 2021-2022 Field Trips Pricing 54 Passenger School Bus:

Company	Route	Hourly Contracted Amount 20-21	Overtime Adjusted Hourly Cost	Aide	Other
Villani Bus Co.	FT-1	\$67.23	N/A	N/A	Tolls - \$.00
Villani Bus Co	FT-1A	\$72.39	N/A	N/A	Tolls - \$.00
Villani Bus Co	FT-2	\$77.57	N/A	N/A	Tolls - \$.00
Villani Bus Co.	FT-2A	\$82.73	N/A	N/A	Tolls - \$.00
Villani Bus Co	FT-3	\$87.91	N/A	N/A	Tolls - \$.00
Villani Bus Co.	FT-3A	\$93.08	N/A	N/A	Tolls - \$.00
Villani Bus Co	FT-4 & 4A	\$98.25	N/A	N/A	Tolls & Parking At Rate
Villani Bus Co	FT-5 & 5A	\$134.44	N/A	N/A	Tolls & Parking At Rate
Villani Bus Co	FT-6	\$113.76	N/A	N/A	Tolls & Parking At Rate
Villani Bus Co	FT-6A	\$155.13	N/A	N/A	Tolls & Parking At Rate
Villani Bus Co	FT-11	w/o lift \$77.57	N/A	N/A	Passenger Van – Intake from home to out of district school
Villani Bus Co	FT-11A	w/o lift \$77.57	N/A	N/A	Passenger Van for Transport student from home/school to Spec. Serv.

e) 2021-2022 Field Trips Pricing Coach Bus:

Company	Route	49 Passenger Hourly Rate	55 Passenger Hourly Rate	Provision	Other
Villani Bus Co	FT-7	\$155.13	\$155.13	5 hour minimum	Tolls - \$.00 (incl.) Parking - Chartering Party is responsible for parking rates as applicable, at rate at time or trip
Villani Bus Co	FT-7A & 8	\$206.84	\$206.84	5 hour minimum	
Villani Bus Co	FT-9	\$232.70	\$232.70	5 hour minimum	
Villani Bus Co.	FT-9A	\$258.55	\$258.55	5 hour minimum	
Villani Bus Co	FT-10	\$284.41	\$284.41	5 hour minimum	

20. Continued:

f) Student Team Transportation Services – School Year 2021-2022

Company	Route	Route Cost for 4 hrs. Per Diem 20-21	Per Hour Over Flat Rate 4 Hours
Villani	Team Sect 1	\$360.97	\$45.12
	Team Sect II	\$316.92	Flat Rate
	Team Sect III	\$290.06	Flat Rate

21. Approve the continued enrollment of the following students for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, as well as for the 2021-2022 school year, eligible on a tuition basis under policy #5118, pending enrollment figures:

Student	Current Placement	2021 – 2022 Placement
S.G.	Grade 11	Grade 12
K.G.	Grade 9	Grade 10

22. Declare the following as surplus equipment (obsolete and/or unusable) to be disposed of in accordance with District Policy 3260 as follows:

Location	Quantity	Description/Model #	Serial Number/BOE/Tag #
Soehl MS	1	Kenwood Walkie Talkie/TK-3160	00407172
	1	TEKK Walkie Talkie/X-500U	13080938Q5U
School # 6	1	GE Convection Oven	002449
	1	GE Convection Oven	002450

23. Bids/Quotations as listed:

a) School Nos. 4 & 5 Cafeteria/Kitchen Equipment – 2020-2021  
Bid opening date: 4/20/2021

Company	Amount
MAP International Import & Export Corporation, Newark, NJ	\$ 132,346.77.
Bids E-Mailed –11; Bids Received – 2	

24. Approve the following bid as listed:

Student Transportation Services – School Year 2021-2022

Bid Opening Date: April 20, 2021

Vendor	Route Number	Per Diem Amount	Inc./Dec. Adjustment	Aide Cost Per Diem	Amount
First Student	VT-2	\$405.00	\$1.00	\$95.00	\$500.00
Bids Mailed – 8; Bids Received – 3; Observed – 1					

MOTIONS 1 – 17 and 19 – 24 (item #18 pulled):

Roll Call:

Board Member	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Thomas			X	With the exclusion of #18	
Mr. De La Cruz			X	With the exclusion of #18	
Mrs. Flemming			X	With the exclusion of #18	
Mr. Gargano			Yes to all		
Ms. Guillaume		X	X		
Mrs. Manganello			Yes to all		
Mr. Martucci	X		X		
Mr. Rivas			X	With the exclusion of #18	
Ms. Johnson			Absent		

Motions 1 – 17 and 19 – 24 carried.

Item #18 pulled.

The Buildings, Grounds and Security Committee, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, present the following motions to the Linden Board of Education for approval:

1. Use of facilities at no charge as requested by Isabella Scocozza, Principal, Soehl Middle School:

Activity/Location	Day and Time	Date
<u>SMS PTA Clothing Drive</u> <u>Fundraiser</u> E. Henry Street Overhang	Wednesday 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	May 19, 2021

2. Use of facilities at no charge as requested by Ralph Dunham, Director, City of Linden, Department of Parks and Recreation:

Activity/Location	Day and Time	Date
<u>Summer Linden Recreation</u> <u>Basketball Program</u> High School Gymnasium	Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-8:30 p.m.	<u>2021</u> June 28,29,30 July 1,5,6,7,8,12,13,14,15,19, 20,21,22,26,27,28,29 August 2,3,4,5,9,10,11,12
<u>Summer Day Camp</u> Outdoor & Indoor facilities (Indoor utilization on rainy or extremely hot days only) School Nos. 4,10 & McManus Middle School *	Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  Fridays 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	June 28, 2021 through August 19, 2021  <u>2021</u> July 2 August 13

\* Gymnasiums will not be available during period of refinishing of floors.

MOTIONS 1 – 2:

Roll Call:

Board Member	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Thomas		X	X		
Mr. De La Cruz	X		X		
Mrs. Flemming			X		
Mr. Gargano			X		
Ms. Guillaume			X		
Mrs. Manganello			X		
Mr. Martucci			X		
Mr. Rivas			X		
Ms. Johnson			Absent		

Motions 1 – 2 carried.

The Planning and Policy Committee, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, presents the following motion to the Linden Board of Education for approval:

1. First Reading:

Policy Number	Title
3514.1	School Furnished Electronic Device: Distribution and Use
4119.27/4219.27	Parent/Guardian Authorization for Virtual Instruction and Educational Services and Recording

MOTION 1:

Roll Call:

Board Member	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Thomas			X		
Mr. De La Cruz		X	X		
Mrs. Flemming			X		
Mr. Gargano			X		
Ms. Guillaume			X		
Mrs. Manganello	X		X		
Mr. Martucci			X		
Mr. Rivas			X		
Ms. Johnson			Absent		

Motion 1 carried.



COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Tracey Birch  
625 Beechwood Road

Mrs. Birch thanked the Board Members for continuing to gather information and ask questions. She also thanked them for approving Fridays off for our employees. Mrs. Birch said that none of the meetings are being shown on Channel 36 or 42 or even on YouTube. There is no way for anyone who works or happens to miss a meeting to go back and view them. It's now been over a year. She asked if they could please find a way to get these meetings up on some type of media platform.

Eloy Delgado, LEA President  
842 Grove Street  
Elizabeth, NJ

Mr. Delgado thanked the Board Members. Thank you to Vice President Rivas, Malaysia Thomas, Sam De La Cruz and Jennifer Flemming. He understands that they needed to gather information, but the important thing is that they listened to Dr. Hazelton, other Board Members, the Union, and parents and they did their due diligence. He agrees with Mr. Rivas that this is good will. Even though this was a virtual year, LEA members put on FAST events at the schools to make that connection between home and school stronger. He said that their motto is "We go the extra mile", and it is something that they truly believe and it's why he's proud to be the President of this Union.

To the parents, he said over the last 40 years, unionization rates in our country have declined. It is important that the United States Congress passes the Pro Act. Here in Linden, we are a model of collaboration and we must continue being a model of labor/management collaboration in order to achieve greatness for our students.

Finally, he gave a shout out to the retirees. It's been a difficult year but we will be ready for September.

Tahji Langley  
832 Hussa Street

Mr. Langley thanked the Linden Board of Education for being the best throughout his whole elementary and high school experience. He thanked Dr. Hazelton for believing in him and Dr. Plummer for giving him the opportunity to be a part-time school aide. He looks forward to working with his beautiful students and giving back, because Linden was the best school district he went to. Thank you.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Gargano said that over the last few months the Board has been talking about bringing back public comments during our final Board Meetings of every month before the Board votes on agenda items. He believes they should just vote on it and move forward with it. For that reason he asked to make a motion to bring back public comments before the Board votes on agenda items at their last meeting of the month, and he asked for a second. Mr. De La Cruz seconded the motion.

The attorney, Nathanya Simon, asked if the Board wanted to have any discussion or just go to the vote.

Mrs. Manganello said that this issue was to be brought to the Policy Committee for discussion. Since she was ill last week, she was not able to hold that committee. She does feel that it should be brought to the committee for discussion or discussed amongst the Committee of the Whole because she would like to give an opportunity to all Board Members to speak about it before it gets voted on.

Mr. Rivas said that being respectful of procedure, there is a motion on the floor and asked for a roll call.

Ms. Thomas then said that as a new Board Member she is not familiar with this process and would like additional information. She does not want to vote on something she is not fully aware of. If this could be discussed further so that the Board can gain clarity, it would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Rivas said that he cannot go against the motion on the floor unless the person who made the motion retracts it. Out of respect for the Board Members who have commented, he respectfully asks the person who made the motion if he wants to maintain the motion or retract it for further discussion. Mr. Gargano said he would like to maintain the motion.

Mr. Martucci said that in an instance like this, a motion may be made to table Mr. Gargano's motion, with a second, and if the table passes, then Mr. Gargano's motion would be discussed in a committee and then at the next meeting, a vote can be held. There has to be a discussion.

Mrs. Flemming asked if this could be explained a little more clearly. Mr. Gargano explained that once the Board has gone through the Work Session, this would allow the public to make a comment on the agenda before the Board votes so that their voices are heard.

Mrs. Flemming said she thought that it would be a good idea because she wants to know what people think and what their concerns are. She thinks it's a good idea for transparency and participation.

Mr. De La Cruz asked if this was past practice before. He asked if it was in the beginning or the end and if it was in the beginning, why was it changed to the end? Mr. Gargano responded that this was changed two years ago. Mr. De La Cruz asked why it changed. Mr. Gargano answered that the meeting is a business meeting in which the public is allowed to view, but after two years, it's something he disagrees with, just to get extra input so that everybody could understand everything. Mr. De La Cruz agreed they should have public comments in the beginning and have public input. We get to hear from the public and it shows transparency.

Mr. Martucci said he believes this discussion should have been held in private in committee, not in public. He reminded everyone that the school board meetings are business meetings, not public meetings. They are business meetings in which the public are invited to. As public officials, he said the Board is elected to make decisions. If everyone wants this in the beginning, then put it in the beginning, but he said he doesn't need to be pressured by the public on how he's going to vote. As a business meeting, he's going to discuss and delve into things and then come to a decision. He believes this should be tabled and discussed in committee.

Mrs. Manganello also believes discussion should be held in committee where everybody could get a lot more information. She said that when the public comment section was in the beginning of the meeting, it was being abused by some who wanted to use that time to abuse Board Members and the Board alike. It became a circus. It became very chaotic and people would do this right before a vote and it became disruptive of the meetings. This was the reason the Board chose to move it to the end. She said they are elected officials and they do put in a lot of long hours. Agree or disagree, the public elects the Board to make these decisions and their votes should not be swayed. People would come to the podium and say straight out that they think they have something to say that may change the Board's mind. She said that her vote should be based on information she has as a Board Member. She's not saying that the Board shouldn't take input from the public, but if they're coming with the intention to change someone's vote because they personally want something themselves, that's not right. She would have no problem returning public comments to the beginning if they were used properly. She reiterated what Mr. Martucci said, that Board of Education meetings are business meetings. It's not like City Council meetings. The public can come and give a comment. The Board does not have to answer questions, but they listen to comments. The Board can get back to people at a later date. Yes, she wants the public's opinion, she wants them to speak, but the public is not a Board Member. The Board was being abused by groups of people with long lists of things, some politically induced, and this is something she does not want to re-live. She said we are here for the education, and the students and the staff of the Linden district. She feels firmly that the public comments should stay at the end.

Ms. Guillaume requested advice from our attorney, as she agrees with Mr. Martucci and Mrs. Manganello.

Ms. Simon said that the setting of the agenda is part of policy. It's not a legal mandate that it be at any particular spot on any Board agenda; however, at every public meeting, you must open to the public and every Board has it at a different spot. She said that each Board Member has a valid opinion, but based on law, the Open Public Meetings Act, it only requires that you open it to the public during the course of the meeting. It does not specify at which point it must occur.

Ms. Guillaume thanked Ms. Simon for clarification. She said she is in agreement that the public's voice needs to be heard. Mrs. Manganello is correct that people think they can come up and influence votes; however, the Board was appointed by the public to make decisions and she hopes that they can trust that they are asking questions and collaborating with administration to get the needed clarification and answers. There have been numerous times, depending on what may have taken place, they changed their votes. As an elected official and being on the Board for as long as she has, she is comfortable with where it stands at the moment, but she stands with her fellow Board Members and she encouraged them to do what they are most comfortable with. However, for her, she would like to keep it where it's at.

Ms. Thomas said she is okay with hearing the public's comments, but she does not want to be swayed by their comments. She said she is a bit concerned about this. She had no questions at this time, but she said it sounds like it caused a lot of problems previously and it was transitioned for a reason.

Mr. Rivas said that it's up to the Board to figure out how to maintain order in the meeting. The attorney said it is a public meeting and the public has the right to comment. He said we should not let anyone persuade the Board into making a decision, especially if the Board has the information they seek before going into the business meeting, and especially if they held a Work Session and discussed every item that needed to be discussed. If the Board needs additional time, they ask for it. He is all for the citizens and parents of Linden. The Board works for the district, and the teachers, IT, secretaries, custodians and maintenance, but also, they have a responsibility with the City. He suggested that if this goes to a vote and gets approved or denied, it goes to committee to organize it and the Board sets the rules that are going to be followed. He said this is a public meeting and it should have rules and a process. The committee should look for a way to organize public comments. If the public does not follow our protocol, it is the Board's responsibility to deny those comments and to pass it to anybody who will follow the protocol of the meeting. His opinion is that it is the Board's responsibility to take control of the meeting and be respectful of everybody. We need to be transparent in everything that we do.

Ms. Thomas raised her hand to ask a question and Mr. Rivas denied her request saying if he let her ask another, then he would have to let everyone else ask another.

Mr. Rivas asked Mr. Gargano again if he would like to maintain his motion. Mr. Gargano said yes, he would like to maintain it.

Ms. Guillaume interrupted and asked why Ms. Thomas was not allowed to ask her question. Mr. Rivas said that the procedure is that every member has one opportunity to present their concerns and he was very clear when this discussion started.

Mr. Martucci then made a motion to table the motion and asked for a second. Mrs. Manganello seconded the motion. Mr. Martucci said that according to Robert’s Rules, you must vote on the motion to table before you vote on the motion.

Mr. Rivas said that when there’s a motion on the floor, he has to be respectful to the person who makes the motion. If we are going to try to pursue to table the motion or not, it’s something we should have asked before we had the discussion. Mr. Martucci told him he was wrong. Mr. Rivas said that Mr. Martucci had not been recognized as he still had the floor. Mr. Rivas said that they cannot continue to talk over each other. Mr. Martucci tried to interrupt to vote on the motion to table and Mr. Rivas said that Mr. Martucci would be recognized after he was through. Mr. Rivas then asked the counselor for her professional guidance as there are now two motions on the table.

Ms. Simon said that Mr. Martucci is correct, that when a motion has been moved and seconded, and then there is a motion to table and seconded, the motion to table does take precedence and has to be voted on before you go to the main motion. If the motion to table is defeated, you go back immediately to the main motion. If the motion to table is passed, then that’s what happens with that motion.

Mr. Rivas then called for a roll call on the motion to table.

Ms. Thomas said she did not mean to cause any frenzy or chaos, she just wanted a better understanding.

Roll Call:

Board Member	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Thomas			X		
Mr. De La Cruz				X	
Mrs. Flemming				X	
Mr. Gargano				X	
Ms. Guillaume			X		
Mrs. Manganello		X	X		
Mr. Martucci	X		X		
Mr. Rivas				X	
Ms. Johnson			Absent		

Motion did not pass.

Mr. Rivas then asked for a roll call on the motion to bring back public comments before the Board votes on agenda items at their last meeting of the month.

Roll Call:

Board Member	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Thomas			X		
Mr. De La Cruz		X	X		
Mrs. Flemming			X		
Mr. Gargano	X		X		
Ms. Guillaume				X	
Mrs. Manganello				X	
Mr. Martucci				X	
Mr. Rivas			X		
Ms. Johnson			Absent		

Motion carried.

Mr. Rivas said he will send this motion to the committee to create the rules and protocols to be used during the meetings.

Ms. Gaylord asked for clarification on the vote. She asked if they voted to bring this issue to committee? Mr. Gargano responded that they voted to bring back comments from the public on agenda items before the Board votes. Mr. Rivas said that based on concerns of fellow Board Members on how we can maintain an environment where the meeting cannot be disturbed, he will be sending this to committee for them to work on a protocol and process in order to maintain control of the meeting.

Ms. Simon asked for clarification that in creating the agenda for the May meeting, is this motion going to take effect immediately or are we going to wait for the committee to create protocols. Mr. Rivas said that he is asking the committee to create a protocol before it can be established. Ms. Simon asked if it had been clarified that the committee would meet and create protocols and then it would be brought back for discussion and approval of those protocols and that it will go on the agenda differently when that occurs. Ms. Gaylord answered yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Rivas said that at the next Work Session meeting, the Board needs to discuss the creation of protocols guaranteeing inclusiveness of the Board Members to witness the many different processes that are in place in the daily assignments of vendor contracts or any type of contract that there is in the Board of Education. He said they cannot interfere in the job of the administration, but they can be witnesses. He asked the Board for a discussion on how they can be witnesses to the many activities of the Board of Education which take place in the day-to-day operation.

Also, and this is something one of the citizens mentioned, he wants to discuss how the Board can go back and check on the website's video link. We need to make sure that the public gets more information, especially since we keep saying we want to be transparent. There was something brought up about our public not being able to go back and see our meetings. He said he thinks it is a requirement for the Board of Education to have the meetings published and he asked for counsel's opinion. Ms. Simon said that this is a matter of Board operations. She said that we are holding our meeting in public. Anyone who wants to see this meeting can. We are totally transparent. Her understanding is that people want to be able to go back and view the meeting at some future point. There are some Boards that do live stream and some post them on a website. It is not mandatory that a Board do that because you have Minutes. If any member of the public wanted to know what happened at the Board Meeting three months ago, they can have the public Minutes and there are all of the resolutions and what was discussed. That is how it always operated before the virtual world and recording, etc. If this is something the Board is interested in doing, it probably would be good to have that sent to committee for both legal guidance, more specifically, and maybe to have a discussion about how other Boards are doing this, because some Boards are and some Boards are not; they feel that having an open public meeting and Minutes does suffice the law, which it does.

Mr. Rivas thanked Ms. Simon and said it will be discussed and they will work on a consensus.

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mr. Martucci congratulated Dona Preston on her retirement. He had the pleasure of getting his elementary administration experience with her.

He then said that he believes the bidding system going on in our district is trying to be infiltrated by outside sources. If in fact it is, he said he will be the first one to go to the prosecutor. There are things that he found out in the last week and a half and he will be doing his own investigation. If he has any question in his mind that this is being done, he's going straight to Elizabeth.

Ms. Thomas expressed her condolences to the Gooney family, Rizzo family and the Starling family. She congratulated Christian Calvo on winning the statewide Cyber Security Poster contest for grade 12. She also congratulated Linden Lady Tigers MacKenzie Barrett on her matriculation at Fairleigh Dickenson University where she'll be playing Division I soccer. Congratulations also to Annika and James. She congratulated the retirees and said she hoped they enjoy their retirement. She thanked Mrs. Birch for calling in her concerns and providing comments. She'd like to say that she is for the teachers, nurses, staff and administration. Her hat goes off to all for all of their hard work. She's here to do the job she was elected to do. As she mentioned, she has a family full of educators and she does not take their jobs for granted. She also doesn't take the taxpayers funding for granted. She feels that this hasn't been much of a welcoming experience and she feels that it's been a bit disheartening that former Board Members

and one or two active Board Members are willing to assist in educating with the onboarding with herself and her running mates, Mr. De La Cruz and Mrs. Flemming. She said they were hoping to be on board with more of a welcoming hand and not such a divide. She thanked Mr. “G” for inviting her and her fellow Board Member, Jennifer Flemming, to School #4 for State Farm Night. It was great to see the kids and the teachers and the principal interacting and having a good time.

She then addressed anyone out there listening and asked if they had any questions of her, they could contact her directly at [mthomas1@lindenps.org](mailto:mthomas1@lindenps.org) and she will do her best to assist or direct them to the right person. She hopes that everyone can collaborate and align more and be as one as we put our children first, as well as our teachers, staff, administration and taxpayers. She wished everyone a great evening.

Ms. Guillaume said that they are a board of nine, currently eight. They have different backgrounds, different personalities, but nonetheless, they are a team. She finds it disheartening that they have arguments and share their mess in public. She personally believes that they need to work together as a team privately. The public doesn’t need to see what they exchange because if they cannot come together and work together collectively, how do they expect that the public can trust them with making decisions. How do we expect them to send their children to our schools with confidence knowing that this is what we do. Transparency is key. She supports transparency. However, when she works with her fellow Board Members, she wants to be able to exchange things comfortably and to hear what the other Board Members have to say and consider them, yet, not doing it in public. Many Board Members before her have sat in her position and have dealt with their dirty laundry in private. Regardless if they got along or not, there was always respect, and she always tries her best to respect her fellow Board Members. She thanked everyone for sharing and said that she respects them all individually and as a collective. She would prefer, if she were to address something, to not be petty and to say it in private, to call or to have a conversation in Personnel.

Ms. Guillaume extended her sincerest condolences to the Gooney family. She knows that this may feel surreal, but she wanted to remind them that the entire district is here for them. Mr. Gooney will be sorely missed. She worked with him and got to know him as a substitute teacher and she wanted the family to know that the Board is here to support them. She also sent her condolences to the Rizzo and Starling families. She knows this is a difficult time and they will be kept in their prayers. She then congratulated Dona Preston on her upcoming retirement. She said she applauds her dedication and passion for the district, and she knows that she’ll be missed not only by the district, but also by her beloved School #1. She also sent her congratulations to Ms. Bolden, Ms. Cruz-Suarez and Ms. Kocienski, wishing them nothing but relaxation and happiness. She thanked Dr. Hazelton and the Mayor’s Youth Commission for creating the mobile order night at Chick-fil-A supporting our senior class.



She's sure they're excited, and hopefully, God willing, they can have Project Graduation or whatever their hearts desire this year. She congratulated our students and staff members on being selected as one of the best communities for music education in America. It is absolutely amazing to win seven years in a row. Congratulations to all of our seniors for having a successful year in being recognized for their sports achievements. She also congratulated MacKenzie Barrett on her commitment to play Division I soccer at Fairleigh Dickenson. This is an absolutely spectacular opportunity and she wished her all the best. Finally, she wished a happy Assistant Principal and Administrative Assistant week. She knows it passed, but she wanted to acknowledge everyone and extend her appreciation. She also gave a shout out to our teachers and thanked them for their dedication to our students. Student success is key and that is our goal in this district; to make sure every student excels and receives an exceptional education.

Mr. De La Cruz extended his condolences to the Gooney, Rizzo and Starling families for their losses. He also offered congratulations on the district being named for the seventh year in a row as one of the best communities for music education in America. He also congratulated the athletes of the week, MacKenzie for her commitment to Fairleigh Dickenson and Christian for winning the Cyber Security Poster contest. Congratulations also to all of the retirees. He then mentioned that last month a vote was abstained from because information requested was not received in a timely manner. This month it came back and the Board got the information. Whether they were wrong in turning it down, he apologized; however, he may do things that others will feel are wrong but he has the integrity to say he's wrong and correct it. He thanked Mr. Delgado and Mrs. Birch, and for the fact of them getting more information that was needed. He said the Board will learn from each other as they are still a team. When you're a family member, you tend to have arguments. You try not to make them public; however, sometimes it happens. When he started his campaign with Malaysia and Jennifer, they were individuals. By the end of the campaign, they were one. We want everyone to be together and be transparent; to look out for our kids, to look out for our teachers and to look out for our taxpayers. He was PTA President at School #6 and he knows what the teachers go through and the time they give up. He volunteers for band parents, and he now volunteers for the Board.

Mrs. Manganello offered condolences on the loss of Brian Gooney, Marlene Rizzo and Kathleen Starling. All of our employees are extended family. She then acknowledged the retirees, Ms. Bolden, Ms. Cruz-Suarez, Ms. Kocienski and Ms. Preston. To Ms. Preston she said that she is a strong and dedicated principal and thanked her for all of her years of service. She congratulated all of the seniors who were recognized previously. She also thanked their coaches. She gave a shout out to all of our administrative assistants. Thank you for all you do daily for our students and staff. You are very much appreciated. April 5<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Assistant Principal's Week. Congratulations to all of our great VP's. Thank you for helping our schools run smoothly and for all you do daily for our students and our staff. Our administrators here are wonderful. Congratulations to the Linden District which has been selected as one of the best communities for music education in America for the seventh year in a row. She said she cannot

wait to get our concerts back in person. Soehl Middle School recently held their talent show and they did a great job. Congratulations to Natalia Praizner who won first place. Marcelina Domaradzka won second place and Zion Pagan took third. She then congratulated School #8 fifth grades and staff for participating in the planting of flowers at the park across the street for Earth Day. Thank you to Mr. Gorbunoff for School #4's STEM Night. She thanked her fellow Board Members and said that they can agree to disagree. As long as they respect each other, the job will get done. They're there to make sure everything gets done right and the process is right. If you're on a Board where everyone agrees, she said then you're not on the right Board. Keep it positive. She said she just wants to make sure that all of the decisions that are made are for the students and staff. She is concerned about a lot of things, including our Board President. For those who are wondering where she is, she is on vacation in Ghana. She is there providing humanitarian work. She thanked Mr. Rivas for leading the Board in her absence and thank you to everyone for doing the best we can with an eight-member Board. She expressed concerns about where the Board is heading. She said she wants everything done with due process. The Board will not always get along and agree on everything, but they do have to do the right thing. She was a little concerned in the Work Session Meeting where they spent four hours together getting the job done. She was concerned, when she heard Board Members say "this is what I want, give me what I want". It's not about what we individually want, it's about we can accomplish together. Finally, she said she is concerned about the one item which was asked to be removed from the agenda which had to do with bidding. We did receive the lowest bid and by law we have to accept the lowest bid. That cannot be changed. The Board spent four hours together at the Work Session and this was asked to be removed without transparency to the Board. She is concerned about what Mr. Martucci said earlier. She does want to make sure that there are no Board Members who are being infiltrated or are trying to infiltrate the bidding system. There should be no one succumbing to pressure by outside political influences. This is unethical and illegal. She said she also supports Mr. Martucci in his statement that if any of this information is found out to be true, she has no problem accompanying him to the prosecutor's office. She wants to be sure everything done here is done together and ethically.

Mr. Gargano thanked the Board for coming together for the 12-month employees and agreeing to give them their Fridays off. He said that the Board Members are all individuals who have the honor of serving their community as Board Members. He said that we live in a society where information is in the palm of our hands. When the Board finds out about an agenda item, it shouldn't take four months to vote on it. They all have computers in their hands and they all know how to google and make phone calls. It shouldn't take four months to research. They get their agenda on Friday and by the following Thursday, they should have all of their information. That's over six days to get all the needed information to make an educated decision. Never mind the stuff that comes back month after month after month. He said they need to take responsibility as a Board to do their due diligence. Seeing an agenda item pulled two hours before a Board meeting without any explanation makes no sense. Especially when it was something that had nothing to do with pushing student achievement. It sounds to him like

there's an alternate agenda there. He hopes that's not happening, because he will, along with Mr. Martucci, do the same thing he's going to do.

Mrs. Flemming acknowledged the teachers for National Teacher Appreciation Week. She did not think about how the teachers stay late and come in early and have to find new ways to make teaching exciting, whether virtually or in-person. She said it's been a tough year. She just wanted to say thank you. She offered condolences on the passing of Brian Gooney, Marlene Rizzo and Kathleen Starling. She then congratulated the retirees and told them it would be like having a weekend every single day. Thank you for getting up every single day to go to the schools and teach our children. To the kids – MacKenzie, Annika, James and Christian, congratulations. Thank you for being awesome. Thank you for doing it for Linden and your family. Mrs. Flemming said that she knows she's passionate and asks a lot of questions, but she's trying to do the best job that she can by getting information. She said you have to be prepared with an answer when someone asks why you voted a certain way. She said that the Board is not voting just the way they feel, they are the voice of the public. The Board is here to speak on the public's behalf. She said she does not want to fight every week. With respect to the comments being moved to the beginning of the meeting, she believes that you have to be strong enough in this position not to be persuaded. If you feel that what you are voting for is correct, and if you go by safety, children first, and taxpayers, it's not so hard to gather the information and hear from the public. She said we do want to hear from the public. Sometimes she's at a meeting and realizes she doesn't know everything about a certain subject and she hopes that somebody opens up; somebody comes on and speaks. She said she wants to hear from the teachers. She doesn't hear from anybody, so she's left to do her very best to get her information, because she doesn't want to come back to the meeting and feel that it's too late because she already voted. Please come to the meetings and please do speak. She believes everybody wants to be transparent. Finally, she said she was surprised about the bidding comments. She doesn't understand what everybody is talking about. She said she had a concern about the roof and she felt it was a lot of money. She sent an email and wanted to see the bids. She said she did receive the prices for the bids, but not the bids. In order to make wise and intelligent choices, they're not trying to break the law, they're looking out for the taxpayers. They're trying to look out for the Administration Building. She said that we don't want to be taken advantage of. She wants to see where it's posted, she wants to see what's going on. Thank you everyone for your time. She hopes these meetings get better and they can be transparent. She hopes they won't be airing their dirty laundry, and hopefully there won't be any dirty laundry to air.

Mr. Rivas said he was asked within the last two months to temporarily step up and lead the Board. When we get to this part of the meeting, the Board Members get to say what they feel and that is protected by the constitution. When we hear Board Members talk about their beliefs, those beliefs have to be respected. He congratulated MacKenzie Barrett on her achievement. He also recognized the Performing Arts program in music. Congratulations to all of the students for all of their achievements which were presented tonight. He offered condolences to the Gooney, Rizzo and Starling families, and gave his best wishes to those who are retiring. He thanked all of the Board Members who are supporting him during this difficult time. His intention is to do the best possible job that he can do and respect each Board Member. It is his intention to find ways on how this Board can work together. We will look for inclusiveness. He's been on the Board for only a year and a half. He said that many Board Members know a lot more than he does. We need to make sure that our knowledge is passed correctly and, in his opinion, without any type of subtle intimidation. He is very disappointed that in the 16 months that he is a Board Member that within the Board, there are people who try to intimidate other Board Members in many different ways. Intimidation comes in many different ways. He wanted everyone to know that this is his opinion and his opinion only. The pandemic showed us that the world is changing. It showed us that there are things that worked well many years ago that might not necessarily work now. We must pay attention to more important things like how we can excel on an academic level in the district. Dr. Hazelton gave a presentation about how our academics are not at the level they are supposed to be, and that is why we need to work as team, to keep influencing our teachers. He said he thinks the job of a Board Member is to work towards that. None of the Board Members should be asked to do or interfere with anything that is illegal. As the temporary President, he is not going to allow that to happen, and he asked that if anyone ever found something out, present it to the public. Each one of us has a role and responsibility. There is a lot of controversy and there's going to be controversy, and this happens because we all think and see things differently. He said he respects and appreciates our staff, Dr. Hazelton, Ms. Gaylord, Mrs. Cleary and Dr. Baldwin, who also volunteer their time after their work schedules to be here at the Board meetings because we are all public officials elected by the City that we do this volunteer job and they're also volunteering their time to do this in order to work for the benefit of the district. Make no mistake, we need to be transparent, we need to have inclusiveness and we need to create protocols and processes that is going to avoid for all of us to be confused with everything that is worked in the district. He will continue to say that maybe in the past they were not needed, but the pandemic will show that the new normal makes us go back and see what works best for us. With regard to information, he respects everyone's opinions and comments and he respects Mr. Gargano's comments regarding the time that we have for agenda. He will repeat again that many are senior Board Members and know exactly how things are, and as we respect you, there is also respect for the new Board Members who may need extra time. No Board Member or no one that he knows is trying to do anything illegal or anything that will not go as it is by statute for us to do. He went on to thank Mr. Delgado for his time working together with him on this difficult decision giving his nod as Board President. Thank you to all of the citizens who shared their comments and as he said in many of his comments before, he's

concerned because there's only three people giving their comments to the Board. He wishes there were more and for that, we need to organize more, they need to be ready to organize the following meetings. We are here for the students, teachers, administrative staff, custodians, and maintenance staff. We are here for you and working the best for you and he asked that they also work with the Board and reach out to their supervisors, your LEA rep, and your new Human Resources Director if you feel that something out there is not working in the district as it should. These are the people that are going to help you to lead the district to better days. We trust in them to bring our district to better days and we have a lot of work to do in order to exceed our academic levels to the level that we have right now. We should all pay close attention to that. He echoed Mrs. Flemming in that when we do comments and give our opinions, although our opinions may be based on fact or assumptions, lets make sure that we understand that we need to show respect for everybody, because it's not about being transparent, it's about making sure that every decision that we make is made for the benefit of the district. He then thanked everyone for supporting him and he hopes that Ms. Johnson can join them as soon as possible. He hopes they can continue to have conversations and he hopes they can get consensus' sooner rather than later. Thank you to Dr. Hazelton, the City of Linden and thank you to everybody.

At 9:00 p.m. Mr. De La Cruz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Gargano. Voice vote was unanimous.

Roll Call:

Board Member	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Thomas			X		
Mr. De La Cruz	X		X		
Mrs. Flemming			X		
Mr. Gargano		X	X		
Ms. Guillaume			X		
Mrs. Manganello			X		
Mr. Martucci			X		
Mr. Rivas			X		
Ms. Johnson			Absent		

Motion carried.

---

Kathleen A. Gaylord  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary