

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, March 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

President Johnson 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, and February 17, 2021 notice was sent to the Home News Tribune, Star Ledger, Union County Local Source, and the Clerk of the Municipality.

NO SMOKING NOTICE:

BY STATE LAW, THERE IS NO SMOKING PERMITTED IN THIS BUILDING AT ANY TIME.

NOTICE:

In addition to the listed items in this agenda, this Board of Education may discuss and act upon other items not specifically referred to herein as is allowed at the regularly scheduled monthly Board meeting under the Sunshine Law.

ROLL CALL 7:05 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Motion to approve the Minutes of the Work Session held on January 26, 2021 and the Regular Meeting held on January 28, 2021. (Copies in the hands of Board Members).

Motion:

Roll Call:

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

Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

1. See information to the Board.
2. Dr. Hazelton reported on the death of former Linden Board of Education secretary, Roberta Miller, and offered her heartfelt sympathy to the family.
3. Thank you to Board of Education Member Sheenaider Guillaume and Marshalls for their generous donation of PPE to the district. It has been distributed to all of the schools in the district. The donation included hand sanitizers, masks, and things that are needed to protect us from COVID. Thank you to Ms. Guillaume for always thinking of the staff and students.
4. Malaysia Thomas introduced a video celebrating Black History Month which she worked on with Sheenaider Guillaume and Gary Miller.
5. Dr. Hazelton, on behalf of the Board of Education, offered sincere condolences to the family of Jeffrey Mendoza. Mr. Mendoza was a 2019 graduate of Linden High School. Unfortunately, Jeffrey passed away after being reported missing for several days. Condolences were also offered to his peers.

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
Pre-School Disabled	The Pillar School 51 Old Rd. Livingston, NJ 07039	1/4/21	44,581.00 pro-rated

2. Approve termination of the following out-of-district placement for the 2020-2021 school year.

Classification	Recommended Placement	Effective Date	Tuition
Specific Learning Disability	Union County Career & Tech Inst. 1776 Raritan Rd. Scotch Plains, NJ 07076	1/4/21	4,000.00 annual
Other Health Impaired	Collier High School 160 Conover Rd. Wickatunk, NJ 07765	12/4/20	62,460.00 annual

3. Approve the following evaluator for related services.

Related Services	Evaluator	Cost
Speech Evaluation with Report For Selective Mutism	Integrated Speech Pathology, LLC Donna Spillman-Kennedy CCC-SLP 786 Mountain Blvd, Suite 203B Watchung, NJ 07069	750.00

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

Related Services	Fees not to Exceed
BILINGUAL SPEECH EVALUATION Freda Glick – Evaluator 222 Cedar Lane Closter, NJ 07006	10 @ 4,500.00
BILINGUAL EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION Theresa Hernandez – Evaluator 10-50 th St. Weehawken, NJ 07086	2 @ 900.00
BILINGUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION Jeanette Pena – Evaluator 2009 Summit Ave. Union City, NJ 07087	8 @ 3,600.00
NURSE ON BUS Preferred Home Health Care & Nursing Services 2050 Rt. 27 N., Suite 208 New Brunswick, NJ 08902	1/4/21 27,360.00
BILINGUAL TRANSLATION FOR SPEECH EVALUATION Frontline Technology Group, LLC 1400 Atwater Dr. Malvern, PA 19355	253.95 256.50
BILINGUAL TRANSLATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION Frontline Technology Group, LLC 1400 Atwater Dr. Malvern, PA 19355	480.45 378.90
BILINGUAL TRANSLATION FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EVALUATION Frontline Technology Group, LLC 1400 Atwater Dr. Malvern, PA 19355	283.50 355.65

4. Continued:

Related Services	Fees not to Exceed
BILINGUAL TRANSLATION FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION Frontline Technology Group, LLC 1400 Atwater Dr. Malvern, PA 19355	301.05 325.50
BILINGUAL TRANSLATION FOR IEP Frontline Technology Group, LLC 1400 Atwater Dr. Malvern, PA 19355	1,081.68 1,174.80
SPEECH EVALUATION Integrated Speech Pathology, LLC 786 Maintain Blvd. Suite 203B Watchung, NJ 07069	750.00

5. Approve assignment of one-on-one paraprofessional for the 2020 – 2021 school year as follows.

Classification	Recommended Placement	Effective Date	Rate
Pre-School Disabled	Pillar School 51 Old Rd. Livingston, NJ 07039	1/4/21	21,691.00 pro-rated

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

School	Location	Tuition Year	Adjustment
Bonnie Brae	Liberty Corner, NJ	2018 – 2019	Tuition Undercharge 3,986.10

7. Approve Frontline Technology Group LLC, to provide translations of the Individual Education Program and/or the various evaluations, meeting notices, education records and other communications with students and parents in their native language for the 2020 – 2021 school year. Total fees not to exceed \$20,000.00. Acct # 11-000-219-592-00-000-33.

8. Amend Board action on past *Education Reports*, as listed:

Date	Item	Action
1/28/21	5	Change tuition amount from \$54,180.00 to read \$16,380.00.
12/15/20	6	Change the dates for the Community Based Language Learning workshops to read Wednesdays, March 10, 2021 through May 12, 2021.
12/15/20	6	Change the account number for the Community Based Language Learning workshops to read 20-244-200-100-00-000-54 Title III Immigrant Grant.
9/22/20	10	Change the amount to be paid to Innovative Therapy Group for Speech Services from \$21,600.00 to \$25,236.00.
7/30/20	15	Add Western Governors University to approve student interns.
6/25/20	1	Change tuition: SB at Union County Career & Tech Inst. from \$2,500.00 annual to \$4,000.00 annual.

9. 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	Viana, Steven	3/26/21 Through 6/20/21	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Gymnasium	Indoor / Outdoor Spring Sports (inclement weather)	None
Two	Fingerlin, Peter	3/1/21	11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Virtual	ZuZu Acrobats	\$500.00 11-190-100-320-00-000-09-090
Four	Olivero, Suzanne	3/2/21	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Virtual	Schoolwide Read Aloud	None
Four	Olivero, Suzanne	3/4/21	6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Virtual	Fatherhood Program	None
Four	Olivero, Suzanne	5/19/21	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Virtual	Family Snack & Paint Night	None
Six	Viana, Steven	3/26/21 Through 6/20/21	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Gymnasium	Indoor / Outdoor Spring Sports (inclement weather)	None

9. Continued:

School	Requested By	Date	Time/Location	Event	Expenses
Eight	Rodriguez, Michelle	2/26/21	11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Virtual	ZuZu Acrobats	\$500.00 11-190-100-320-00-000-15-150
Eight	Rodriguez, Michelle	3/16/21	8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Virtual	Prismatic Magic Laser Show	\$724.00 11-190-100-320-00-000-15-150
Eight	Viana, Steven	3/26/21 Through 6/20/21	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Gymnasium	Indoor / Outdoor Spring Sports (inclement weather)	None
Nine	Viana, Steven	3/26/21 Through 6/20/21	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Gymnasium	Indoor / Outdoor Spring Sports (inclement weather)	None
Ten	Viana, Steven	3/26/21 Through 6/20/21	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Gymnasium	Indoor / Outdoor Spring Sports (inclement weather)	None
MMS	Viana, Steven	3/26/21 Through 6/20/21	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Gymnasium	Indoor / Outdoor Spring Sports (inclement weather)	None
SMS	Scocozza, Isabella	3/23/21	6:30pm – 7:30pm Virtual	21 ST CCLC Social Emotional Learning Parent Night	None
SMS	Viana, Steven	3/26/21 Through 6/20/21	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Gymnasium	Indoor / Outdoor Spring Sports (inclement weather)	None
LHS	Viana, Steven	3/26/21 Through 6/20/21	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Gymnasium	Indoor / Outdoor Spring Sports (inclement weather)	None
AOE	Viana, Steven	3/26/21 Through 6/20/21	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Gymnasium	Indoor / Outdoor Spring Sports (inclement weather)	None
PAL	Viana, Steven	3/26/21 Through 6/20/21	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Gymnasium	Indoor / Outdoor Spring Sports (inclement weather)	None

10. Approve *District Field Trips*. Copy in the hands of Board Members.

11. Approve training for *district staff*, as listed.

Name	Workshop	Dates	Location	Cost
Abdelfattah, Sana	Help Students Develop a Positive Growth Mindset	3/9/21	Virtual	Registration \$289.00 11-000-223-580-PD-000-06-060
Cartinella, Rebecca	2 Day Intensive Trauma Treatment Certification Workshop	2/25/21 2/26/21	Virtual	Registration \$239.99 11-000-223-580-PD-000-06-060
Devaney, Ryan	Kean University Interdisciplinary Education Conference	3/26/21	Virtual	None
DeFelice, Jessica	Creative Interventions for Children and Adolescents with Anxiety	3/22/21	Virtual	Registration \$60.00 11-000-223-580-PD-000-44
DeFelice, Jessica	Racism, Trauma and Its Impact on Mental Health	4/27/21	Virtual	Registration \$59.00 11-000-223-580-PD-000-44
Freeman, Diane	2021 NJAHPERD Annual Convention	2/22/21 2/23/21	Virtual	Registration \$99.00 11-000-223-580-PD-000-06-060
Kefalas, Kim Marie	NJECC Statewide Educational Technology Conference	3/9/21 3/10/21	Virtual	Registration \$110.00 11-000-223-580-PD-000-20
Louis, Annabell	Kean University Interdisciplinary Education Conference	3/26/21	Virtual	None
Louis, Annabell	Racism, Trauma and Its Impact on Mental Health	4/27/21	Virtual	Registration \$59.00 11-000-221-580-PD-000-44
Mastriano, Audra	Help Students Develop a Positive Growth Mindset	3/8/21	Virtual	Registration \$289.00 11-000-223-580-PD-000-06-060
Moore, Shaliek	Catching Up Students Who've Fallen Behind	3/15/21	Virtual	Registration \$279.00 11-000-223-580-PD-000-09-090
Pelesz, Anna	NJTESOL 2021 Spring Conference	5/25/21 5/26/21 5/27/21	Virtual	Registration \$299.00 20-241-200-500-00-000-54
Posy, Sabine	NJTESOL 2021 Virtual Spring Conference	5/25/21 5/26/21 5/27/21	Virtual	Registration \$299.00 20-241-200-500-00-000-54

11. Continued:

Name	Workshop	Dates	Location	Cost
Scocozza, Isabella	Soring Beyond Expectations After School Conference	6/11/21	Virtual	Registration \$300.00 20-454-200-500-00-000-35-070

12. Approve Professional Development Activities, as listed:

Workshop	Provider(s)	Date(s)	Location	Cost
Leveraging Data and Reporting Tools	HMH	3/10/21	Virtual	None
WIDA Standards & Sheltered Instruction Strategies to Support ELLs	Fernandez, Mercedes	4/10/21 4/24/21 5/15/21	Virtual	\$384.00 11-120-100-101-00-000- 04
Formative Language Assessment	WIDA	4/13/21 4/14/21 4/15/21	Virtual	\$4,500.00 Title III Grant 20-241-200-300-00-000-54
Differentiation for Linguistically Diverse Students	WIDA	6/28/21 6/29/21 6/30/21	Virtual	\$4,500.00 Title III Grant 20-241-200-300-00-000-54

13. Approve the following Title I After School Virtual WebEx Tutoring extension, as listed:

School	Requested by	Date	Time	Expenses
One	Smith, Jennifer	March 23, 2021 through May 27, 2021 Tuesdays and Thursdays (when school is in session)	3:10 p.m. – 4:10 p.m.	3 Teachers @ \$31/hr. Not to exceed \$1,674.00 20-231-100-101-12-000-55-120 3 Teachers @ \$28/hr. for prep. Not to exceed \$756.00 20-231-100-101-12-000-55-120 2 Coordinators @ \$28/hr. Not to exceed \$896.00 20-231-100-101-12-000-55-120

14. Grant permission for the following school activity *Cares Act Virtual Tutoring* for the 2020 – 2021 School Year.

School	Requested by	Date	Expenses
Two	Fingerlin, Peter	March, 2021 – June, 2021	<p>7 teachers (4) 1-hour sessions per week for 12 weeks at \$31.00 per hour and Teacher Prep Time 30 minutes per week @\$28.00 per hour, not to exceed total program cost of \$16,416.00. Acct. #20-477-100-100-00-000-55.</p> <p>1 Virtual Tutor Coordinator 31 hrs. for 9 weeks at \$31.00 for a total of \$961.00. Acct. #20-477-200-100-00-000-55.</p> <p>Social Worker/Guidance Counselor 31 hrs. for 9 weeks @ \$31.00 for a total of \$961.00. Acct. #20-477-200-100-00-000-55.</p>

15. Grant approval for Spring weight room hours to be 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday when school is in session, beginning March 26, 2021.
16. Grant permission for the following students from Rutgers University to complete their LDTC practicum under the supervision of David Antunes for the 2020-2021 school year:

#	Name
1.	Leslie, Melissa
2.	Romanek, Holly
3.	Scimeca, Nicola
4.	Smith, Sandra

17. Approve the submission of the Addressing Student Learning Loss Grant.
18. Grant approval for Kean University undergraduate student listed below to complete their Clinical Field Experience under the direction of the Linden Head Athletic Trainer.

Name	Period
Kevin, Campbell	March 1, 2021 — June 20, 2021

19. Proclaim the month of March, 2021 as “*Women’s History Month*” as outlined in the following resolution:

WHEREAS: American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways;

WHEREAS: American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation by consulting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home;

WHEREAS: American women have played unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the Nation;

WHEREAS: American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation;

WHEREAS: American women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement;

WHEREAS: American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS: despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American history:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Linden Board of Education proclaims March, 2021 as “*Women’s History Month*” throughout the Linden Public Schools and does authorize and encourage all schools to observe March as *Women’s History Month* with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

20. Approve the Superintendent’s determination and actions taken for all reported incidents of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying discussed at the January 28, 2021 regular meeting as listed:

Case	HIB	Action
MMS-418	Undetermined	Parent conference, student mediation.
Sch 10-48	No	Services provided.

MOTIONS 1 – 20:

Roll Call:

Board Member	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Guillaume	X		X		
Mrs. Manganello		X	X		
Mr. Martucci			X		
Mr. Rivas			X		#5
Ms. Thomas			X		
Mr. De La Cruz			X		
Ms. Flemming			X		
Mr. Gargano			X		
Ms. Johnson			X		

Motions 1 – 20 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, ROBERTA MILLER, 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 ROBERTA MILLER, on Sunday, February 14, 2021 do tender to the members of her family their heartfelt sympathy and condolence in this time of bereavement and sorrow.

2. The following retirements are accepted with regret:

#	Name	Assignment	Location	Effective Date
1.	Augustyniak, Helena	School Guidance Counselor	Linden High School	7/1/21

WHEREAS, the above employee is retiring from active service in the public schools in 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 those 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 employee in acknowledgement of her service she 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.

3. Accept the resignation of the following staff:

#	Name	Assignment	Location	Effective Date
1.	Laird, Nancy	Part time School Aide	School 8	3/27/21

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

Date	Item #	Action
6/30/20	4	Change the leave of absence for 6462 ^{1,3} to read: 9/30/20-12/22/20 – Medical ¹ ; 1/4/21-3/26/21 – FMLA/FLA ³ ; 3/29/21-6/30/21 – Child Rearing ³
6/30/20	9	Increase the number of hours allotted to Daphne Alexandre for ESL Parent and Community Outreach for the 2020-2021 school year, from 20 hours to 30 hours.
6/30/20	9	Amend the hours for Fernandez, Mercedes for ESL Parent and Community Outreach for the 2020-2021 school year, to read 40.
9/24/20	28/#11	Change to read \$5,899.00 for Jarmolowski, Lukasz
10/29/20	42	Amend to add Professional Development Presenters for the 2020-2021 school year.
11/19/20	5	Change the leave of absence for 4085 ^{1,3} to read: 1/8/21-3/16/21 – Medical ¹ ; 3/17/21-6/16/21 – FMLA ³ ; 6/17/21-6/30/21 – Medical ³
12/15/20	1/#10	Amend the start date for Barbosa, Karina to read: 2/17/21.
12/15/20	3/# 3	Amend the start date for Holguin, Nicole to read: 2/17/21.
12/15/20	4	Change the leave of absence for 4711 ³ to read through 2/15/21.
12/15/20	4/#12	Amend the start date for Kotulski, Urzula to read: 2/17/21.
12/15/20	4/#13	Amend the start date for Mendez-Torres, Josefina to read: 2/17/21.
12/15/20	7	Add Jachowski, Juliet for Tuition Reimbursement for \$4,105.00
1/28/21	11/#9	Amend the spelling of Ederer, Carly to read Ederer, Caryl.
1/28/21	6	Amend the start date for Cureton, Britany to read: 2/8/21.
1/28/21	6	Amend the temporary appointment date for Grasso, Gregory to read: November 20, 2020 through March 31, 2021.
1/28/21	6	Amend the transfer date for Schweikardt, Walter to read: 2/24/21.

4. Continued:

Date	Item #	Action
1/28/21	8	Change the leave of absence for 7975 ¹ to read 3/8/21 through 4/30/21.
1/28/21	8	Change the leave of absence for 5356 ¹ to read 2/3/21 through 3/19/21.
1/28/21	11	Add Gallagher, Kelly as a tutor for the evening and Saturday sessions.
1/28/21	11/#3	Amend the spelling of Masters, Gina to read Masters, Giana.

1) Sick 2) Accumulated Leave 3) Unpaid

5. 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
CERTIFIED								
1	*Bijukovic, Tomislav	5/3/21	MA+30	12	School Nurse	School 2	Budget /R	\$76,079

*Pending New Hire Requirements

6. Approve the following Leave of Absences:

Employee ID#	Location	From	Through	Reason
6393 ³	School 10	5/6/21	5/14/21	Personal
7739 ¹	School 4	4/26/21	5/7/21	Medical
7739 ³	School 4	5/10/21	6/30/21	FMLA/FLA
7134 ¹	School 4	4/5/21	5/14/21	Medical
7134 ³	School 4	5/17/21	9/30/21	FMLA/FLA
4592 ¹	MMS	2/2/21	2/12/21	Medical
6795 ³	School 8	2/24/21	2/26/21	Personal
8644 ³	LHS	2/8/21	2/26/21	Personal
4775 ³	School 2	2/1/21	2/26/21	Medical

1) Sick 2) Accumulated Leave 3) Unpaid

7. Approve the following transfer of the following staff for the 2020-2021 School Year effective 2/26/21 as listed:

#	Name	Position	19-20 Location	Position	20-21 Position
	Colish, Maria	Media Specialist	SMS	Media Specialist	LHS

8. Appoint the following members 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	#	Name	School
1.	Zollinger, Aimee	6	13.	Colish, Maria	SMS
2.	Bordonaro, Megan	9	14.	DeRosa, Nicholas	SMS
3.	Schweikhardt, Walter	9	15.	Famula, Jill	SMS
4.	Burt-Moque, Linda	10	16.	Ladoo, Loni	SMS
5.	Czylek, Frances	10	17.	Marretta, Joseph	SMS
6.	Day, Alexandra	10	18.	Pivano, Jennifer	SMS
7.	DeMarzo, Lori	10	19.	Ribau, Andrea	SMS
8.	Smith Allison	10	20.	Tauriello, Valerie	SMS
9.	Venezio, Laura	10	21.	Zsamba, Brian	SMS
10.	Calvano, Dawn	SMS	22.	Calatayud, Melanie	LHS
11.	Cepeda, Barbara	SMS	23.	Gurski, Joseph	LHS
12.	Chase, Karen	SMS	24.	Maresco, Alexander	LHS
			25.	Mondesir, Tristan	LHS

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

#	Name	School	Position
1.	Schweikhardt, Walter	9	Program Coordinator
2.	Hudak, Marissa	9	Social Worker
3.	Dinis, Alicia	10	Social Worker

9. Continued:

#	Name	School	Position
4.	Ravkin, Tara	10	Program Coordinator
5.	Kennaway, Vanessa	SMS	Program Coordinator
6.	Gross, Beverly	SMS	Social Worker
7.	Campo, Nicole	LHS	Program Coordinator
8.	Devaney, Ryan	LHS	Social Worker

10. Approve the payment of salaries from the 2021 IDEA – Basic Grant, as listed:

#	CST/Teacher	School	Salary	Position	% IDEA
1.	Baran, Gwendolyn	SMS	\$79,318.00	Social Worker	100.00%
2.	Barnes, Kim	LHS	\$111,114.00	Social Worker	100.00%
3.	Barthelus, Shirley	CST	\$89,318.00	Psychologist	100.00%
4.	Burge, Micah	LHS	\$105,030.00	Psychologist	100.00%
5.	Buthorn, Stefannie	CST	\$92,557.00	Psychologist	100.00%
6.	D’Arcy, Mary	CST	\$82,542.00	Psychologist	100.00%
7.	DiPolvere, Celia	CST	\$103,578.00	Transition Coordinator	100.00%
8.	Fernandez, Tamarra	CST	\$111,664.00	Social Worker	100.00%
9.	Garcia, Sharon	MMS	\$83,030.00	Teacher of Students With Disabilities	100.00%
10.	Moss, Jeanne	CST	\$111,664.00	Psychologist	100.00%
11.	Palmieri, Samantha	LHS	\$69,733.00	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant	63.00%
12.	Perroth, Deborah	SMS	\$82,557.00	Teacher of Students With Disabilities	100.00%
13.	Stevens, Rachel	CST	\$82,542.00	Social Worker	100.00%

11. Approve the payment of salaries from the 2021 IDEA-Pre School grant, as listed: School

#	CST/Teacher	School	Salary	Position	% IDEA
1.	Wisnowski, Karen	# 2	\$90,874.00	Speech Specialist	33.00%

12. Appoint the following staff for School No. 4 Father’s Program from 6:30pm-8:00pm for the 2020-2021 School Year. To be paid at the contractual rate and for 1 hr. prep time for each session on various dates. Acct. #11-120-100-101-00-000-10. Cost not to exceed \$1,000.00

#	Name	Position
1.	D’Alessio, Jennifer	Facilitator

13. Appoint the following staff as a Presenter for Language Arts Professional Development for the 2020-2021 School Year. To be paid at the contractual rate of \$31/hr. Acct. #11-120-100-101-00-000-56.

#	Name	Position
1.	Burt-Moquette, Linda-Ann	Teacher

14. Appoint the following staff to revise History curriculum for the 2020-2021 School Year. To be paid at the contractual rate. Cost not to exceed hours listed below. Acct. #11-130-100-101-00-000-53.

#	Name	Curriculum	Grade Level	Hours
1.	Mangel, Robert	World History	9-12	10
2.	Orth, James	United States History I	9-12	10
3.	Silva, Carla	United States History II	9-12	10

15. Appoint the following staff as instructors for the Community Based Language Learning Workshops on Webex on Wednesdays from 3/10/21 through 5/12/21 when school is in session. To be paid at the contractual rate of \$31/hr. Cost not to exceed \$1,800.00. Acct. #20-241-200-100-00-000-54 Title III Immigrant Grant.

#	Name
1.	Fischetti, Anthony
2.	Miguelez, Tania

16. Appoint the following staff for the 2020-2021 Soehl Middle School “Musical Showcase”. Cost not to exceed \$3,660.00. Acct. #11-401-100-100-00-000-57.

#	Name	Position	Amount
1.	Roberts, Megan	Director/Producer	\$1,830.00
2.	Kim, Danielle	Director/Vocal Director	\$1,830.00

17. Appoint the following staff for the 2020-2021 McManus Middle School “Musical Showcase”. Cost not to exceed \$3,660.00. Acct. #11-401-100-100-00-000-57.

#	Name	Position	Amount
1.	Serpone, Courtney	Director/Producer	\$1,830.00
2.	Cordero, Rachel	Director/Choreographer	\$1,830.00

18. Appoint the following staff for the 2020-2021 Linden High School “Musical Showcase”. Cost not to exceed \$3,660.00. Acct. #11-401-100-100-00-000-57.

#	Name	Position	Amount
1.	Cosby, Duane	Director/Producer/Vocal Director	\$3,660.00

19. Appoint the following paraprofessional staff for the 21st CCLC/Soehl Middle School effective 02/26/21-8/31/21 at the 21st CCLC contractual rate of \$25 per hour. Acct. #20-454-200-100-00-000-35-070

#	Name	Position
1.	Demarest, Kewana	Paraprofessional live/virtual

20. Appoint the following substitute site coordinator staff for the 21st CCLC/Soehl Middle School effective 02/26/21-8/31/21 at the 21st CCLC contractual rate of \$35 per hour. Acct. #20-454-200-100-00-001-35-070.

#	Name	Position
1.	Veltre, Jennifer	Substitute Site Coordinator Live/Virtual

21. Appoint the following Coaches for the Spring/Summer Sports 2021.

Spring Sports:

a) High School Athletics

#	Name	Sport	Position	Salary	Step
1.	Czajkowski, Brandon	Baseball	Head Coach	\$9,503.00	3
2.	Burdick, Daniel	Baseball	Assistant Coach	\$6,853.00	3
3.	Hasenauer, Frank	Baseball	Assistant Coach	\$6,853.00	3
4.	Van Vliet, Ryan	Baseball	Assistant Coach	\$6,853.00	3
5.	Tauriello, Valerie	Softball	Head Coach	\$9,503.00	3
6.	Scheidemann, Eric	Softball	Assistant Coach	\$6,853.00	3
7.	Campo, Alberto	Boys Tennis	Head Coach	\$6,016.00	3
8.	McDonald, Daniel	Spring Track	Head Boys Coach	\$9,503.00	3
9.	Devero, Leonist	Spring Track	Head Girls Coach	\$9,503.00	3
10.	Jarmolowski, Lukasz	Spring Track	Assistant Coach	\$6,853.00	3
11.	Brown, Terrence	Spring Track	Assistant Coach	\$6,853.00	3
12.	Firestone, Michael	Spring Track	Assistant Coach	\$6,853.00	3
13.	Rotondi, Roger	Athletic Trainers (Spring)	Head Athletic Trainer	\$7,155.00	3
14.	Padilla, Debbie	Athletic Trainers (Spring)	Assistant Athletic Trainer	\$3,499.00	3
15.	Figueiredo, Andrea	Athletic Trainers (Spring)	Assistant Athletic Trainer	\$3,499.00	3
16.	Smith, James	Volleyball	Boys Head Coach	\$7,605.00	3
17.	Radil, Mark	Volleyball	Boys Assistant Coach	\$5,899.00	3

b) Middle School Athletics

#	Name	Sport	Position	Salary	Step
1.	Clark, Michael	Baseball	Middle School Coach	\$5,075.00	3
2.	Kuban, Natasha	Softball	Middle School Coach	\$5,075.00	3
3.	Martins, Nicholas	Baseball	Middle School Coach	\$4,750.00	2
4.	Mastriano, Michael	Softball	Middle School Coach	\$5,075.00	3

21. Continued:

c) High School Activities

#	Name	Sport	Position	Salary	Step
1.	Chiola, Albert	Weight Training	Spring Instructor	\$4,169.00	3

Summer Sports

#	Name	Sport	Position	Salary	Step
1.	Chiola, Albert	Weight Training	Summer Instructor	\$2,147.00	3
2.	Rotondi, Roger	Athletic Trainer (Summer)	Head Athletic Trainer	\$7,154.00	3
3.	Padilla, Debbie	Athletic Trainer (Summer)	Asst. Athletic Trainer	\$3,499.00	3
4.	Figueiredo, Andrea	Athletic Trainer (Summer)	Asst. Athletic Trainer	\$3,499.00	3

22. Appoint the following Assistant Coaches on a voluntary basis for Spring 2021.

#	Name	Sport
1.	Radil, Lisa	Varsity/Junior Varsity Volleyball
2.	Thermitus, Marcda	Varsity/Junior Varsity Volleyball
3.	Trochimowicz, Diana	Varsity/Junior Varsity Volleyball
4.	Borja, Naomi	Varsity/Junior Varsity Volleyball
5.	Serio, Sara	Varsity/Junior Varsity Volleyball
6.	Cardoso, Diogo	Varsity/Junior Varsity Volleyball
7.	Pino, Christian	Varsity/Junior Varsity Volleyball
8.	Day, Alexandra	Varsity/Junior Varsity Volleyball
9.	Ventura, Cristina	Varsity/Junior Varsity Volleyball

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.	Findlay, Kevin

24. 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 11th 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	#	Name
1.	Dreher, Janee	9.	Parisi, Annalisa
2.	Goncalves, Lorenza	10.	Passalacqua, Antonino
3.	Harris, Mya	11.	Richards, Cynthia
4.	Hoch, Jonathon	12.	Rothchild, Rachel
5.	Kneisel, Bridget	13.	Santos, Stacy
6.	Kurtzo, Jaclyn	14.	Southward, Barbara
7.	McNamara, Mary Grace	15.	Valdes, Gabriela
8.	Novak, Sarah		

Mr. Rivas resigned the position of Personnel Committee Chairman. Mr. Martucci took over.

MOTIONS 1 - 24:

Roll Call:

Board Member	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Guillaume		X	X		
Mrs. Manganello			X		
Mr. Martucci	X		X		
Mr. Rivas			X		#5,21,22,23,24
Ms. Thomas			X		
Mr. De La Cruz			X		
Ms. Flemming			X		
Mr. Gargano			X		
Ms. Johnson			X		

Motions 1 – 24 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 of January 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 February 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 January 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 January 2021. (Copies in hands of Board Members and on file in the office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary).
6. Amend Board action on past agenda as follows:

Date	Item	Action
1/28/21	#16	Amend acceptance of funds from IACE to read: \$2,359.10.

7. Accept funds in the amount of \$5,000.00 from Vanguard Charitable, Warwick, RI, (a donor advised administrator) for the Otto T. Salzer Memorial Scholarship.
8. Accept funds in the amount of \$500.00 from Lala's Attic, Rahway, NJ, for the School #4 Clothing Drive to be deposited into account #20-011-100-610-00-000-10-115.
9. Accept funds in the amount of \$100.00 from William Bullock, Orange Park, FL, representing an OPRA request payment.

10. Accept additional funding from the State of New Jersey Department of Education for services under Chapter 192 for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 as follows:

Program Name	FY 2021 Award Amount
Chapter 192	
Compensatory Education	\$182.00
Transportation	\$387.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL CHAPTER 192:	\$569.00

11. Accept funds in the amount of \$61.90 from Ohiopyle Prints, Inc., Ohiopyle, PA, representing a donation or royalty for apparel and accessories bearing the Linden School logo that were sold at local retailers
12. Accept a donation of hand sanitizers, sanitizing wipes and masks from Marshall's, Linden, NJ, for distribution to Linden Public Schools.
13. Accept the donation of 50 hand sanitizers, 50 hand sanitizing wipes, and 300 masks for the students and staff at School 5, donated by TJ Maxx, Linden, NJ.
14. Approve carryover of funds for IDEA 2021 as follows:

IDEA: Basic	\$1,652,941
Non-Public Basic Portion	\$30,780
IDEA: Pre School	\$42,355
Non-Public Portion Pre-School	\$1
Total	\$1,726,077

15. Approve the receipt of 650 hotspot devices from the Project 10 Million – Working to Connect Every Student Program by T-Mobile at no cost to the district. The hotspots provide 100GB/year bandwidth per device for five years.
16. Approve the submission of FCC form 470 and 471 in order to apply for the FY2021-2026 Category 2 E-rate funds in the amount of \$842,348.00.
17. Approve payment in the amount of \$4,500.00 to Joseph Licata, Closter, NJ, in the matter of the Arbitration between the Linden Board of Education and the Linden Education Association.
18. Grant approval to enter into an amended agreement with Union County Educational Services Commission to provide carryover amount for an amended total of \$884.00 to provide Title 1A services to Linden's non-public schools through June 30, 2021

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

Location	Description	Monthly Cost
Alternative School Graphic Arts Room	B9136	\$3,410.39
Alternative School Print Shop	C9070	\$1,227.15
Alternative School Print Shop	DMPCNTRL	\$ 141.07
Alternative School Print Shop	Plockmatic Pro	\$ 403.00
High School Main Office	C9070	\$ 963.84
High School Main Office	DMPCNTRL	\$ 142.79
High School Guidance Office	C8155	\$ 242.87
School #10 Faculty Room	B9110	\$ 786.02
Soehl M.S. 2 nd Floor Faculty Room	B9110	\$ 951.59
School #4 Main Office	C8170	\$ 215.96
Total Monthly Cost:		\$8,484.68
Total Monthly Savings:		\$1,548.57

20. Approve the enrollment of the following student for the 2021-2022 school year, eligible on a tuition basis under District Policy #5118, pending enrollment figures:

Student	Placement
G.P.	Pre-K

21. 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 M.S.	2	Epson LCD Projector Model# H452A	QU7F2Y1428L QU7F2Y1465L
	1	Epson LCD Projector Model# H600A	UHVK5100909
	1	Epson Active Speaker Model# ELPSP02	PGFF4918980

22. Bid/Quotations as listed:

- a) Athletic Supplies – Spring Sports – 2020-2021 (Bid #10715)
Bid opening date: 1/28/2021

Company	Amount
BSN Sports, LLC/Passons Sports/Varsity Brands, Jenkintown, PA	\$ 5,635.86
Riddell, North Ridgeville, OH	\$ 430.40
Sportsman's dba George L. Haider, Inc., Johnstown, PA	\$ 5,213.30
Winning Teams by Nissel, LLC. Flemington, NJ	\$ 175.00
Bids Received – 5	

- b) Diplomas – 2020-2021
Quotation opening date: 2/18/2021

Company	Amount
Jostens, Inc., Owatonna, MN	\$ 7,064.51
Quotations Mailed – 2; Quotations Received – 1	

23. Approve the following Resolution Urging Relief from Increased Costs to School Districts Resulting from the Implementation of “Chapter 44”, the 2020 School Employee Health Benefits Reform Law:

“WHEREAS, P.L.2020, c.44 (“Chapter 44”) requires the School Employees’ Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) to offer plans, beginning on January 1, 2021, for medical and prescription benefits coverage including the New Jersey Educators Health Plan (NJEHP); as adopted and implemented by the School Employees’ Health Benefits Commission; and

“WHEREAS, Chapter 44 established reduced premium contributions for any employee who selects, or is placed into, the NJEHP as his or her health care coverage option; and

“WHEREAS, The SEHBP applies to the following employers who elect to participate in the SEHBP: local school district, regional school district, county vocational school district, county special services school district, jointure commission, educational services commission, State-operated school district, charter school; and

“WHEREAS, The provisions of Chapter 44 also apply to these same employers even if they do not elect to participate in the SEHBP; and

“WHEREAS, Many school districts had previously negotiated health benefit agreements with lower net costs compared to the plan design and cost-sharing requirements under “Chapter 44”, and/or have staff that previously declined coverage but now are choosing to enroll in the NJEHP due to its low employee cost-sharing provisions; and

“WHEREAS, A significant number of school districts will experience a net increase in their health care costs because the NJEHP premiums are higher than the premiums for the collectively bargained plans previously offered by the district, which is further exacerbated by reduced employee contributions under Chapter 44; and

“WHEREAS, Other school districts will experience a net increase in their overall health care costs even if the NJEHP premiums are lower than that of the previous plan offerings because the reduction in employee contributions will offset any overall premium savings, resulting in increased net costs to the district; and

“WHEREAS, The low employee contribution requirements under NJEHP encourage employees who had previously waived or declined coverage to enroll thereby increasing the districts’ health benefit costs for the balance of Fiscal Year 2021, continuing into Fiscal Year 2022 and likely beyond; and

“WHEREAS, These costs may exceed districts’ ability to address within their budgets owing to the limitations of the 2% property tax levy cap; and

23. Continued:

“WHEREAS, Chapter 44 was a well-intentioned proposal that aimed to generate hundreds of millions of dollars in savings for school districts, school employees and taxpayers; and

“WHEREAS, While some school districts may indeed be realizing savings due to the provisions of Chapter 44, many are experiencing the opposite effect and witnessing an increase in their health care costs, which may result in cuts to critical programs, services and staff in order to balance their budgets; and

“WHEREAS, Since Chapter 44 essentially froze the level of health benefits and employee contributions for the seven-year period following the law’s effective date, districts are unable to control cost increases through the traditional collective bargaining process; and

“WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the Legislature and Governor to address and correct the unintended financial consequences districts are experiencing due to Chapter 44 and ensure that all districts share in the anticipated savings.

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Linden Board of Education requests that the State Legislature and Governor provide relief from the increased health care costs experienced by school districts due to the implementation of Chapter 44; and be it further

RESOLVED, that relief from Chapter 44 should include direct, short-term assistance from the state to ensure that all school districts are held financially harmless in both the current and subsequent fiscal years; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Legislature and Governor should expeditiously begin to explore long-term structural reforms that reverse the unintended consequences of Chapter 44 and generate lasting savings for school districts, employees and taxpayers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any proposals to amend or revise Chapter 44 include input from all affected stakeholders before moving forward, including feedback from representatives of local boards of education, school business administrators, superintendents, building-level supervisors and school employees; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Phil Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; and the 22nd Legislative District’s representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

24. Approve the following resolution delegating authority:

WHEREAS, The Linden Board of Education desires to proceed with a proposed minor subdivision with property owned by the City, and in so doing desires to authorize the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to sign a minor subdivision/lot consolidation application and related paperwork (the “Application”) to pursue this before the City of Linden Planning Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall be permitted to sign the Application and such other paperwork as necessary to proceed with the proposed minor subdivision application on behalf of the Linden Board of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Linden Board of Education authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to take such further steps as may be necessary to effectuate the within and carry out this action of the Board.

MOTIONS 1 – 24:

Roll Call:

Board Member	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms. Guillaume		X	X		
Mrs. Manganello			X		
Mr. Martucci	X		X		
Mr. Rivas			X		#22a), 24
Ms. Thomas			X		
Mr. De La Cruz			X		
Ms. Flemming			X		
Mr. Gargano			X		
Ms. Johnson			X		

Motions 1 – 24 carried.

No action this meeting.

No action this meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Members of the public desiring to make a public comment may come forward at this time.

Please begin your comments by stating your name and address. Individuals are invited to speak on one topic at a time, and no individual will speak more than once, until all individuals so desiring have spoken once.

The public is reminded that to ensure the efficient and orderly operations of the meeting, members of the public will be limited to speaking on items for three minutes.

Eloy Delgado, LEA President
842 Grove Street
Elizabeth, NJ

Mr. Delgado first mentioned that it was a wonderful video that our students, faculty and staff put together celebrating Black History Month. The history of African people throughout the world is one that is truly global. He hopes that we are transitioning to a better place with regard to equality for all.

He said the LEA members have been doing a phenomenal job with hybrid instruction. They have been teaching virtually and in person, while maintaining safety to the best of their ability, and he asked the Linden community to please adhere to CDC guidelines. We must take a close look at the community infection rate.

He extended his condolences to the family of Jeffrey Mendoza.

At this time, Dr. Hazelton announced the retirement of Helena Augustyniak, Linden High School Guidance Counselor, and gave a brief background history. She thanked Ms. Augustyniak for her service and dedication to the district.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mrs. Flemming extended her condolences to the family and friends of those we've lost this month.

Congratulations to Ms. Augustyniak on her upcoming retirement. She thanked her for her service.

Thank you to Malaysia for a spectacular video, and thank you to those who participated.

She thanked Melissa Higgins and McManus M.S. for inviting her to the Black History Month bingo and pizza.

She thanked Marshalls and T.J. Maxx for the donations of PPE.

She reminded everyone to please wear their masks. Especially since everyone is now going back to school.

Ms. Guillaume began with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

She thanked Ms. Thomas and Mr. Miller for showcasing our students and staff on what Black History means to them.

She thanked Dr. Hazelton, the Cabinet, Ula Capers, Donna Popov and everyone for being so helpful and open to receiving the donations. She also thanked Mr. Nevio, her general manager at Marshalls.

She extended her condolences to the Miller and Mendoza families. She also offered condolences to the Hines family. Pierre Hines, a Linden High School alumnus, passed away from cancer. Her heart is broken because she and Pierre were in the same class together. She asked that these families be kept in everyone’s prayers.

She congratulated Mrs. Augustyniak on her retirement. She applauded her for her passion and dedication to the district.

Earlier today she was at School #2 to celebrate “Read Across America”. She thanked Mr. Fingerlin, Mrs. Modrak, and everyone who made her feel welcome.

She extended her gratitude to the teachers, particularly Mrs. Hoff and her second grade class, as well as Mrs. Squeglia, Kindergarten teacher, and Mrs. “C”.

Thank you to all of our teachers and staff. They’re working so hard to balance in person and hybrid learning.

She thanked everyone in the Administration Building. Even though we don’t physically see you daily, thank you.

She thanked Dr. Hazelton for allowing her to be a part of the two P.D.’s. One was titled “Courageous Conversations”. Also, thank you to Mr. Walker for inviting Patrick Briggs who talked about equity in the classroom.

Lastly, she reminded everyone that we are advocates for all students, from all backgrounds, no matter how challenging or difficult that may be. She suggested we all take a few minutes within our day to address our biases and remind ourselves that all students deserve respect and should be treated equally. Student success is number one.

She wished all women a happy Women’s History Month. She’s proud to be a Haitian-American woman. She has been blessed with many wonderful women who have helped mentor and inspire her. She thanked her former teachers, hall-walkers, security, secretaries, custodians, paras and her mom. Thank you to all who inspire her both personally and professionally; for example, Ms. Annabell Louis, Mrs. Martucci, Dr. Hazelton, and the list goes on.

Mr. Martucci thanked his fellow Board Members for the video presentation.

He has learned that the average person has to reinvent themselves seven times in their lifetime. This year everyone had to reinvent themselves. As his mother used to say, “and that too shall pass”, and this will pass. To all the teachers and nurses, he cannot express how strong you have to be to do what you’re doing right now. He said not to isolate. Talk to people. Socialization is the key to keep us moving forward.

Mr. Gargano offered his condolences to Jeffrey Mendoza’s family.

Hopefully we’re seeing a light at the end of the tunnel when it comes to COVID. We’ve been in the orange zone for about three weeks. Hopefully we will continue to see lower and lower infection rates, not only for our district but as a society. Not only for our students, but for everybody.

To quote his former high school principal, Mr. Black, “everybody be careful out there.”

Mr. DeLaCruz offered his sincere condolences to the Miller and Mendoza families. There are not enough words to describe the hurt and feelings that the families are going through. They will be in his prayers.

He thanked the teachers. He imagines it’s difficult and he takes his hat off to you. Hopefully in September, we’ll be back to normal and everyone will be back in class.

He thanked the Board. He said they may dicker back and forth, but they always come out as a family and he would like to continue building these relationships.

Ms. Thomas sent her condolences to the Miller and Mendoza families and said that her prayers are with them.

She thanked everyone who was a part of the Black History Month video, with a special thanks to Mr. Gary Miller. Without him, they would not have been able to put this together. She hopes it has enlightened us all. The students touched her in a very special way. Thank you to the parents for allowing them to come forward and present to us. We are very grateful.

She thanked her fellow Board Members for all they have done for her as far as enlightenment. We are for the students and we want to see them all prosper.

Mrs. Manganello said that this has been a very trying year. We need to be there for each other and support each other during this difficult time. We also need to support each other through our celebrations.

She welcomed back all of our teachers, and students and staff. Thank you for going above and beyond.

Congratulations to Ms. Guillaume, Ms. Thomas and Mr. Miller for the wonderful program they presented. It's a wonder to see the exemplary district we have through our programs.

She acknowledged three of our high school students who won the Black History Essay Contest. The prompt was "When the Going Gets Tough". First place was Joshua Lopez, 10th grade; second place was Ryan Angioletto, 11th grade; honorable mention was Marie Jean Pierre. She heard all of their speeches on Mrs. Rashonna-Cosby's page, and they're excellent. She urged everyone to listen.

She wished Ms. Augustyniak a happy and safe retirement. Good luck and thank you for your dedication to our students.

Congratulations to teacher Walter Schweikardt who is leaving from School #9 and going into a technology position at Soehl M.S. Mr. Schweikardt was chosen as an Exemplary Educator by the New Jersey Department of Education.

Congratulations to the middle school girls' basketball players who finished their season undefeated. Congratulations to our coaches. What a great accomplishment for them!

Congratulations to the seniors of the Linden High School bowling team who were celebrated on Monday with their 7-0 win over Oratory Prep. The honorees were James Fitz and Rajon Muhammed. Congratulations to the whole team, and coach, Cherie Pizzano.

Lastly, congratulations to the seniors of the Linden High School basketball and cheerleading teams who were honored at Senior Day. They are: Missael DeJesus, Inique Hodge, Milliana Senescat, Daniela Valverde, Syrai Anderson, and Jadah Cureton. Thank you to all of their coaches for their hard work and dedication.

Thank you to all the schools for having invited Board Members to your programs for Black History Month and Read Across America. Unfortunately, because she experienced a loss last month, she was not able to attend the Black History Month programs.

She offered her condolences to the family of Roberta Miller who was a dedicated employee here for many years. She will be sorely missed.

She also offered condolences to the family of former student, Jeffrey Mendoza. This past week was a devastating week. She feels the loss tremendously. It is something, as a parent, you would never want. In Linden, we are a family and we are all mourning the loss. We need to be there for each other.

Mr. Rivas also offered condolences to the families, employees and students for their loss. His prayers are with the families.

He recognized the great job that Malaysia and everybody else did in putting together the Black History Month video.

He recognized the month of March as Women's History Month and he is proud to know that there are a lot of women out there that represent our community, that represent families, that represent each one of us, including our own mothers. He thanked all women from the bottom of his heart.

He advised the community that due to unforeseen additional responsibilities at work, about three weeks ago he emailed the Board that he was resigning from Board Committees, but that will not stop him from performing his responsibilities and his duties. He will make an extra effort to make sure that he stays up-to-date on every type of business that goes on with the Board.

We owe it to our students, to our teachers, to our parents, who, in the end, are the ones who chose us to represent them in the school board duties. He is very concerned that they are attending the meetings but are not sharing their comments. He has been receiving personal comments of parents saying how concerned they are about how we are leading as a district and where the district is headed to. He feels that is a reference to the uncertainty of the times we are living in. We are living in times of uncertainty, times of crisis. The opinion of many of the parents, and he joins in their opinion, is that instead of making sacrifices, we are continuing to spend. He says to the constituents and parents that he will continue to ask and continue to oppose and abstain on the issues he feels are not warranted. He has said previously that what may have worked for this Board many years ago, may not necessarily work now. We need to adapt to new times and we need to make sure that our work is for our students, our teachers, but mostly to the parents, the constituents of the City of Linden, because at the end of the day they are the ones who pay for all of the things that we approve in the Board of Education.

Ms. Johnson shared her condolences to the families of Jeffrey Mendoza and Roberta Miller and she let them know that she is sending them blessings of understanding and healing. She also extended her condolences to fellow Board Member, Marianthe Manganello. She has been experiencing some health concerns and family loss and Ms. Johnson let her know that she is here for her. She also extended blessings of understanding and healing to her and her family.

She extended a special thank you to veteran Board Member, Ms. Guillaume, and the work she did with our new Board Member, Ms. Thomas and Mr. Miller for their work on the beautiful video for Black History Month. She was absorbed in everyone's comments and speeches and she encourages everyone to revisit it, listen to it and share with your families and suggested that you can create a project with your children and other family members on some of the things mentioned in the video.

Being a newly seated President, it's a very difficult task because there are so many different personalities. One of the students in the video spoke about diversity, and that's what this Board is, diverse. We have worked very hard to make this Board uniform, allowing everyone to have comments, giving them the necessary time, and she encouraged the public to please email the Board, or Dr. Hazelton, or Mrs. Cleary. They will forward any comments or concerns to the Board. The Board is representative of the public. We encourage comments, whether it's criticism or positive comments, the Board will accept it and encourage it. It will make us work

harder and be better as a Board. She is so happy to have Dr. Hazelton encourage her every day to be her best, as well as Ms. Gaylord. She's a gem and really knows her job and gives her all the information she needs. She also has a really good relationship with Mrs. Cleary. As you can see, we are celebrating Women's Month now, and we have women here. She thanked them for their hard work and thanked all the women on the Board. She also thanked the men and told them to make sure they honor their wives, their partners and their mothers.

Thank you and make sure everyone stays healthy. Make sure you wash your hands and use your masks. To the children and teachers: Thank you, thank you, thank you.

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Guillaume made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Mr. Martucci. Voice vote was unanimous.

Kathleen A. Gaylord
Business Administrator/Board Secretary