

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Dalesandro at 6:00 pm

FLAG SALUTE

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT

President Dalesandro read into the minutes the open public meeting proclamation.

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act the Board of Education of the Netcong School District in the County of Morris has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted. The notice was mailed to the Daily Record and those persons or entities requesting notification and filed with the municipal clerk of the Borough of Netcong.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Arbolino, Mr. Barbero, Ms. Chapman, Ms. Lapsley, Mr. Latham, Mrs. Parks, Ms. Santalucia, Mr. Stevens, Mrs. Dalesandro

Absent: None

Also present: Mrs. Walsh, Superintendent
Mr. Stabile, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

CORRESPONDENCE & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Chapman that the following minutes and correspondence from parents dated March 1, 2023 be approved as presented:

February 21, 2023	Regular Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2023	Executive Session Minutes

Roll Call:

Mr. Arbolino – Yes; Mr. Barbero – Yes to correspondence, Abstain to minutes, Ms. Chapman – Yes; Ms. Lapsley – Yes; Mr. Latham – Yes; Mrs. Parks – Yes; Ms. Santalucia – Yes; Mr. Stevens – Yes; Mrs. Dalesandro - Yes

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

President Dalesandro thanked Mrs. Walsh for her continued diligence regarding the security and safety for the staff and students when it comes in making that decision to open or close school do the weather or any other emergency that may arise.

Introduced Charlene Peterson, NJSBA representative who reviewed the code of ethics standards and the process of the superintendent evaluation.

Reminded everyone how we got to remote meeting. Cited policy stating only when a state of emergency is declared or health pandemic.

March 29th NJSBA unsung heroes award

Safety committee meeting tomorrow.

Received letter from the teachers association will read later in the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS

Monthly Fire Drill was held.
There was a field that was rescheduled for March 27th.

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / BOARD SECRETARY COMMENTS

Items on tonight’s Finance and Facilities agenda.

HEARING OF CITIZENS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

On a motion by Ms. Lapsley, seconded by Mrs. Parks to open the hearing of citizens on agenda items only. Approved by voice vote. All in favor.

Public is invited to address the Board with any questions, comments or concerns. The Board requests that the individual address the Board, giving name and address, and asks that all remarks be directed to the Chair. The public portion shall be limited to thirty minutes with a five-minute time limit on each participant. The Board wishes to remind all attendees at its meeting that while it subscribed without reservation to the principle of keeping the public completely informed, by policy it cannot allow public discussion of personnel matters. If a matter concerning the staff of the Netcong Public School is of interest or concern, the matter would be referred to the Superintendent or the Board of Education, either by telephone or letter.

No one wishing to be heard.

On a motion by Mr. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Lapsley to close the hearing of citizens on agenda items only. Approved by voice vote. All in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

➤ **Curriculum and Instruction**

Ms. Santalucia gave committee report.

On a motion by Ms. Santalucia, seconded by Mr. Barbero that resolutions #1-8 be approved as presented:

1. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the following Professional Development:

Date	Name	Workshop/Conference	Location	Cost
a. 3/16/23	N. Patel	CDW-Classroom Technology Showcase	Doubletree Hotel 200 Atrium Dr Somerset, NJ	Workshop - \$0.00 Mileage – N/A
b. 4/17/23	T. Ferris	Catching Up Your English Language Learners Who Have Fallen Behind	Virtual	Workshop - \$279.00 Mileage – N/A To be paid out of Title IIA
c. 6/2/23	K. Walsh	Annual School Law & Policy Seminar	Brookdale Community College Lincroft, NJ	Workshop - \$0.00 Mileage - \$57.34
d. 6/2/23	K. Thompson	Annual School Law & Policy Seminar	Brookdale Community College Lincroft, NJ	Workshop - \$0.00 Mileage - N/A
e. 4/21/23	D. Zacoum	NJSHA Annual Convention	Ocean Place Resort	Workshop - \$280.00

			& Spa 1 Ocean Blvd Long Branch, NJ	Mileage – \$67.02 To be paid from Title IIA
f. 3/20/23	K. Ceresnak K. Walsh	The Teen Brain – Dr. Michael Bradley	Parsippany High School 20 Rita Dr Parsippany, NJ	Workshop – \$0.00 Mileage - \$16.26 per person
g. 4/21/23	L. Clark	Spring into Joyful Literacy Instruction	Centenary Univ Hackettstown, NJ	Workshop - \$99.00 Mileage – N/A
h. 5/17-5/19/23	K. Walsh	NJASA – Spring Conference; Lifting Leadership - Knowledge, Relationships Empowerment	Caesars Atlantic City, NJ	Workshop - \$0.00 (included in yearly membership) Hotel - \$241.26 M and IE - \$148.50 Mileage - \$141.00 Tolls - \$12.00

2. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the following additional chaperones for field trips for the 2022-2023 school year:

Date	Grade	Location	Additional Chaperone(s)
6/1/23	1	Crayola Experience	Susan McCall, RN
4/28/23	2	Franklin Mineral Museum	Joanna Goodwin
6/2/23	3	Turtle Back Zoo	Crystal Geremia. Lissette Hernandez, Mariah Millan
6/1/23	4	Hopatcong State Park/ Lake Musconetcong	Laurie Glennon
6/2/23	5	Fort Hancock Sea Grant Consortium	Cie DiRenzo

3. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the graduate course tuition reimbursement, upon successful completion of course work, for the following staff members for the Spring 2023 semester. Non-tenured staff members will be reimbursed at the end of the school year in accordance with article VIII of the NTA contract:

Name	Course	Location	Semester	Reimbursement
a. M. Patten	Interventions & Assessments for Individuals with ASD & DD	William Paterson	March 20-May 7	3 credits @ \$520/credit = \$1560.00
b. L. Clark	GED 662 Literacy Curriculum and Common Core Standards	Centenary University	5/1/23 – 6/25/23 Summer 1 Semester	3 credits @ \$656.50/credit = \$1969.50

4. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, hereby affirms the Superintendent’s findings of HIB 2223-09.

5. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the contract with Young Audiences Arts for Learning for the Ssuuna East African Music and Dance program at a cost of \$280 to be paid out of Title IA.

6. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the submission of the Comprehensive Equity Plan Statement of Assurance 2023-2024 to the Executive County Superintendent.

7. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the following field trips and chaperones:

Date	Trip	Location	Grade Level	Chaperones	Cost
a. 3/21/23	Art & Music Workshop	Morris Museum	Grades 6-8 14 students	M Mayhood J McGrath	Trip - \$70.00 per student Total \$980.00 Transportation – TBD To be paid out of Title IA
b. 5/9/23	Mock Trial Club Presentation	NJ Law Center New Brunswick, NJ	Grade 7-8 11 students	E. Brown T. Salerno	Trip - \$0.00 Transportation - To be paid out of ESSER III funds
c. 6/1/23	6 th -8 th Dinner Dance	The Alibi Restaurant 172 Lakawanna Dr	6-8	K. Ceresnak J. Cinotti T. Guido A. Henry M. Millan	No cost to students. Paid for out of Student Activities
d. 3/27/23	The Lightning Thief	The Growing Stage	6-8	D. Sandrue M.F. Koch T. Salerno E, Brown A. Evans M. Sievers A. Henry M. Millan	Trip Cost - \$7.00 per ticket 93 tickets Total \$651.00 To be paid out of Title IA

8. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the following Professional Development:

Date	Name	Workshop/Conference	Location	Cost
a. 6/29/23	K. Ceresnak K. Walsh	Regional Evaluation IRR/Recertification	Virtual	Workshop - \$195
b. 6/25- 6/28/23	K. Walsh	AASA Learning 2025 National Learning Summit	Washington Hilton Washington DC	Workshop - \$995 Lodging, Travel, M&IE, Mileage - \$1562.46 To be paid from Esser III funds/Accelerated Coaching and Educator Support Funds

Roll Call

Mr. Arbolino – Yes; Mr. Barbero – Abstain 1 c, f, h, 8 a, b Yes to the rest; Ms. Chapman -Yes; Ms. Lapsley – Yes; Mr. Latham – Yes; Mrs. Parks – Yes; Ms. Santalucia – Yes; Mr. Stevens – Yes; Mrs. Dalesandro – Yes

➤ **Personnel and Policy**

Mrs. Parks gave committee report.

On a motion by Mrs. Parks, seconded by Ms. Chapman that resolutions #1-6 be approved as presented:

1. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the maternity/disability leave of Kelsey Sowell effective on March 8th, 2023 through May 2nd, 2023. Ms. Sowell will use 8 weeks of NJFLIA.
2. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves Crystal Geremia as a Special Education Maternity Leave Replacement commencing on or about March 9, 2023 through June 15, 2023, at Step A on the MA salary guide, \$58,865.00 prorated with benefits, pending an Office of Student Protection background check approval. Salary guide placement reflects the 2019-2022 contract. To be revised pending the outcome of negotiations with the NTA.
3. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the intermittent FMLA Leave for Cynthia Vittitow effective on March 3rd, 2023 through October 3rd, 2023. Any leave days used before June 30, 2023 will be days without pay. If leave exceeds number of days given for the new school year, the leave will be taken without pay.
4. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves Michelle Mayhood as the full-time Art/Gifted and Talented Teacher for the term of March 15, 2023 through June 30, 2023 at Step H on the MA salary guide, at a prorated salary of \$66,390.00 with benefits, pending an Office of Student Protection background check approval. Salary guide placement reflects the 2019-2022 contract, to be revised pending the outcome of negotiations with the NTA.

5. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves Hailey Gregory as the full-time Middle School Math Teacher for the term of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 at Step A on the BA salary guide, at a salary of \$54,865.00 with benefits, pending an Office of Student Protection background check approval. Salary guide placement reflects the 2019-2022 contract, to be revised pending the outcome of negotiations with the NTA.

6. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves Amanda Rasczyk as a Home Instruction teacher for student # 33221487 for four hours per week at a rate of \$35 an hour in accordance with the NTA contract until a suitable placement can be found.

Roll Call

Mr. Arbolino – Yes; Mr. Barbero – Absent; Mr. Chapman – Yes; Ms. Lapsley – Yes; Mr. Latham – Yes; Mrs. Parks – Yes; Ms. Santalucia – Yes; Mr. Stevens – Yes; Mrs. Dalesandro – Yes

➤ **Finance and Budget**

Mr. Arbolino gave committee report.

On a motion by Mr. Arbolino, seconded by Ms. Santalucia that resolutions #1-13 be approved as presented:

1. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the February 28, 2023, payroll in the amount of \$211,244.19.

2. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the bills list from February 22, 2023 through March 14, 2023 in the amount of \$544,287.46.

3. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the following fundraisers for the 2022-2023 school year:

Class/Club/Team/ Group	Dates	Description	Funds Used For	Advisor/Teacher
a. Early Act Club	4/17-4/26/23	Food drive for the Netcong Food Pantry	Netcong Food Pantry	AnnMarie Evans

4. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the donation of markers and other school supplies from J. Latham.

5. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the donation of \$1000.00 for the Special Education department from the Elks Leap in the Lake fundraiser.

6. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves submission of the 2023-2024 Preschool Expansion Aid District Enrollment and Budget Planning Workbook as follows: Preschool Education Aid - \$360,048; General Fund - Inclusion - \$90,012; Prior Year PEA Carryover - \$126,206 for a total amount of \$576,266.

7. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the tentative budget be approved for the 2023-2024 school year using the 2023-2024 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit to the Executive County Superintendent for approval in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:7F-5 and 18A:7F-6:

	General Fund	Special Revenues	Debt Service	Total
2023-2024 Total Expenditures	\$7,324,570	\$832,655	\$146,998	\$8,304,223
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$2,902,776	\$832,655	\$16,229	\$3,751,660
Tax Levy	\$4,421,794	\$0	\$ 130,769	\$4,552,563

And, to advertise said tentative budget in The Daily Record in accordance with the form suggested by the New Jersey Department of Education and according to law;

And, that a public hearing on the budget for the 2023-2024 school year will be held on April 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.; and

Be it further resolved, that the Netcong Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for enrollment in the amount of \$261,528. The district intends to utilize this adjustment to increase staff and to purchase supplies and materials necessary for the additional students; and

Be it further resolved, that the Netcong Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$75,292. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums; and

Be it further resolved that the 2023-2024 budget includes the withdrawal of \$325,000 from the district's capital reserve account for the following capital projects which are part of the district's Long-Range Facility Plan (LRFP).

Project #	Project	Amount
1	Security Cameras	\$ 120,000.00
2	Repair Paint Interior Walls	\$ 50,000.00
3	LED Digital Sign	\$ 60,000.00
4	Exterior Stairs	\$ 60,000.00
5	Storage Unit	\$ 35,000.00

8. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, a board of education must establish a maximum travel expenditure, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq., therefore

Be it resolved that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget a maximum travel expenditure in the amount of \$20,200.00 for the 2023-2024 school year. The maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2022-2023 is \$20,200.00 of which, \$5,981 has been spent and \$795 is encumbered to date.

9. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following:

The Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

Whereas, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

Whereas, a board of education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$1500 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

Whereas, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 but deemed by the board of education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7, to a maximum expenditure of \$20,200.00 for all staff and board members for the 2023-2024 school year and that the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

10. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the professional services maximum costs for the 2023-2024 school year:

Whereas, NJAC 6A:23A-5.2 provides that a school district must establish a maximum dollar limit prior to budget preparation for public relations and professional services fees, and;

Whereas, the Netcong Board of Education has established the following maximum dollar limits as required, and;

Whereas, if these professional services exceed the maximum amount listed, the Netcong Board of Education will consider another motion to increase amounts listed:

Architects	\$50,000	Attorneys	\$50,000
Auditors	\$40,000	School Physician	\$2,500

11. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the appeal of the Chapter 44 Tax Levy Calculation for the 2023-24 school year.
12. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the consultation agreement with On-Tech Consulting, Red Bank, NJ to complete the Universal Service Fund application for E-Rate and Emergency Connectivity Fund at an amount equal to 20% of any funding received.
13. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the submission of the Climate Change Grant to the New Jersey Department of Education in the amount of \$6,660. The grant period is April 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023

Roll Call

Mr. Arbolino – Yes; Mr. Barbero – Abstain 1,2,7, Yes to the rest; Ms. Chapman – Yes; Ms. Lapsley – Yes; Mr. Latham – Yes; Mrs. Parks – Yes; Ms. Santalucia – Yes; Mr. Stevens – Yes; Mrs. Dalesandro – Yes

➤ Facilities and Referendum

Mr. Stevens gave committee report.

On a motion by Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mrs. Parks that resolution #1 be TABLED as presented:

- ~~1. Be it resolved that the Netcong Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves Mangiro Contracting Co. Inc. Parsippany, NJ to repair the Playground Wall and Stairs and the Exterior Library Wall and furthermore the repairs will be funded from the Capital Reserve Account.~~

Roll Call

Mr. Arbolino - Yes; Mr. Barbero – Absent; Ms. Chapman – Yes; Ms. Lapsley – Yes; Mr. Latham – Yes; Mrs. Parks – Yes; Ms. Santalucia – Yes; Mr. Stevens – Yes; Mrs. Dalesandro – Yes

LIAISONS REPORT

- a. Netcong Educational Foundation
St. Patrick’s Dinner, March 25th, American Legion, Stanhope

- b. Netcong PTA
April 1st Egg Hunt
International Day Festival April 29th

- c. Town Council
Developers Presented building plans to the council for the Maple and Main St. Project. New Building will have a two and a half story Victorian look and will consist of the Following: First Floor Shops and Parking, Second Floor and Third Floor Apartments. The first floor will have seven (7) store fronts, approximately 6,000 square feet with an open floor plan. This means, one renter could rent several store fronts and combine them to make one big store. The Second and Third Floor will have twenty-five (25) units each. This is a total of fifty (50) apartments in the building. Forty -two (42) one bedroom units, six (6) two bedroom units, and two (2) three bedroom units. The parking expert recommended one hundred and twenty three (123) parking spaces. However, ninety five (95) spaces will be provided which fall inside adequate to code, since the building is within five hundred (500) feet of the train station. Any overflow parking will have to park in the train station. It was suggested to the council to consider this as a project for redevelopment to have more control over it.

Furthermore, during an exchange between two councilmen, a few comments were made about the school district. It was mentioned that the school was out of space which tenured a response that the cause of this was due to thirty two (32) choice students attending the school. This brought forth another response, the reason for these choice students was to bring in funding to fix financial issues which was the cause of irresponsible spending. Then it was suggested that the school district asked the town to co-sign on bonds to bail the school district out of these financial problems and that the council voted no to this.

- d. Recreation Commission
St Pats Breakfast was postponed, rescheduled for 3/18

- e. Planning Board
A company was asking for a variance on their property.

OLD BUSINESS / MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Santalucia asked why the resolution for the repair of the wall was tabled. Mr. Stevens stated that the entire committee wasn’t present.

President Dalesandro read the following letter from the NTA

Dear Mrs. Dalesandro and Members of the Netcong Board of Education,
We, the members of the Netcong Teachers' Association, would like to take this opportunity to express our unequivocal support for our Administration’s fair and consistent enforcement of student discipline at Netcong Elementary School. Our Administrators ensure that our students are provided with a safe and structured learning environment, in which they can succeed, grow, and

thrive. Our teachers feel strongly that the Administration treats all students fairly and equably, and enforces school rules and policies in a consistent manner. Moreover, teachers feel supported by the Administration when faced with student-discipline issues in the classroom.

The Association is aware that Netcong School's Student Demerit Policy has recently become a topic of conversation in the community, and at Board Meetings, and that teachers and the Administration have been criticized for enforcing this school policy. We feel it is important to go on record: the Netcong Teachers' Association stands behind Mrs. Walsh and Dr. Ceresnak, and we are grateful for their continued support for our teaching staff!

The Netcong Teachers' Association stands ready to partner with the Board of Education, and the community, to continue to advance our shared goal of promoting outstanding student achievement.

Sincerely yours,

The Members of the Netcong Teachers' Association

HEARING OF CITIZENS

On a motion by Mr. Barbero, seconded by Mr. Stevens to open the hearing of citizens. Approved by voice vote. All in favor.

Public is invited to address the Board with any questions, comments or concerns. The Board requests that the individual address the Board, giving name and address, and asks that all remarks be directed to the Chair. The public portion shall be limited to thirty minutes with a five-minute time limit on each participant. The Board wishes to remind all attendees at its meeting that while it subscribes without reservation to the principle of keeping the public completely informed, by policy it cannot allow public discussion of personnel matters. If a matter concerning the staff of the Netcong Public School is of interest or concern, the matter would be referred to the Superintendent or the Board of Education, either by telephone or letter.

Ms. Polster, Center St., asked what is the process on notifying regarding student of the month. Stated that she received the letter dated January in March. The administration will look into it.

On a motion by Mr. Barbero, seconded by Mr. Stevens to close the hearing of citizens. Approved by voice vote. All in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Lapsley to recess into executive session at 7:48pm. Approved by voice vote. All in favor

RESOLVED, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4:13 and 10:4-12 that the Netcong Board of Education hold a closed Executive Session regarding legal matters, negotiations, personnel issues, HIB 2223-010 and 011 which are attorney-client privileged for an estimated time of 60 minutes and no action will be taken at the conclusion of the executive session.

On a motion by Ms. Santalucia, seconded by Ms. Lapsley to close the executive session at 8:31pm. Approved by voice vote. All in Favor.

ACTION ARISING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Chapman, seconded by Mr. Barbero to adjourn the meeting at 8:31pm.
Approved by voice vote. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

P Stabile

Paul Stabile

Business Administrator/Board Secretary