

The following is a summary of the December 3, 2020, Combined Conference and Regular Meeting of the Berkeley Heights Board of Education:

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Melissa Varley, Superintendent of Schools, provided the following report:

Good Evening - I hope that everyone had a safe and Happy Thanksgiving holiday.

We look forward to seeing our GL students on Monday! More information is coming tomorrow about their re-entry to in-person learning.

Because of the rapidly increasing cases of COVID in New Jersey, the district is operating on a day-to-day basis. We have received firm notification that it would be inadvisable for our district to remain open for in-person instruction in the event that our Central East region moved from Orange - High Risk, to Red - Very High Risk. Therefore, it is my recommendation to the Board of Education that if our region is classified as Very High Risk, the Berkeley Heights Public Schools will move to remote instruction until such time as the Department of Health deems the infection rate has returned to safely manageable levels.

Given the rapid increase in numbers across the state and the anticipated post-Thanksgiving surge in cases, it is likely that this will happen sooner rather than later. Families should begin to make plans for child care as needed. While I believe that the best place for our students is in school, it is also imperative that we follow the directives of the Department of Health and move to remote instruction for the safety of students and staff.

Our current active cases:

GL has five students (Up one from the update on Monday)

CMS has zero cases (down two from the update on Monday)

Hughes has one student (Up one from the update on Monday, this student has not been in school since 11/20, therefore, there is no risk to our current population).

District Level employees - three staff members who do not interact with students or instructional staff regularly.

I want to take a moment to thank the Berkeley Heights Diversity Council for their invitation to join them for a listening season on November 18th. It was a great experience, and a conversation that we are committed to continuing. It was very nice to have our current efforts validated by the community, but we still have a lot of work to do. As part of our on-going efforts to promote Diversity and Inclusion, tonight the Board will be approving a resolution to partner with Central Jersey Pride, an organization that actively recruits diverse candidates for available positions.

Finally, I will be out of district for a couple of weeks as I have to have a medical procedure. I anticipate a quick return. In my absence, Mr. McKinney will be sending you updates and communications.

Superintendent’s Report (continued)

Mr. Bill Cassano, Dr. Gerard Crisonino, and Mr. Dante Gioia, all of whom are all completing their service on the Board of Education at the end of 2020, were recognized and honored during the meeting for their efforts over the years as school board members. Please click [here](#) to learn more about their outstanding volunteer service to the Berkeley Heights Public Schools.

Dr. Christy O’Connor, Leadership Consultant, provided a report to the Board of Education titled: “A Developmentally Intentional Teacher Leadership Cohort, Year 2.” Please click [here](#) to see the highlights of this presentation.

Mrs. Marybeth Kopacz, Director of Elementary Education and Intervention for the Berkeley Heights Public Schools, delivered a presentation to the Board of Education titled: “Balanced/Structured Literacy in the Berkeley Heights Public Schools.” Please click [here](#) to learn more about this report.

Report of the Student Representatives

Emily Haines reported on the following:

- Hope you all had a happy Thanksgiving! In the past few weeks we closed out our Fall seasons at Governor Livingston.
- We had some successful final games for our Highlanders, as the Girls Soccer team played its last game against rival New Providence, winning 6-1.
- The GL Football team had its annual Thanksgiving game against New Providence. Unfortunately, the trophy was awarded to New Providence until next year. This ended the Highlanders’ season with a record of 4 wins and 2 losses.
- Winter sports are planned to start in January. The third season was created to start in February and March. Winter Track and Volleyball are among the sports that are planning for this third season. Go Highlanders!

Report of the Student Representatives (continued)

Thomas Burke reported on the following:

- As the year comes to a close, a number of Governor Livingston High School clubs are working hard to fit in events before the break.
- FBLA has held a number of meetings in recent weeks to share information about the upcoming Objective tests. These tests allow students to compete against other FBLA students in their knowledge of accounting, economics, cyber securities, and more.
- Interact is preparing an uplifting video for the Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside where students record themselves telling a joke.
- The Highlander Newspaper has been holding weekly meetings to assign articles to be published in Tapinto.net under the section, "The Highlander." If you have not seen any of these articles yet, I would suggest checking them out as they are very interesting.
- The Understanding Asian Cultures club has also organized a roundtable discussion for Monday regarding common stereotypes and attitudes toward Asian cultures. This will be held through Zoom.
- On a similar note, GLHS Guidance Counselors are working to promote awareness of various customs and cultures with the December Awareness Guide. This guide details many of the observances being celebrated in December, such as World AIDS Day and Kwanza.
- Other clubs have concentrated their efforts on preparing themselves for events in the new year. One such club is Model UN, which has begun preparing for February's North American Invitational conference held by the Georgetown Model UN. The club has shared information about the event and has posted sign-ups for this virtual three-day conference.
- In addition, Spanish Club recently held a meeting to brainstorm ideas for upcoming events with a specific focus on hosting a fundraiser.
- So regardless of the club, they have all kicked into full gear and are preparing for their normal events.

Facilities Report

Donna Felezzola, School Business Administrator, presented the following report:

We are beginning to work on projects for next year's capital budget. We will budget to continue with the maintenance items we have addressed previously. This would include replacing classroom ceilings and floors, continuing the replacement of rooftop fans, paving repairs and upgrades, etc. We are getting pricing for these projects and prioritizing them.

The Board of Education formally voted to approve the following:

- The following revised District Bylaw and Policy, after second reading:
Board Member Qualifications and Code of Ethics 0142
Gifted and Talented Pupils 2464
- Resolutions honoring Bill Cassano, Gerard Crisonino, and Dante Gioia for their years of service as members of the Berkeley Heights Board of Education.
- The 2021-2022 District Calendar for the Berkeley Heights Public Schools. Please click [here](#) to see a copy.
- Professional development days and travel reimbursement for district staff members.
- The revised pay rate of \$48.00 per hour for Home/Individual Instructors in the Berkeley Heights Public Schools, effective January 1, 2021.
- The Agreement with Educational Services Commission of New Jersey to provide Home Instruction services to Berkeley Heights Public Schools students during the 2020-2021 school year, as needed and as per student Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), at the cost of \$48.00 per hour.
- The employment of substitute/supplemental personnel for the 2020-2021 school year.
- New and modified leave of absence requests from district staff members during the 2020-2021 school year.
- The resignation of Colton Davis from his position as Computer Technician in the Berkeley Heights Public Schools, effective December 1, 2020.

The Board of Education formally voted to approve the following (continued):

- To extend the employment of Jennifer Dinardi as Interim Assistant Principal at Governor Livingston High School through February 26, 2021.
- To extend the employment of JoAnne Carroll as Interim Principal at Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center through February 12, 2021.
- The following transfer of personnel for the 2020-2021 school year:

<u>Name/Position</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Maryann Sabella Paraprofessional	Hughes	Woodruff	11/16/2020

- The employment of Josephine Chiang as a Teacher of Music at Mountain Park and William Woodruff schools for the 2020-2021 school year, effective November 23, 2020.
- The employment of Lydia Kang as a Substitute/Replacement Teacher of Mathematics at Columbia Middle School for the 2020-2021 school year, effective February 1, 2021.
- The employment of Kelly Radano as a Substitute/Replacement Elementary School Teacher (Media Center) at Mountain Park School and Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center for the 2020-2021 school year, effective January 4, 2021.
- Revised/extended 2020-2021 employment contracts for the following substitute/replacement teachers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Original Contract</u>	<u>Revised Contract</u>
David Hay	Teacher of Social Studies/ Columbia	9/1/2020- 11/10/2020	9/1/2020- 1/4/2021
AnnaMarie Labisi	Elementary School Teacher Mountain Park	9/1/2020- 12/31/2020	9/1/2020- 6/30/2021

The Board of Education formally voted to approve the following (continued):

- The appointment of Extra-Curricular Activities personnel for the 2020-2021 school year:

Governor Livingston High School

Activity/Position

GL Unfiltered Advisor
National Honor Society Advisor
Assistant Basketball Coach (Girls) (Volunteer)
Head Baseball Coach
Assistant Baseball Coach
Assistant Baseball Coach
Assistant Baseball Coach
Assistant Baseball Coach (Volunteer)
Head Softball Coach
Assistant Softball Coach
Assistant Softball Coach (50%)
Assistant Softball Coach (50%)
Assistant Softball Coach (Volunteer)
Head Lacrosse Coach (Boys)
Assistant Lacrosse Coach (Boys)
Assistant Lacrosse Coach (Boys)
Assistant Lacrosse Coach (Boys) (Volunteer)
Head Lacrosse Coach (Girls)
Assistant Lacrosse Coach (Girls)
Assistant Lacrosse Coach (Girls) (Volunteer)
Head Track Coach
Assistant Track Coach (Volunteer)
Head Tennis Coach (Boys)
Head Golf Coach

Instructor/Supervisor

Nadezhda Mims
Daniel McGovern
Zachary Worswick
Christopher Roof
Mathew Rago
Louis Clemente
Ralph Yezza
Robert Abreu
Christopher Affinito
James Cariello
Christopher Flynn
Garrett Hain
John Mahon
Ernest Schmidt
Samuel Politan
Bryan Young
Erin Crostewitz
Richard Ortega
Kacie Worswick
Amanda Merten
Katelyn Debbie
Michael Provenzano
Kevin Fontana
Douglas Voight
John DiPasquale
Chloe Griffin
Jacqueline Wells
Alexandra Grossman
Daniel Guyton
Michael Alleman
Christopher Coughlin
Lisa Dhaibar
Gregory Dunkerton
Joseph Hubert
Beryl Roman
Carmin Scuderi
Zakaria Rochdi
Joey Panchenko
Sharon Leahy

The Board of Education formally voted to approve the following (continued):

- The appointment of Extra-Curricular Activities personnel for the 2020-2021 school year (continued):

Columbia Middle School

Interscholastic Baseball Coach

Interscholastic Softball Coach

Instructor/Supervisor

Dominick Macaluso

Gary Healey

- The re-assignment of the following staff member for the 2020-2021 school year:

Name	Current 2020-2021 <u>Assignment</u>	Revised 2020-2021 <u>Assignment</u>
Jennifer Scharf	Thomas P. Hughes School Grade 3 Teacher (Substitute/Replacement)	Thomas P. Hughes School HELP Teacher 20 hours per week \$26.00 per hour Effective January 4, 2021

- The Shared Services Agreement with the Central Jersey Program for Recruitment of Diverse Educators (CJ Pride) for provision and performance of goods and services related to the cooperative efforts to attract and recruit highly qualified, diverse educators for employment in the Berkeley Heights Public Schools.
- The annual renewal of membership for the Berkeley Heights School District in the Garden State Coalition of Schools.

The Board of Education will conduct a Combined Conference and Regular Meeting and Organization Meeting on Thursday, January 7, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.