

**Board of Education
Upper Saddle River, New Jersey
Regular Session
Monday, March 16, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.**

Minutes

This Regular Session of the Upper Saddle River Board of Education was held in the Media Center of Cavallini Middle School of the Upper Saddle River Schools beginning at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Gandara opened the meeting and stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with PL 1975, Chapter 232 and appropriate notice had been provided to the designated newspapers, the Borough Clerk and all interested parties requesting such notification.

Members present: Mrs. Gandara, Mrs. Ginsberg, Mrs. Gray, Mr. Mehegan, Mr. Quagliani, Dr. Verducci, Mrs. Wenberg

Members absent: None

Also present: Dr. Schoen, Mrs. Imbasciani, Mr. Kaplan, Miss Patel (student representative)

REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Gray made a motion, seconded by Dr. Verducci to convene into Regular Session at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING STATEMENT:

Mrs. Gandara

Mrs. Gandara welcomed the public to the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Schoen

Highlights of Dr. Schoen's report are as follows:

- The Gala for the USREF was held on Friday night. The event was a huge success and enjoyed by all. The planning that goes on behind the scenes to make an event like this successful is hard work and all completed by volunteers who are all so dedicated to making our schools and student experience the best that it can be. The impact of their work is felt by our staff, and experienced by every student who benefits from the programs they make possible.
- The partnership between the Foundation and our schools has been nothing short of remarkable.
- Dr. Schoen thanked the USREF on behalf of our students, teachers, and administrative team for all they do.

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mrs. Imbasciani

- Mrs. Imbasciani reported there will be a Special Board of Education Meeting on Monday, March 23, 2026, to present the tentative 2026/27 budget that will be up for approval.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None

Mrs. Gandara

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Miss Patel

Miss Patel reported the following school updates:

Reynolds:

- On March 5, Kindergarteners performed their "We Are Family" concert.
- On March 12, First graders shared their "Songs for Our Children" performance.
- Thank you to Ms. Alberta, the Reynolds music teacher for the wonderful job she has done preparing the students for their performance.
- On March 20, the entire school will welcome special guests from our community for Wellness Day. Students will participate in a variety of activities focused on wellness throughout the day. Afterwards, they will enjoy a PTO sponsored assembly in the afternoon.

Bogert:

- Bogert's annual "Read-A-Latte Cafe" was held March 9 and 10. Parents joined their children to launch a whole-school-book club. There is a surprise book that the students get to enjoy with their family.
- 3rd grade concert for parents is being held on March 26.

Cavallini:

- On March 11 and 12, the Cavallini cast and crew performed the enchanted Beauty and The Beast. Thank you to Mr. Tripodi, Ms. Haas, Mr. Kulhawy and Ms. Dolan and all the other staff who made the show a success
- On March 4, Cavallini held their Annual Trep\$ market place.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Education Committee: Mrs. Ginsberg
Mrs. Ginsberg reported that the next committee meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2026.
- Finance Committee: None Mr. Quagliani
- Infrastructure Committee: None Dr. Verducci
- Negotiation Committee: None Mrs. Wenberg
- Personnel Committee: Mrs. Gandara
Mrs. Gandara reported that the next committee meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2026. The committee will be looking at the impact of personnel for the 2026/27 school year.
- Policy Committee: Mr. Mehegan
Mr. Mehegan reported that there is 1 regulation and 5 policies on tonight's agenda for a first reading.
- School Board Liaison: None Dr. Verducci

USREF REPORT:

Mrs. Cho/Mrs. Tedd

- Mrs. Gandara thanked the USREF for all of their hard work and for the positive impact they have on all the schools.

USRPTO REPORT:

Mrs. McGovern

Mrs. McGovern reported the following:

- Family Fun Day will be May 14 with a rain date of May 15. They will begin to look for sponsors and sell wrist bands.
- A lunch coordinator is needed.
- All PTO Board positions are needed.
- Jersey Mike Day is March 19.
- 8th grade signs due date is March 20.
- T-shirts in que for 5th and 8th grade.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. Schoen

A motion was made by Mrs. Gray and seconded by Mr. Mehegan to approve Administration Consent Agenda Items A through C and was approved by all.

- A. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board affirms the Superintendent's decision that investigation #303875_***_02092026 is not an incident as defined under HIB Policy #5512. The Superintendent shall notify the parents and/or guardians of the Board's decision in writing in accordance with Board Policy and N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(e).

- B. Approve the revised 2025/2026 School Calendar, as per attached.

- C. First Reading of the following Policies and Regulations:

Policy 0142.1	Nepotism (M) (Revised)
Policy 1220	Employment of Chief School Administrator (M) (Revised)
Policy 1552	Sexual Harassment – Staff (M) (New)
Policy 3362	Sexual Harassment (M) (Abolished)
Policy 4352	Sexual Harassment (M) (Abolished)
Regulation 1552	Sexual Harassment – Staff (M) (New)

PERSONNEL**Dr. Schoen**

A motion was made by Mrs. Ginsberg and seconded by Dr. Verducci to approve Personnel Consent Agenda Items A through E and was approved by all.

A. Leaves

1. Approve a paid medical leave and unpaid FMLA for Employee ID #1201, effective February 24, 2026 through approximately March 23, 2026.
2. Approve a paid medical leave and unpaid FMLA/NJFLA for Employee ID #1703, effective approximately June 8, 2026 through approximately November 24, 2026.
3. Approve a paid medical leave for Employee ID #1768, effective March 3, 2026 through approximately April 28, 2026.
4. Approve a paid medical leave and unpaid FMLA/NJFLA for Employee ID #1937, effective on or about May 11, 2026 through approximately November 24, 2026.
5. Approve a paid medical leave and unpaid FMLA/NJFLA for Employee ID #2019, effective on or about September 1, 2026 through approximately November 24, 2026.
6. Approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, on or about March 3, 2026, employee ID #2294 of the Upper Saddle River Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"), was notified by the Superintendent of Schools that said employee was suspended with pay.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board shall continue the suspension of the employee with pay through on or about April 2, 2026.

B. Resignations:

1. Accept the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Stephanie Chamberlin, Science Teacher at Cavallini Middle School, effective July 1, 2026.

C. Appointments

1. Appoint Kristine Cashin to the position of Science Teacher at Cavallini Middle School, BA, Step 14, effective September 1, 2026, subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law.
2. Appoint Gabby Foster to the position of ACE Team Member for the 2025/26 school year. \$16.00/Hour
3. Appoint Araina Kochar to the position of ACE Team Member for the 2025/26 school year. \$16.00/Hour
4. Appoint Isobel Lance to the position of ACE Team Member for the 2025/26 school year. \$16.00/Hour
5. Appoint Sofia Pappas to the position of ACE Team Member for the 2025/26 school year. \$16.00/Hour

6. Appoint Gianna Rogan to the position of ACE Team Member for the 2025/26 school year. \$20.00/Hour
7. Approve Nathan Schwed to provide Vocal Music teaching support for Cavallini Middle School's participation in the New Jersey Honors Choir and Bergen County Middle School Choir, outside of contractual hours, not to exceed six (6) days. 50% of per diem rate

8. The following staff members are recommended for the positions listed below for the 2025/26 school year:

COACHES		
Girls' Basketball	Erik Schlemm	\$3,000.00

9. The following staff members are recommended for the positions listed below for the 2025/26 school year:

Lunch Duty Substitute		
Reynolds	John Griffith	\$22/day

10. Approve the following staff members are recommended for the positions listed below for the 25/26 school year:

SPARK Program - Cycle II \$1,560.00		
Alana Capogrosso	Amy Caravela	Jamie Drucker
Dyonna Marotta (\$1,140.00)	Anamarie Massaro	Kerri Parelhoff
Jaclyn Passanante	Jill Powers	Erica Stearns
Catherine Teehan	Christine Thies	Heather Walker

D. Termination

1. Approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, employee I.D. #2498, whose name is on file in the Superintendent's Office, has been employed by the Upper Saddle River Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") from September 16, 2025 to February 13, 2026; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, based on the Superintendent's recommendation, the Board hereby terminates the employment of said employee I.D. #2498 effective February 13, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator shall provide the employee I.D. #2498 with notice of the Board's action as set forth in this Resolution forthwith.

E. Substitutes

1. Approve James D'Arecca as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2025/26 school year. Mr. D'Arecca holds a NJ Teaching Certificate.
2. Approve Sabina McGuirl as a home instructor for the 2025/26 school year. Ms. McGuirl holds a NJ Teaching Certificate.
3. Approve Jamie Rosenkrantz as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional for the 2025/26 school year. Ms. Rosenkrantz holds a NJ Substitute Teaching Certificate.

FINANCE

Mrs. Imbasciani

A motion was made by Mrs. Wenberg and seconded by Mrs. Gray to approve Finance Consent Agenda Items A through H and was approved by all.

- A. Approve the Minutes of Board Meetings:

February 9, 2026

- B. Approve the Bills List for February 2026 as follows:

10	General Current Expense	\$90,968.29
11	General Current Expense	\$2,709,558.88
20	Special Revenue Funds	\$50,427.61
60	Enterprise Fund	\$34,926.67
	Total	\$2,885,881.45

- C. Approve the Transfers for February 2026.

- D. Approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Reports dated February 2026 and to certify that after review of these reports and upon consultation with appropriate district officials, as to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23-2.11 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation for the remainder of the year.

- E. Approve additional FY26 IDEA Grant expenditures as follows:

	% of Salary	Amount
Part B Basic		
Carucci	40%	\$11,002
Quinones	40%	\$10,544
Reilly	40%	\$ 9,744

- F. Approve the out-of-district placement, effective on or about April 6, 2026, for a student whose name is on file in the Board Office, at Washington South, Bergen County Special Services.

- G. Approve the purchase of 135 Chromebooks, including warranties and educational upgrade, from CDW-G at a total cost of \$76,736.70 (Pricing as per ESCNJ/AEPA-026-D)

- H. Approve the following Travel Expenses:

Program Name	Date	Employee	Registration Fee	Travel Cost
Preparing for Special Education Monitoring: What will it look like? Cresskill, NJ *	4/15/2026	Carriann DeVito	\$50.00	\$0.00

* Our district will be going through Special Education monitoring during the 2026/27 school year.

COMMENTS:

Mrs. Gandara is sorry to see Stephanie Chamberlin go but wishes her well in retirement.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Dr. Verducci made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Ginsberg to convene into Executive Session #2 at 7:16 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Gandara

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Quagliani and seconded by Mrs. Gray at 8:17 p.m.

Dana Imbasciani, Board Secretary

UPPER SADDLE RIVER SCHOOLS

2025-2026

1	Schools Closed Labor Day	September (18) (20)						
2-3	Teachers' Staff Meetings	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	First Day of School for Students		1	2	3	4	5	6
	Minimum Day for Students	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
23	Schools Closed-Rosh Hashanah	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
18	Bogert Back to School Night	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
25	Reynolds Back to School Night	28	29	30				
30	Cavallini Back to School Night							

March (20) (20)							30-31 Schools Closed (Spring Recess)
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					

2	Schools Closed-Yom Kippur	October (21) (22)						
13	Professional Development	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	No School for Students				1	2	3	4
		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30	31	

April (19) (19)							1-3 Schools Closed (Spring Recess)
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30			

6-7	Schools Closed (NJEA)	November (15) (16)						
13	Evening Conferences Rey/Bog	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
14	Fall Parent Conference Day							1
	No School for Students	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26	Minimum Day - Students & Staff	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
27-28	Schools Closed (Thanksgiving)	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		30						

May (18 20) (18 20)							22 Minimum Day for Students & Staff
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	25 Schools Closed (Memorial Day)
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

If school is closed for emergency reasons, days will be made up in the following order: Wednesday, May 27/- Tuesday, May 26. *

23	Minimum Day for Students & Staff	December (17 16) (17 16)						
24-31	Schools Closed (Winter Recess)	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5	6
23	Snow Day	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		28	29	30	31			

June (15 16) (16 17)							17-19 Minimum Days for Students
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	22 Last Day of School for Students
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Minimum Day for Students
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	23 Last Day for Teachers
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30					

1-2	Schools Closed (New Years Day)	January (19 18) (20 19)						
19	Professional Development/ Martin Luther King Jr. Day	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	No School for Students					1	2	3
		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
26	Snow Day	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31

16-17	Schools Closed (February Recess)	February (18 17) (18 17)						
		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
23	Snow Day	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

DAY TYPE LEGEND	
Schools Closed for Students and Staff	
Minimum Day	
PD Day (Schools Closed for Students)	
The length of the school year will be no fewer than 180 days for students. *If more than 2 emergency closing days are used, then make-up days will be taken from Spring Recess, beginning with March 30, or the school year may be extended in June. BOE Approval: 11/18/2024; Revised: _____	