

Perth Amboy Board of Education
REORGANIZATION MEETING
January 7, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
REMOTE via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Derek J. Jess, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Notice of Meeting

“The New Jersey Open Public Meetings 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 interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Perth Amboy Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted at the bulletin board in the Administrative Headquarters Building, mailing notices to The Home News Tribune, The Amboy Guardian, El Diario/La Prensa, City Clerk Kupsch, as well as all other persons requiring notification pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law.”

4. Oath of Office – Administration of Oath of Office to newly elected members

Upon the administration of the oath, the new board members provided the following comments:

Ms. Peralta thanked everyone for their support, Mr. Jess for swearing the new board members in and she looks forward to working with everyone to continue the growth of our students.

Ms. Gonzalez thanked everyone for their support and looks forward to serving the community of education.

Mr. Anderson thanked everyone for their support. Thanks to the campaign team and the community for their support. His six children pushed him to run and he is grateful to them. While he was not selected for the unexpired term when it initially became open, he was elected. He looks forward to working with everyone to better educate everyone in the district and to maintain the public trust. People who have suggestions, comments and questions can email him.

Mr. George is honored to be on the board of education. Being out because of an illness, he is glad to be back and will support the teachers, students and administrators. He is honored to take Mr. Massopust's place, who was his supervisor when he first started. He thanked everyone for their support, especially his two granddaughters.

5. Roll Call – Derek J. Jess, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mr. Anderson	<u>P</u>		
Dr. Brown	<u>P</u>	Ms. Marquez-Villafane	<u>P</u>
Mr. George	<u>P</u>	Ms. Peralta	<u>P</u>
Ms. Gonzalez	<u>P</u>	Mr. Puccio	<u>P</u>
Mr. Iglesia	<u>P</u>	Ms. Vazquez	<u>P</u>

Administration:

Dr. Roman	<u>P</u>
Dr. Rodriguez	<u>P</u>
Mr. Jess	<u>P</u>
Mr. Rodriguez	<u>P</u>
Mrs. Machado	<u>P</u>

6. Report on Election – Derek J. Jess, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Results of the annual election held on November 3, 2020 and certified by the Middlesex County Clerk, determined that the following candidates were elected for three-year terms:

Ronald L. Anderson	4,376 votes
Marisol Gonzalez	4,122 votes
Stacey Peralta	4,164 votes

Results of the annual election held on November 3, 2020 and certified by the Middlesex County Clerk, determined that the following candidate was elected for a one-year term:

Michael George	4,704 votes
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7. **WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b), the Board of Education may exclude the public from that portion of a public meeting wherein the board discusses any of the matters set forth at N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b) (1)-(9);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act (“Act”), the Board of Education shall conduct a closed session pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) for the purpose of discussing the following matter(s):

- ☐ Matters rendered confidential by state or federal law
- ☐ Personnel
- ☐ Student(s) – Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying
- ☐ Termination of employee
- ☐ Appointment of a public official
- ☒ Matters covered by the attorney-client privilege
- ☐ Pending or anticipated litigation
- ☐ Pending or anticipated contract negotiations
- ☐ Protection of the safety or property of the public
- ☐ Matters involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds
- ☐ Matters which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy
- ☐ Matters in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the United States Government
- ☐ Matters concerning collective negotiations and/or the negotiations of terms and conditions of employment of employees of the Board of Education
- ☐ Possible imposition of a civil penalty or suspension
- ☐ Any matter which could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of the matters were disclosed

It is anticipated that the length of time of this executive session will be 30-60 minutes, and that action may be taken in public after the executive session. A motion was made at 6:01 PM.

A discussion ensued as to the need to go into executive session if the only item being discussed is the nomination process of the board president and vice president. If the only business is reorganization business, there is no need to exclude the public from this discussion. Mr. Iglesia stated that he would remain in public session. A question was asked if there were additional topics being discussed in executive session, to which the answer was yes, two additional items.

<u>Vazquez</u>	<u>George</u>	Abstain: Iglesia
Motion	Seconded	Motion carries by majority: 8-0-1

8. A motion was made to return to the public section at 6:45 PM.

<u>Puccio</u>	<u>Brown</u>	
Motion	Seconded	Carried Unanimously

9. Election of Board President:

A. Nominations

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---|
| (1) Mr. Puccio | <u>Gonzalez</u>
Moved | <u>George</u>
Seconded |
| (2) Ms. Vazquez | <u>Anderson</u>
Moved | <u>Iglesia</u>
Seconded Ms. Vazquez declined the nomination. |

B. Roll Call

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| (1) Mr. Puccio | Yes: Brown, George, Gonzalez, Marquez-Villafane, Peratla, Puccio, Vazquez
Abstain: Anderson, Iglesia. Motion Carries by majority – 7-0-2 |
|----------------|---|

10. Election of Board Vice President:

A. Nominations

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1) Ms. Vazquez | <u>Puccio</u>
Moved | <u>George</u>
Seconded |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|

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(2) Ms. Marquez-Villafane	<u>Anderson</u> Moved	<u>Iglesia</u> Seconded
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B. Roll Call

(1) Ms. Vazquez Yes: Brown, George, Gonzalez, Peralta, Puccio, Vazquez
Abstain: Anderson, Iglesia, Marquez-Villafane
Motion carried by majority: 6-0-3

Mr. Puccio thanked everyone for their confidence in. He offered congratulations to the new board members. It's an honor to serve with Mr. George; everything that I've achieved is because of him.

Ms. Vazquez thanked everyone who served over the past year. She was proud to lead the board and serve as a collective voice. She thanked the four former board members for their service and welcomed the new board members to the team.

11. Open to the Public.

Meeting open to the public for discussion of agenda items and non-agenda items. There will be only one public participation session at this meeting.

At this time, comments are invited on any matter. Public participation shall be governed by Policy No. 0167. Anyone wishing to address the Board, please state your name, municipality of residence and group affiliation. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer. No member of the public may address or question board members individually. Although the Board encourages public participation, it reserves the right, through its presiding officer, to terminate remarks to and/or by any individual not keeping with the conduct of a proper and efficient meeting. The Board discourages the public from speaking negatively about any employee, administrator, or a student. Individuals can be held personally liable for defamatory or libelous statements made at public meetings. The Board bears no responsibility for comments made by members of the public. Comments regarding employees, administrators or students cannot be legally responded to by any member of the Board or administration.

Public member #1 – welcomed the new board members and hopes for an open and transparent relationship.

Public member #2 – congratulated the new board.

Public member #3 – Discussed the notice for the public meeting being more visible on the website.

Public member #4 – Welcomed the new board members. Asked about surveying the schools for back to school readiness. Provide masks at school sites for parents who show up without them. Send workers to different buildings in emergency situations only.

<u>Anderson</u>	<u>Brown</u>	Carried unanimously
Motion	Seconded	(To close following public portion)

12. Motions

A. Authorization for the Board President to submit standing committee assignments for Board approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

<u>Vazquez</u>	<u>Brown</u>	
Moved	Seconded	Carried unanimously

13. Reports

A. Board President's Report – Mr. Puccio
Mr. Puccio thanked everyone for their support and he will reach out to board members with regards to the committee assignments.

B. Superintendent's Report – Dr. David A. Roman
Will discuss building access when we meet with the AFT.
Worked with Mr. Puccio for six years, thanks to all.
Thanks for our former board members: Mr. Martinez, Mrs. Roman, Ms. Rodriguez and Ms. Lebron.
Our nation is in crisis and here's an opportunity to create leaders for the future so this doesn't happen again.

14. Old Business

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<u>Marquez-Villafane</u>	<u>George</u>	(To close old business)
Motion	Seconded	Carried unanimously

15. New Business

Mr. Puccio asked that we consider going back to public meetings in April or May because people need to see us. We can manage it at the high school for both public and private sessions. We’re expecting a spike in COVID cases now.

Mr. Iglesia agreed with meeting in person, but the situation needs to be evaluated. The decision should be made based upon data. He congratulated and welcomed the new board members.

Ms. Vazquez recommended that we begin with smaller meetings and then move to larger meetings. Our COVID numbers are on the rise as there was a 23% increase in December.

Ms. Marquez-Villafane discussed her cancer diagnosis and thanked everyone for their support. She will be here and active.

<u>Vazquez</u>	<u>Iglesia</u>	(To close new business)
Motion	Seconded	Carried unanimously

16. Motion to Adjourn – 7:39 PM

<u>Iglesia</u>	<u>Brown</u>	
Motion	Seconded	Carried unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Derek J. Jess
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

DJJ