

Perth Amboy Board of Education
REORGANIZATION MEETING
 January 6, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.
Perth Amboy High School
300 Eagle Avenue

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Michael LoBrace, Acting 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

5. Roll Call – Michael LoBrace, Acting School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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

Administration:

Dr. Roman	<u> P </u>	
M. Lobraces	<u> P </u>	
Mrs. Machado	<u> P </u>	(via teleconference)

6. Report on Election – Michael LoBrace, Acting School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Results of the annual election held on November 2, 2021 and certified by the Middlesex County Clerk, determined that the following candidates were elected for three-year terms:

Stephanie Marquez-Villafañe	2,526 votes
Michael George	2,499 votes
Kenneth Puccio	2,459 votes

7. Election of Board President:

A. Nominations

<u>Puccio</u>	<u>Vazquez</u> Moved	<u>George</u> Seconded
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B. Motion to Close Nominations

<u>Vazquez</u> Moved	<u>Villafane</u> Seconded	
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C. Roll Call

Yes: Brown, George, Gonzalez, Iglesia, Marquez-Villafañe, Peralta, Puccio, Vazquez
 Abstained: Anderson
 Vote: 8-0. Motion passes.

8. Election of Board Vice President:

A. Nominations

<u>Vazquez</u>	<u>Puccio</u> Moved	<u>Peralta</u> Seconded
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B. Motion to Close Nominations

<u>Gonzalez</u> Moved	<u>Brown</u> Seconded	
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D. Roll Call

Yes: Brown, George, Gonzalez, Iglesia, Marquez-Villafañe, Peralta, Puccio, Vazquez
 Abstained: Anderson
 Vote: 8-0. Motion passes.

9. Motions

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

<u>Iglesia</u>	<u>Vazquez</u>	(Mr. Anderson – Abstained)
Motion	Seconded	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Designation of the following banks as depositories for school funds upon evidence of eligibility from the State of New Jersey, and the signatures required for withdrawals on the various bank accounts maintained at the aforementioned banks be designated as the officers who historically sign for said accounts:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1). Wells Fargo | 6). Investors Savings Bank |
| 2). TD Bank | 7). The Provident Bank |
| 3). Banco Popular | 8). Santander Bank |
| 4). Bank of America | 9). Bank of New York |
| 5). J.P. Morgan Chase | 10). Central Jersey Federal Credit Union |
| | 11). 1 st Constitution Bank |

<u>Villafane</u>	<u>Gonzalez</u>	(Mr. Anderson – Abstained)
Motion	Seconded	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Ms. Vasquez requested the Finance Committee be presented a report showing percentages of District funds in each institution, any community reinvestment available, and the current interest rates being earned.
 During consideration of abstaining, a question arose whether Board members who are depositors in any of these institutions have to abstain or if any relatives of Board members work in those institutions. Legal counsel confirmed no abstentions were needed.

C. Designation of The Home News Tribune as the newspaper of general circulation published in New Jersey circulating within the Perth Amboy area to be utilized for advertisements concerning public bids and other notices in accordance with Title 18A:14-10, 22-11 and 39-3 of the New Jersey State Statutes, and for the Amboy Guardian and El Diario/La Prensa to receive all Board meeting announcements and are hereby to receive a schedule of same.

<u>Vazquez</u>	<u>Brown</u>	
Motion	Seconded	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Re-adoption of the existing By-Laws and Policies in full force for the operation of the Board and school system.

<u>Peralta</u>	<u>Villafañe</u>	
Moved	Seconded	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- A discussion was begun by Mr. Iglesia on the importance of the accessibility of the policies and regulations and it was decided that in addition to the current placement of the District Policies on the website, another link should be added to the Board page as well as the District Info page.

E. Adoption of regular meeting schedule of the Board.

Thursday, February 3, 2022	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 300 Eagle Ave
Thursday, March 10, 2022	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 300 Eagle Ave
Thursday, April 7, 2022	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 300 Eagle Ave
Thursday, May 5, 2022	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 300 Eagle Ave
Thursday, June 16, 2022	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 300 Eagle Ave

<u>Villafañe</u>	<u>Vazquez</u>	
Moved	Seconded	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- The question was asked by Ms. Villafane if these dates were changed from the original approval and was told there were no changes.

- F. Resolved, that the Perth Amboy Board of Education, in the County of Middlesex, does hereby adopt and/or reaffirm the adoption of all curricula for courses of study listed for the Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 school curriculum and

Be it further Resolved, that an official record of all courses be maintained on file in the Board of Education Office and be available for review.

Gonzalez
Moved

Villafañe
Seconded

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Motions – continued

- G. Resolved, all warrants shall be signed by the Board President, Board Secretary, and/or Treasurer of School Moneys, as appropriate to the district. The Board must approve all claims for payment.

Be it further Resolved, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary or his designee, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:19-4.1, is authorized to approve payment of claims, interest on bonds as it becomes due, payments to redeem bonds as they become due, progress payments to contractors in accordance with a contract approved by the Board and is directed to execute warrants without further action on the part of the Board for payment, when due, of the salaries and health benefits of all Board of Education personnel heretofore, as well as other payments necessary to the payroll operation prior to presentation to the Board. Any such approval of payment must be presented to the Board for ratification at the next regular Board meeting.

Vazquez
Moved

Brown
Seconded

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Mr. Anderson requested a synopsis of NJSA 18A:19-4.1, and one was provided to the Board by legal counsel. Mr. Iglesia requested clarification that all payments will be reviewed and approved for payment before they are issued.

10. 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.

- Iris Rodriguez - Resident of Perth Amboy, congratulated the newly re-elected Board members and asked executive sessions be shortened or moved to the end of the meeting.
- Lynn Johnson - Resident of Lakewood Colorado, thanked the Board for allowing her to attend, congratulated all newly re-elected Board members and thanked Ms. Villafane for the invitation to the meeting.

Anderson
Motion

Villafañe
Seconded

(To close following discussion)

11. Reports

- A. Board President's Report

The Board President read the District obituaries for family members and made special recognition to the passing of Ms. Marilyn Gougeon and Mr. Pedro Roman, long time District employees. The President reflected on the past 12 years and the accomplishments of the District, while thanking Board members for their efforts and participation with a special thanks to the Vice President, Ms. Vasquez, for all of her efforts both on the Board and in the community.

B. Superintendent's Report – Dr. David A. Roman

The Superintendent made the following comments:

Thanked the Board for their support and noted the benefits of the continuity of the Board.

Summarized a statement from a ninth grade student regarding her perspective of remote instruction and benefits of in-person instruction.

Discussed the decision to go remote is made with input from the County Health Department, the Department of Education, and the County Superintendent.

Indicated that the health and education of the students is paramount and cited the challenges which exist in trying to keep the District moving and up to our standards as absences increase due to COVID cases and quarantines.

The Superintendent and Board President then invited comments from the Board.

- Mr. Iglesia stated the priority is the health and safety of the students and staff but the community has to be a part of the solution.
- Ms. Vasquez assured the public that the Board together with the Administration make the decisions collectively with the intentions to keep everyone safe.
- Ms. Marquez-Villafane discussed her past experiences as a student with some current Board members and the importance of advocating for the students and being the support net needed for students in their time of need based upon her experiences.
- Mr. George discussed his history in the District and his support and advocacy for his former colleagues and the students.

12. Motion to adjourn at 6:58 pm.

Villafañe
Motion

George
Seconded

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LoBrace
Acting School Business Administrator/
School Secretary