

Perth Amboy Board of Education
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
January 4, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.
Perth Amboy High School
300 Eagle Avenue

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Michael LoBrace, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary 5:45pm

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.”

The Board Secretary announced one revision to tonight’s agenda, our Student Representative, Angel Cruz will be providing an update on District activities.

Mr. Cruz began by sharing all the exciting news over the past several months as well as the anticipation of the upcoming opening of the new High School. He continued by providing information on academic, athletic and the daily happenings throughout the district. Mr. Cruz highlighted the vibrant buzz around the High School students and the decision-making process in college. He continued by providing updates and announcements regarding performances and events such as school plays and the High School fashion show.

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

For the Perth Amboy Board of Education (3) Seats

<i>Ronald ANDERSON</i>	2,537
<i>Marisol M. GONZALEZ</i>	2,535
<i>Stacey PERALTA</i>	2,347

For the Perth Amboy Board of Education Unexpired Term Seat

<i>Megan A. ODUYELA</i>	2,369
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5. Oath of Office – Administration of Oath of Office to newly elected members

The Board Member Oath of Office was administered to Ms. Stacey Peralta, Ms. Marisol Gonzalez and Ms. Oduyela.

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

Present at the meeting were the following Board Memebers:

Mr. Anderson	<u>A</u>	Mr. George	<u>P Remote</u>
Mr. Marte	<u>P Remote</u>	Ms. Marquez-Villafane	<u>A</u>
Ms. Melendez	<u>P</u>	Ms. Megan Oduyela	<u>P</u>
Mr. Quiles	<u>P Remote</u>	Ms. Marisol M. Gonzalez	<u>P</u>
Ms. Stacey Peralta	<u>P</u>		

Administration:

Dr. Roman	<u>P</u>
Dr. Medina	<u>P</u>
Mr. Rodriguez	<u>P</u>
Ms. Machado	<u>P</u>
Mr. LoBrace	<u>P</u>

7. Election of Board President:

A. Nominations

Stacey Peralta nominated by Megan Oduyela

Ms. Machado clarified no Second was needed for a nomination.

B. Motion to Close Nominations

Megan Oduyela
Moved

C. Roll Call

A vote for Ms. Stacey Peralta as Board President

Mr. George	Yes	Ms. Gonzalez	Yes
Mr. Marte	Yes	Ms. Melendez	Yes
Ms. Oduyela	Yes	Mr. Quiles	Yes
Ms. Peralta	Yes		

Motion carries, Ms. Stacey Peralta is elected President.

President Peralta now continues the meeting as President.

8. Election of Board Vice President:

A. Nominations

Marisol M. Gonzalez nominated by Megan Oduyela

B. Motion to Close Nominations

<u>Gonzalez</u>	<u>Melendez</u>
Moved	Seconded

C. Roll Call to close Nominations

Mr. George	Yes	Ms. Gonzalez	Yes
Mr. Marte	Yes	Ms. Melendez	Yes
Ms. Oduyela	Yes	Mr. Quiles	Yes
Ms. Peralta	Yes		

Roll Call for the Nomination of Ms. Gonzalez to serve as Vice President

Mr. George	Yes	Ms. Gonzalez	Yes
Mr. Marte	Yes	Ms. Melendez	Yes
Ms. Oduyela	Yes	Mr. Quiles	Yes
Ms. Peralta	Yes		

Motion carries, Ms. Gonzalez is elected as Board Vice President.

9. **WHEREAS** the following Code of Ethics (Bylaws Nos. 9270 and 9271) for Board Members is set forth as a guide to conflict-of-interest situations and unethical activity for Board Members:

- I will uphold and enforce all laws, State Board Rules and Regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.
- I will confine my Board action to policymaking, planning and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the Board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow Board Members, to see that they are well run.
- I will recognize that authority rests with the Board of Education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the Board.
- I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or the gain of friends.
- I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. But in all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow Board Members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.

- I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the Chief Administrative Officer.
- I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties.
- I will refer all complaints to the Chief Administrative Officer and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution (Authority: BD2/71, DA 5/75-CR Ethics, BD 6/85, DA 5/97-7, 11/98-SR);

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that each Board Member shall abide by the Code of Ethics and has signed an Acknowledgment of Receipt to confirm that they have received a copy of the Code of Ethics for School Board Members contained within the School Ethics Act, C.178, P.L. 2001. Failure to sign this Acknowledgment does not relieve a Board Member of the responsibility to understand and adhere to the Code of Ethics.

10. Motion

Adoption of regular meeting schedule of the Board.

Thursday, February 1, 2024	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 300 Eagle Ave
Thursday, March 14, 2024	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 300 Eagle Ave
Thursday, April 18, 2024	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 300 Eagle Ave
Thursday, May 2, 2024	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 300 Eagle Ave
Thursday, June 20, 2024	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, August 29, 2024	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, September 19, 2024	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, October 17, 2024	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, November 21, 2024	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd

Oduyela
Moved

Gonzalez
Seconded

11. 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 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.

No public discussion both in person or remote.

Oduyela
Motion

Gonzalez
Seconded

(To close following discussion)

All in favor.

12. Motions

- A. 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 indicated in Attachment A:

- Wells Fargo
- TD Bank
- The Provident Bank
- Central Jersey Federal Credit Union
- Lakeland Savings Bank

Gonzalez Oduyela
Motion Seconded

No discussion

All in favor.

- B. 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 El Diario/La Prensa to receive all Board meeting announcements and are hereby to receive a schedule of same.

Melendez Gonzalez
Motion Seconded

No discussion

All in favor.

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

Gonzalez Melendez
Moved Seconded

No discussion

All in favor.

- D. 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.

Melendez Oduyela
Moved Seconded

No discussion

All in favor.

- E. 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.

Gonzalez Oduyela
Moved Seconded

No discussion
All in favor.

Old Business

New Business

The Board President announced the opening of the new High School and her enthusiasm for shaping the future of our students.

Motion to Adjourn

Oduyela
Motion

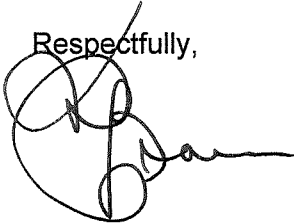
Gonzalez
Seconded

No discussion.

All in favor

6:27pm

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael LoBrace", written over the word "Respectfully,".

Michael LoBrace
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

