

Perth Amboy Board of Education

Special Meeting

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

5:00 PM

Auditorium

Perth Amboy School

Notice of Meeting – Samuel Lebreault

“I hereby publicly announce at this Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Perth Amboy that notice of the meeting has been provided, a copy of which Notice is attached to the Affidavit of Richard Grobelny, Assistant School Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary of the Board of Education of the City of Perth Amboy, and which I hereby incorporate and make part of this statement and read aloud herewith to you, which Affidavit and Notice specifies the time, place and manner in which said Notice was provided and which Affidavit and Notice are to be attached to the minutes of this meeting and made a part hereof.”

Perth Amboy Board of Education

Special Meeting

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

5:00 PM

Auditorium

Perth Amboy High School

Meeting Announcement – ~~Richard Grobelny~~ 

“Please be advised that the Board of Education has called for a Special Meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium of the Perth Amboy High School, 300 Eagle Avenue, Perth Amboy. The purpose of the Special Meeting will be to discuss 2015-2016 planning, budget, date of board elections, personnel matters and other pertinent business. There will be formal action taken at this meeting. Richard Grobelny, Assistant School Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary”.

**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE OF NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF Tuesday, January 12, 2016**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY)

:SS.:

COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX)

Richard Grobelny, of full age, being duly sworn upon his oath according to law, deposes and says:

1. I am the Assistant School Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary of the Board of Education of the City of Perth Amboy.
2. I did cause to be served a Notice of the Special Meeting of January 12, 2016 copy of which Notice is annexed hereto and made a part hereof, by causing to be delivered by hand delivery by Board of Education messenger, in envelopes appropriately addressed to each of the members of the Board of Education and to all of the parties whose names appear on said Notice, on the 8th day of January 2016 at 4:00 P.M.
3. I did also prominently post said Notice in the public place reserved for similar announcements at the Bulletin Board in the lobby of the Administrative Headquarters Building of the Board of Education on the 8th day of January 2016 at 4:00 P.M.
4. In addition thereto, I did file a copy of said Notice with Ms. Elaine M. Jasko, City Clerk of the City of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, on the 8th day of January 2016 at 4:00 P.M.

Subscribed and Sworn to before

Me this 8th day of

January, 2016

Evelyn Hernandez

Richard Grobelny
Richard Grobelny



Perth Amboy Public Schools

Administrative Headquarters Building

178 Barracks Street

Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Tel: (732) 376-6202 – Fax: (732) 826-2644

Derek J. Jess

School Business Administrator

Board Secretary

January 8, 2016

To: The Honorable Members of the Board of Education

Please be advised that the Board of Education has called for a Special Meeting to be held **Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium of the Perth Amboy High School at 300 Eagle Avenue, Perth Amboy, New Jersey.** The purpose of the Special Meeting will be to discuss 2015-2016 planning, budget, date of board elections, personnel matters and other pertinent business. There will be formal action taken at this meeting.

Sincerely,

Richard Grobelny

Assistant School Business Administrator

Assistant Board Secretary

RG/eh

cc: Dr. David A. Roman
Dr. Vivian Rodriguez
Mr. Delvis Rodriguez
Ms. Isabel Machado
Principals/Supervisors/Directors
City Clerk Jasko
President, P.A. Federation of Teachers, et al
Ms. Shepherd, District IT Specialist
Ms. Peralta, Channel 34
Dave Garb, Channel 34
Bulletin Board

Minutes

**Special Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2016
5:00 PM
Perth Amboy High School
Auditorium**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Notice of Meeting – President, Samuel Lebreault
4. Reading of Announcement of Board Retreat
5. Roll call

Mr. Bermudez	<u>P</u>	Mr. Nunez	<u>P</u>
Mrs. Gonzalez	<u>P</u>	Mr. Puccio	<u>P</u>
Mr. Lebreault	<u>P</u>	Mr. Rodriguez	<u>P</u>
Mr. Massopust	<u>A</u>	Ms. Tejeda	<u>P</u>
		Mr. Varela	<u>P</u>

Administration:

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

6. Meeting open to the public for discussion of agenda items.

<u>Tejeda</u>	<u>Rodriguez</u>	(To close the public portion)
Motion	Seconded	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Executive Session

- A motion was made by Mr. Varela and seconded by Ms. Tejeda to enter executive at 5:21 pm for the purpose of discussing negotiations, attorney/client privilege and items involving land purchases. Unanimously approved.
- A motion was made by Mr. Varela and seconded by Ms. Tejeda to re-enter the public session at 7:22 pm. Unanimously approved.
- Mr. Lebreault noted that several members of the public arrived late and they asked to speak on agenda items. Mr. Lebreault entertained discussion by Board members.
- Mrs. Gonzalez stated that because the start time of tonight's meeting is 5:00 PM and we want feedback, we should allow the public the opportunity to speak.
- Mr. Bermudez noted that it is important for the public to have the opportunity to speak however an exception is made now it would set a precedent for the future.
- Mr. Rodriguez stated that based on the time change and short notice the public should be allowed to speak.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Gonzalez and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez to reopen the public portion of the meeting for discussion on agenda items.
- Yes: Varela, Puccio, Gonzalez, Rodriguez.
- No: Bermudez, Nunez, Tejeda, Lebreault.
- The vote is 4-4. The motion does not pass.

8. Presentation

- Our Lady of Peace - Ms. Regina Acevedo
- This is one of our initiatives moving forward. There's more planning and design to be done for this program. More information regarding the program needs to be provided to everyone. We're looking to make it a premier program for our school and community.

9. Date of Board Elections

- Mr. Lebreault stated that for the past year there have been informal discussions between board members regarding the changing of the date of the school election. Legal counsel has been consulted on what needs to be done to change the date. In order to discuss the topic a motion needs to be made. Mrs. Kleen was asked about the process to move this forward; should the resolution be read first and then discussion or discussion first.
- Mrs. Kleen stated that the motion should be made prior to the vote.
- Mr. Lebreault asked for a motion to move the elections to April.

- Motion made by Ms. Tejeda and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez

- Discussion – Mrs. Gonzalez had concerns with the dates for both elections. In April there is low voter turnout and the public is not motivated to vote and it seems as the community was not interested in the election. During the November election she was frustrated because in November 2012 there were 57 names on the ballot and the Board positions were very deep into the ballot. The community was interested in casting their votes for all other choices while the board was at the tail end of voter choices. It also polarized the campaign because of political alliances and where individuals were aligned within a particular political party.
- Ms. Tejeda agreed with Mrs. Gonzalez. People who vote in April feel that education is important to them and they are concerned about who sits here.
- Mr. Lebreault stated that Mr. Puccio received 1,700 votes when they ran in April 2009; however in this past November election, he only received 1,100.
- Mr. Rodriguez stated the difference between voter turnout in November and April is basically the same.
- Mr. Bermudez asked about implications on the budget and how the changes will affect it.
- Mr. Jess stated that the November election allows the budget to be submitted to the state by March 22nd whereas the April election allows the budget to be submitted by March 4th which is three weeks earlier. There will also now be a vote on the general fund tax levy. However since the district is below our minimum tax levy, if the budget is defeated the city cannot cut anything from our budget since we are below our municipal levy.
- Mr. Varela stated that we will not allow other individuals to contaminate the process. We do take eight months of our service away from the public, but we won't allow others to taint what we stand for and it won't be a circus. It will be more of a peaceful election and not aggressive, even if it costs more we will get our money's worth.
- Mr. Lebreault said it's not an easy decision because we are losing eight months of our term. He asked what will the cost be to hold the election in April.
- Mr. Jess stated the cost will be between \$25,000 and \$65,000, they will be borne by the board and this is an unbudgeted expense.
- There being no further discussion, a vote was called on the motion to move the school election from November to April. Carried unanimously.
- Mrs. Kleen stated that the resolution must be read prior to the vote.

- Mr. Lebreault read the resolution and a motion was made by Mr. Varela and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez.

RESOLUTION

Establishing the Election of Members of the Perth Amboy Board of Education as the third Tuesday in April

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 authorizes changing the election date of school board members from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November (the General Election) to the third Tuesday in April; and

WHEREAS, Such action requires the adoption of a resolution by a school district or the municipality or municipalities constituting such district, as set forth in P.L. 2011, c. 202; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 requires that in the event that the date of the annual school election is moved to the third Tuesday in April, a vote shall also be held on the district's general fund tax levy for the budget year, including any proposal for additional funds pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection d. of section 5 of P.L.1996, c.138.

NOW, THERE BE IT RESOLVED, That, pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202, the Perth Amboy Board of Education changes the annual election date for school board members from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November (the General Election) to the third Tuesday in April, beginning in 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202, the annual organization meeting of the Perth Amboy Board of Education will take place on any day of the first or second week following the April school election; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202, members of the Perth Amboy Board of Education whose terms would have expired by January 2017 will have their terms shortened and will cease serving in office at the 2016 organization meeting; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted, by January 25, 2016, to the Middlesex County Clerk; the Middlesex County Board of Elections; the Middlesex County Superintendent of Elections; the Perth Amboy Municipal Clerk and school board secretary; the Department of State, Division of Elections; the Department of Education's Executive County Superintendent; and the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution also be provided, by January 25, 2016, to the New Jersey School Boards Association and New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

Yes: Bermudez, Gonzalez, Lebreault, Nunez, Puccio, Rodriguez, Tejada, Varela
 No: None
 Absent: Massopust

10. Old Business

- Mr. Varela stated that funds have been budgeted for an Operations Manager for Buildings and Grounds however no one has been hired. Where are we in the hiring process as Mr. Cofini is overwhelmed?
- Mr. Jess stated that the first round of interviews have taken place and the second round will be done soon.

<u>Varela</u>	<u>Gonzalez</u>	(To close old business)
Motion	Seconded	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. New Business

- Mr. Lebreault asked for a motion for an approval for the high school students to participate in the Dress for Success Program in Lawrenceville, NJ on January 15th. This is being paid for by the high school budget.
- Mr. Jess explained that this program provides free dress clothes to students. The reason for the students attendance is because these students are participating in a Model UN debate and the teacher moderator of the Model UN did not realize that the students needed to be dressed up.

<u>Varela</u>	<u>Tejada</u>	
Motion	Seconded	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. New Business (continued)

Varela
Motion

Tejeda
Seconded

(To close new business)
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. Open to the public

- Public member #1 - spoke about transparency. He stated that he's worked on everyone's campaign and donated money to all the board members here. He doesn't like what transpired here tonight. You had a board meeting on January 7th; however rumors were circulating before that with regards to the changing of dates for the election. You could've been more specific on the agenda. If you move it back to April the incumbents are favored because your turnout is low and you're suppressing 14,000 to 15,000 voters because you are moving it away from the presidential election. If the date change is refused by the state will you say it will be in November? What is the commitment from the board if the state refuses to move the date? The public member than asked Mr. Bermudez, Mr. Varela and Mr. Lebreault if they would be running for council in November?
- Mr. Varela stated no.
- Mr. Lebreault stated he cannot commit to either because he doesn't know what he's going to do.
- Mr. Bermudez said he is flattered, but he is focused on the Board of Education.
- Public member #2 - was disappointed with the start time and that some agenda items were moved around so that some could be discussed before others. You didn't allow the public to speak on the election. She's offended by what has transpired and the low public turnout. Regarding the incumbents, if you move up the election you will have more of an advantage than potential people running for the board. If the board wants to run for council it will be a conflict and you should have not voted tonight. There is a big connection between the city and the board because of the amount of the tax levy. The board was created to work and collaborate with the council.

Varela
Motion

Tejeda
Seconded

(To close public business)
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Mrs. Gonzalez said that there is no option to change the election to 2017 because it must be done now.
 - Mr. Lebreault said that he originally thought the date would be moved to 2017, not now; however the public's comments are far from the truth. When we moved it from April to November no one let the public know so they could run. So why should that happen now? Why should we be singled out? It is unfair what was put forth this evening.
 - Mr. Lebreault asked for a motion to enter executive session for the discussion of attorney/client privilege regarding board policy. No action will be taken.
 - A motion was made by Mr. Varela and seconded by Ms. Tejeda at 8:23 PM to enter into executive session. Unanimously approved.
 - A motion was made by Ms. Tejeda and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez at 8:56 PM to return to public session. Unanimously approved.
13. A motion was made by Mr. Bermudez and seconded by Mr. Puccio at 8:56 pm to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Derek J. Jess
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

DJJ/eh