

MINUTES OF REORGANIZATION MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2021

The Business Meeting of the Piscataway Township Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 7, 2021, via video teleconference. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm by the Board Secretary, David Oliveira.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Salute to Flag – Board Secretary

II. NOTIFICATION ANNOUNCEMENT

HEREBY BE IT KNOWN that the Piscataway Township Board of Education has complied with the notification requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act for the announcement of this meeting date and place on December 24, 2020 in the following manner:

- ◆ Posting of the public notice on the posting board for the Board of Education in the Administration Building
- ◆ Email notification to the newspaper serving Piscataway, The Home News Tribune & The Courier News
- ◆ Email notification filed with the Municipal Clerk at the Municipal Building on Hoes Lane

Due to the declaration of a Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency by the Governor of the State of New Jersey, this meeting is being conducted via televideo conference and will be recorded. This recording is not an official record or supplement to the minutes and is intended only as a source of information that the public might utilize at a later date to familiarize themselves with the Board's activities.

As required by the recently-adopted emergency regulation of the Department of Community Affairs, I am confirming that adequate and electronic notice of this meeting have been provided. The regulation also requires that I explain our procedures for public comment. The following will govern our public comment session this evening and going forward until further notice. Comments will be accepted by email, addressed to "Boardmeeting@pway.org" up to the start of the public comment session. Audio comments will be allowed as well through our electronic meeting platform. Members of the public are requested to conduct themselves in a civil manner with due regard for the legal and privacy rights of others. While it is not the Board's intention to stifle public comment on matters of legitimate concern to the school community; shouting, profanity or other disruptive behavior will not be permitted. The Chair reserves the right to take appropriate action in the event these guidelines are violated, including muting an online speaker's microphone or other interventions as necessary.

III. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS

Mr. Oliveira administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected members:

Shantell Cherry
Kimberly Lane
Zoe Scotto

IV. BOARD SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION OF RESULTS FOR ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020

The annual school election of the School District of Piscataway, County of Middlesex, was held on November 3, 2020.

Number of Registered Voters	37,876
Number of Votes Cast	74,460

The results of the Election were:

VOTES COUNTED FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CANDIDATE NAMES	TERM	POLLS	MAIL-IN	PROVISIONAL	FEDERAL	TOTAL
Kimberly Lane	3 year	3	9,725	874	9	10,611
Parth Desai	3 year	4	8,569	769	6	9,348
Lynnel Edmundo	3 year	3	8,733	772	5	9,513
Thomas Connors	3 year	3	9,606	678	5	10,292
Shantell Cherry	3 year	2	10,426	762	7	11,197
Zoe Scotto	3 year	3	9,728	691	8	10,430

V. ROLL CALL

 P Ms. Cherry P Mr. Johnson P Mr. Patel
 P Mr. Fields P Mrs. Lane P Ms. Scotto
 P Mrs. Hobson P Mr. Laughlin P Ms. Smith

VI. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

STATEMENT – The floor is now open to receive nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education.

Nomination for: Mrs. Hobson By: Mr. Fields
 Nomination for: By:

STATEMENT - Hearing no additional nominations, the floor is now open for a motion to close nominations.

I move that nominations be closed.
 Motion by: Mrs. Lane
 Second by: Mr. Laughlin
 All in Favor: 9
 Opposed: 0

Vote for the Office of President -

STATEMENT - As your name is called, please state the name of the nominee that you choose to vote for.

	Cherry	Fields	Hobson	Johnson	Lane	Laughlin	Patel	Scotto	Smith
Nominee #1	Abstain	Mrs. Hobson	Mrs. Hobson	Abstain	Mrs. Hobson	Mrs. Hobson	Mrs. Hobson	Abstain	Mrs. Hobson

STATEMENT - Mrs. Hobson is hereby elected as President of the Piscataway Township Board of Education.

Newly elected President assumes the chair.

VII. ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

STATEMENT - The floor is now open to receive nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education.

Nomination for: Mrs. Lane By: Ms. Smith
 Nomination for: By:

STATEMENT - Hearing no additional nominations, the floor is now open for a motion to close nominations.

I move that nominations be closed.

Motion by:

Mr. Laughlin

Second by:

Ms. Smith

All in Favor:

9

Opposed:

0

Vote for the Office of Vice President -

STATEMENT - As your name is called, please state the name of the nominee that you choose to vote for.

	Cherry	Fields	Hobson	Johnson	Lane	Laughlin	Patel	Scotto	Smith
Nominee #1	Abstain	Mrs. Lane	Mrs. Lane	Abstain	Mrs. Lane	Mrs. Lane	Mrs. Lane	Abstain	Mrs. Lane

STATEMENT – Mrs. Lane is hereby elected as Vice President of the Piscataway Township Board of Education.

VIII. REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS

BE IT RESOLVED that the following motions, identified as items “A” through “E”, be approved as presented:

A. READOPTION OF POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED that all current written policies, procedures and regulations of the Piscataway Township Board of Education be readopted until the next Reorganization Meeting in 2021 or until adoption of revised policies, procedures and regulations.

B. ADOPTION OF PRESCHOOL/ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULA, SERVICES & PROGRAMS

BE IT RESOLVED that all current curricula, services and programs at preschool, elementary, middle and high school levels be readopted until the 2021 Reorganization Meeting or until adoption of revised curricula.

C. ADOPTION OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

BE IT RESOLVED that all programs and services offered by the Community Education Office be readopted until the 2021 Reorganization Meeting or until the adoption of revised programs.

D. DESIGNATION OF GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

BE IT RESOLVED that David B. Rubin, Esq. be appointed General Counsel to the Board.

E. ADOPTION OF THE NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS

WHEREAS, it is recommended that each year boards of education review and endorse the New Jersey School Boards Association's Code of Ethics, thereby affording individual members the opportunity to declare themselves willing to abide by these principles. The following action will renew this commitment:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Piscataway Township Board of Education adopts the following New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
7. 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.
8. I will vote to appoint the best-qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
9. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
10. 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.

	Moved	<u>Mrs. Hobson</u>	Seconded	<u>Ms. Smith</u>	
	<u>Vote</u>		<u>Vote</u>		<u>Vote</u>
Ms. Cherry	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Johnson	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Patel	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Fields	<u>Y</u>	Mrs. Lane	<u>Y</u>	Ms. Scotto	<u>Y</u>
Mrs. Hobson	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Laughlin	<u>Y</u>	Ms. Smith	<u>Y</u>
	Yea	<u>9</u>	Nay	<u>0</u>	Abstain <u>0</u>

IX. MOTION TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEES

BE IT RESOLVED that the current Board Committees be re-established as standing committees with the committee chairperson and members to be appointed by the Board President prior to the first committee meeting.

	Moved	<u>Mrs. Hobson</u>	Seconded	<u>Mr. Patel</u>	
	<u>Vote</u>		<u>Vote</u>		<u>Vote</u>
Mr. Fields	<u>Y</u>	Mrs. Lane	<u>Y</u>	Ms. Scotto	<u>Y</u>
Mrs. Hobson	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Laughlin	<u>Y</u>	Ms. Smith	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Johnson	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Patel	<u>Y</u>	Ms. Cherry	<u>Y</u>
	Yea	<u>9</u>	Nay	<u>0</u>	Abstain <u>0</u>

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and school matters of community interest. In support of this position, the law establishes a period of public comment at every Board meeting.

Individuals wishing to speak must state their name and address. Comments are limited to three minutes' duration, but an individual may speak a second time after all others who wish to speak on the topic have been heard. The Board may require that individuals register to speak prior to the beginning of the meeting. Participants may submit written material in support of their position.

All statements and/or questions shall be directed to the presiding officer and no participant may address or question Board members individually. All speakers are requested to express themselves in a civil manner, with due respect for the dignity and privacy rights of others whose legal rights may be affected.

Please note: While it is not the Board's intention to stifle comment on matters of legitimate concern to the school community, the public should be aware that if their statements violate the rights of others under the law governing defamation or invasion of privacy, they may face personal liability to the injured party. If speakers are uncertain of the legal ramifications of their comments, the Board urges them to seek guidance beforehand from their own legal advisor.

Motion to close:

Moved	<u>Mr. Fields</u>	Seconded	<u>Ms. Cherry</u>
Yea	<u>9</u>	Nay	<u>0</u>

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved	<u>Mr. Fields</u>	Seconded	<u>Mr. Johnson</u>
Yea	<u>9</u>	Nay	<u>0</u>

Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm

Respectfully submitted,



David Oliveira
Board Secretary