

Alloway Board of Education Special Virtual Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The special virtual meeting of the Alloway Township Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Richard Morris, Board President, on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. through the Zoom platform. Due to Governor Murphy's Executive Order No. 107, implementing social mitigating strategies to combat COVID-19, the Alloway Township Board of Education did not conduct an in-person special meeting.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT ANNOUNCEMENT

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Alloway Township Board of Education transmitted notice of this special *Jersey Times*, Township clerk and all board members. A copy is also posted in the lobby of the Alloway Township School and on the front door.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Morris led the group in the pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Members present: Mr. Chuck Angelus, Ms. Elizabeth Decktor (virtual), Mr. Michael Dennison, Mr. Joseph Fedora, Mrs. Colleen Fulmer, Mr. Jeffrey Hitchner, Mr. Kenneth McKelvey, Jr., Mr. Richard Morris

Members absent: Mrs. Deborah Zarin

Also in attendance: Mr. Steven Crispin, Interim Superintendent and Ms. Shannon DuBois-Brody, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Mr. McKelvey, second by Mr. Fedora, that the Board enter into Executive Session by Resolution at 6:37 p.m. from which the general public will be excluded.

ALLOWAY BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION 2020-15 AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Alloway School District has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Board of Education will reconvene at approximately 7:45 pm;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Alloway School District will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

Personnel matters

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Board Attorney advises the Board of Education that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the School District or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby declare that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place and hereby directs the Board Secretary to take the appropriate action to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

VOICE VOTE: Unanimously Approved

Motion carried: 8-0-0

RESUME PUBLIC PORTION

Motion made by Mr. Angelus, second by Mrs. Fulmer to return to the public portion of the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: Unanimously approved

Motion carried: 8-0-0

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion made by Mr. Dennison, second by Ms. Decktor to approve the following as recommended by the Superintendent:

PERSONNEL - PROFESSIONAL

Employment – Tenured Teacher Contracts 2020-2021

The employment of the following certificated tenured teachers for the 2020-2021 school year:

Maryann Acton	Christopher Beck
Maria Bellia	Nancy Brawley
Kim DeFebo	Alison Derenberger
Melissa Emel	Claire Gechter
Lindsey Gioielli	Lynne Katz
Richard Kaufmann	Kristy Leyman
Karen Murphy	Loretta Osborn
Heather Principe	Lisa Ramos
Shari Rupertus	Melissa Strawderman
Theresa Turner	Kellie Whelan
Karen Wildermuth	Mark Jaep (80%)
Jennifer Gallitig (80%)	

Employment - Non-Tenured Fourth Year Contracts 2020-2021

The following non-tenured teachers be issued a contract for the 2020-2021 school year:

Amber Hann	Stephanie Owens
Colleen Rishel	Meghan Taylor

Employment – Non-Tenured Third Year Contracts 2020-2021

The following non-tenured teachers be issued a contract for the 2020-2021 school year:

Brittany Chan

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Reduction in Force - Certificated Staff

The Reduction In Force (RIF) of the following certificated staff members, for reasons of economy, effective July 1, 2020 and that they be placed on the preferred eligible list for recall should a full-time position become available in the future:

Jennifer Gallatig, Art Teacher
Mark Jaep, Physical Education Teacher

2020-2021 Teacher Salaries

The 2020-2021 Teacher Salaries, pending negotiations.

Mr. Crispin commented that the Finance Committee and whole board have spent hours reviewing the budget and trying to find money within this tight budget.

Mrs. Fulmer and Ms. Decktor each read a prepared statement expressing their feelings about the decisions that had to be made.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Mr. Angelus (with regret), Ms. Decktor (with regret), Mr. Dennison (with regret), Mr. Fedora, Mrs. Fulmer (with regret) Mr. McKelvey (with regret), Mr. Morris (with regret)
NO: Mr. Hitchner

Motion carried: 7-1-0

OTHER BUSINESS

Motion made by Mrs. Fulmer, second by Mr. McKelvey to approve the following as recommended by the Superintendent:

Resolution 2020-17

Resolution 2020-17 as presented:

RESOLUTION 2020-17

Resolution Opposing Senate Bill 2392/Assembly Bill 3969 Legislation Affecting Transmission of Property Tax Revenue to School Districts

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2392 and Assembly Bill 3969, currently pending in the state Legislature, would authorize the Department of Community Affairs to permit municipalities to delay or alter the transmission of property tax revenue to school districts during gubernatorial-declared emergencies; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's public schools are highly dependent on property tax revenue to support education programs; and

WHEREAS, on average, local property taxes constitute close to 60% of public school revenue, with the percentage even greater in a significant number of districts; and

WHEREAS, delaying or altering the transmission of property tax revenue from municipalities would result in a financial crisis for school districts, seriously disrupting the educational process; and

WHEREAS, although public school buildings are closed during the current health emergency, the education of our students is taking place through remote instruction and, therefore, continued timely

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transmission of all property tax revenue due to the school district is critical for the educational process to continue without interruption; and

WHEREAS, under our state's current structure, municipalities are designated as the authorities to collect property taxes, but those taxes are levied for specific purposes—e.g., municipal, school, county, fire district—and these obligations must continue to be met; and

WHEREAS, municipal governing bodies are empowered under current law to borrow in order to ensure that full payments to school districts are made;

WHEREAS, the Alloway Township Board of Education recognizes the impact of the current public health emergency on the state and local governments, as well as local school districts, but believes that this legislation would only worsen the situation for our communities; and

WHEREAS, while S-2392/A-3969 would require a municipality to pay a percentage of the revenue due to a school district based on consultation between the state Departments of Community Affairs and Education, the amount of taxes collected at the time and the financial condition of the municipality and school district, it does not address subsequent payment to the school district to make up the full shortfall amount; and

WHEREAS, as currently written, S-2392/A-3969, which is designed to ease a financial burden on municipalities, would place a severe strain on school districts and the students and families that they serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alloway Township Board of Education urges the State Legislature and Governor to oppose S-2392/A-3969; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Philip D. Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, and the 3rd Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Mr. Angelus, Ms. Decktor, Mr. Dennison, Mr. Fedora, Mrs. Fulmer, Mr. Hitchner, Mr. McKelvey, Mr. Morris

Motion carried: 8-0-0

PUBLIC COMMENT - OPEN

Shari Rupertus, Teacher, Centerton Road, Pittsgrove, thanked the Board for taking extra time to look for more money and trying to bring staff back.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Angelus, second by Mrs. Fulmer that there being no further business to be brought before the board that the meeting be adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: Unanimously approved

Motion carried: 8-0-0

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Respectfully submitted,

Shannon N. DuBois-Brody
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary