

**HACKENSACK BOARD OF EDUCATION
191 SECOND STREET, HACKENSACK, NJ 07601
SPECIAL MEETING MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 11, 2025**

I Flag Salute / Moment of Silence / Sunshine Statement / Call to Order / Roll Call

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, adequate notification of this meeting has been provided by advertising in The Record and posting notice in the Board of Education Administration Building (Padovano Education Center) and filing notice with the City Clerk. I hereby call to order the Special Meeting, Wednesday, February 11, 2025, in the Board of Education Administrative Building (Padovano Education Center), 191 Second Street, Hackensack NJ 07601, at 6:16pm.

<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Ms. Amirhamzeh (Leila)	x	
Mr. Carroll (Demetrius)		x
Ms. Cordero-Outen (Lissette)	x	
Ms. Gilmore (Eugina "Gina")	x	
Mr. Martin (Kenneth)	x	
Ms. Pringle (Shivonnie)	x	
Ms. Harris (Jennifer)- President	x	
Mr. Stein (Mark)- Vice President	x	
TBD- Vacancy		

II. Presentations - None

III. Executive Session

Be It Resolved, that the Hackensack Board of Education determines it is necessary to meet in Executive Session on Wednesday, February 11, 2025 to discuss **Legal, Personnel, Student related matters, HIB Reports, Negotiations and other confidential matters**; and

Be It Further Resolved, that these matters will be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Trustee Pringle motioned to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Trustee Stein

IV. Public Comments

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules: 1) If in person, a participant must sign the "sign-in" sheet and be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable; 2) Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes' duration during the public session; 3) All statements, questions, or inquiries shall be directed to the presiding officer and any questions or inquiries directed by a participant to another Board member shall be redirected to the presiding officer who shall determine if such statement, question, or inquiry shall be addressed by the presiding officer on behalf of the Board or by the individual Board member; and 4) All Board and/or Superintendent responses to questions or inquiries shall be held until the end of public participation.

- No nurse at Nellie K Parker. High School and Middle school have two nurses.
- Classes have been split because there are not enough substitutes. Job fairs for parents wanting to cover their child's classroom could be something done to remedy this issue.
- Kids are coming home with pink paper because of the budget freeze. There is no white paper. *Dr. McBryde clarified there is no shortage of funds or supplies.*
- Has two kids with peanut allergies, very concerned there is no nurse for lunch period at Nellie K Parker.
- There are districts with nut-free policies to protect children.
- If there is a shortage in funds, reach out to parents for school supplies.
- How long did the district have no lawyer?
- A couple of agendas ago, hiring an in-house attorney was mentioned as part of a corrective action plan. Why has this not been followed?

V. Resolutions- Legal Counsel

Be It Resolved, that the Hackensack Board of Education, approves the appointment of DeCotis, FitzPatrick, Cole, and Giblin, LLP, **Legal Counsel**, to represent the Board of Education, from 02/12/2025 to 01/31/2026, at the following rate of \$185 per hour for attorneys and \$90 per hour for paralegal services; and

Be It Further Resolved, that Jason Nunnmacker, Esq., will be the primary contact and coordinating attorney; and

Be It Further Resolved, all bills shall be forwarded to the Board Secretary for review and the processing for payment.

Approval of Legal Counsel				
Motion: <i>Trustee Gilmore</i>	Second: <i>Trustee Pringle</i>			
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Amirhamzeh (Leila)	x			
Mr. Carroll (Demetrius)				x
Ms. Cordero-Outen (Lissette)		x		
Ms. Gilmore (Eugina "Gina")	x			
Mr. Martin (Kenneth)	x			
Ms. Pringle (Shivonnie)	x			
Ms. Harris (Jennifer)- President	x			
Mr. Stein (Mark)- Vice President	x			
TBD- Vacancy				

A. Personnel- separate document

Be It Resolved, that the Hackensack Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following personnel actions A.1, A:

A.1 Motion to take action on personnel matters, as listed below; and appoint and submit to the Executive County Superintendent applications for emergent hiring and the applicant's attestation that he/she has not been convicted of any disqualifying crime pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et. Seq., N.J.S.A. 18A:39-17 et. seq., or N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4.13 et. seq. for those employees listed below:

(All appointments are contingent upon receipt of proper teaching certification and all salary placements are pending receipt of college transcripts verifying degree status and letter stating years of service in other districts).

A. NON-CERTIFICATED STAFF							
Be It Resolved , that the Hackensack Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby appoints the following Non-Certificated Staff for the 2024 - 2025 school year. <i>*Prorated salary based on employment dates.</i>							
	Name	Position	Deg/Step	Salary*	Location	Effective Date(s)	Discussion
1.	Alex Blinder 11-000-252-100-007-90	Executive Director of Technology	N/A	\$155,000	Technology	04/22/25	Replacing: A Cepero
2.	Jeff Badre 11-000-252-100-007-90	Information Systems Support Specialist	N/A	\$80,000	Technology	02/24/25	New Position

Personnel actions A.1, A:				
Motion: Trustee Amirhamzeh		Second: Trustee Pringle		
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Amirhamzeh (Leila)	x			
Mr. Carroll (Demetrius)				x
Ms. Cordero-Outen (Lissette)	x			
Ms. Gilmore (Eugina "Gina")	x			
Mr. Martin (Kenneth)	x			
Ms. Pringle (Shivonnie)	x			
Ms. Harris (Jennifer)- President	x			
Mr. Stein (Mark)- Vice President	x			
TBD- Vacancy				

B. Community Relations

- Met with trustees in the committee, scheduling meetings will occur soon.

C. Other Committees

VI. New Business

VII. Second Public Comment (Individuals may address the Board on Agenda and School Matters of Community Interest for 1 minute)

VIII. Board Comments

- Thank you for coming in person.
- Also allergic to many things, including nutella, the superintendent and HR have been working tirelessly to fill empty positions.
- Would like trustees to ask if due diligence was done before publicly stating otherwise was done.
- Has many unanswered emails to President Harris and VP Stein.
- President Harris requires an answer in under an hour.
- Policy 0174 and 0177
- Public concerns are very important to the board.
- Look into nut-free school and have a discussion to see what can be done.

- Get home safe.
- Important to hear from the public.
- Dr. McBryde, staff, and administrators are working hard to help students and families feel safe in the school.
- Resources are available.
- February 12 is Preschool Enrollment Day.
- Congratulations to the new board counsel and everyone who submitted applications.
- Thought before activities, there was something that went out asking about allergies
- “Love is need of love today” - Stevie Wonder.
- National Coalition of 100 Black Women- wellness program with a panel of leading Black Cardiologists.
- Appreciate the comments from Nellie K. Parker.
- Parents covering classes raise liability questions- are they trained? Background checks for all staff.
- Law firms are diverse in all types of law.
- Love the idea of parent volunteers- builds a stronger community.
- Thank you to all the law firms that interviewed and applied.
- Congratulations to the new counsel.
- Thank you, school staff, for communicating the events that are occurring. Will try to have at least one board member be apart of all events.
- Thank you to all the staff.
- For transparency purposes, past [practice in selecting counsel was not as it was this time. It was a small committee and questions from the past were not available for this time. Wanted to ensure it was a different process.
- Will always answer questions.
- Be mindful of how you speak to the public and each other.

IX. Adjournment

Trustee Stein motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Pringle

Respectfully submitted,



Lydia Singh, SBA/Board Secretary