

**HACKENSACK BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**191 Second Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601**  
**SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Conducted Remotely via ZOOM Meeting**  
**MINUTES**

*Minutes of the proceedings of the Special Public Meeting held on June 22, 2020, in the Hackensack Board of Education Padovano Building and remotely via Zoom, at 6:15 pm. Lance Powell, Board President, presided.*

**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 Public Meeting of Monday, June 22, 2020, conducted remotely via Zoom, at 6:15 pm.

<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Participating Via Remote Conference</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Mr. Bendezu (Julio)	X	
Ms. Cogelja (Frances)	X	
Mr. Coleman (Christopher)	X	
Mr. Goodman (Ira)	X	
Mr. Oates (Michael)	X	
Mr. Rodriguez (Anthony)	X	
Ms. Rodriguez (Lara)	X	
Mr. Velez (Carlos)	X	
Mr. James-Vickery (Scott), Vice Pres.	X	
Mr. Powell (Lancelot), President	X	

**II. Be It Resolved**, that the Hackensack Board of Education determines it is necessary to meet in Executive Session on Monday, June 22, 2020, to discuss **Legal matters**; and

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

*Trustee Goodman motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:22 p.m., seconded by Trustee Velez*

*Public portion resumed at 6:59 p.m.*

**III. Board Governance – a discussion of diversity and racism and a review of Board policy.**

*Trustee James-Vickery read the following resolution and moved to accept it. The motion was seconded by Trustee Goodman:*

**Whereas**, the Trustee Members of the Hackensack Board of Education supports the Community’s Outcry regarding racial inequality, and any form of bigotry or discrimination, and

**Whereas**, we wish to make it clear to the public that we are committed and stand unified to promote diversity and abolish such bigotry, and

**Whereas**, we support individual’s rights to freedom of expression and freedom of speech

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved**, that We, the Trustee Members of the Hackensack Board of Education reaffirm the Board Resolution adopted on June 15, 2020 in its entirety, and thus unequivocally stand in solidarity against any and all forms of discrimination.

*Prior to a formal vote on the resolution, Trustee Cogelja motioned to move into discussion, seconded by Trustee James-Vickery. Various Trustees requested clarification from Board Counsel as to the process.*

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Mr. Bendezu (Julio)	<b>X</b>			
Ms. Cogelja (Frances)	<b>X</b>			
Mr. Coleman (Christopher)	<b>X</b>			
Mr. Goodman (Ira)	<b>X</b>			
Mr. Oates (Michael)	<b>X</b>			
Mr. Rodriguez (Anthony)	<b>X</b>			
Ms. Rodriguez (Lara)	<b>X</b>			
Mr. Velez (Carlos)	<b>X</b>			
Mr. James-Vickery (Scott), Vice President	<b>X</b>			
Mr. Powell (Lancelot), President	<b>X</b>			

**IV. Public Comments**

**Whereas**, this special meeting is for the sole purpose of adopting the aforementioned resolution,

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the Hackensack Board of Education, limits tonight’s public comment to a total of 30 minutes; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the Board respectfully requests that public comment be restricted to tonight’s topic involving the aforementioned Resolution.

June 22, 2020

Special Meeting Minutes

Conducted via Zoom Teleconference

Board Counsel set the parameters of public comments, noting it was limited to the item on the agenda and that no disparaging remarks were permitted.

**A Summary of Public Comments is shown below:**

- The agenda should be released to the public sooner
- Endorsement of the Resolution by the members of HASA
- Urged Board Member Cogelja step down from the Board
- Compliance with By-Law #0167 regarding responses to public comment
- Comparison of the June 15 and June 22 Resolutions

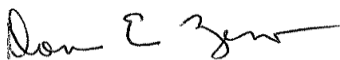
**V. Board Comments**

- Several Trustees suggested Mrs. Cogelja step aside as a Board Member, as her personal beliefs are a distraction. This would permit the district to focus on other time sensitive and more productive educational matters. Some Trustees reminded the public that one Trustee does not speak for all.
- Mrs. Cogelja provided a history of her efforts to join the Board. She respects each member of the Board and asserts her rights to free speech. She hopes the focus returns to what is best for our children.
- The President and Vice President concluded Board Comments by summarizing comments made by other Trustees, which encouraged Mrs. Cogelja to listen to the community and step aside as a Trustee. The Resolution adopted on June 15 and the Resolution affirmed tonight is the law of the land. The Trustees must abide by the law and none gets to inject his/her personal convictions, as they have no place in this arena. We must regain the trust of the public.

**VI. Adjournment**

*Trustee James-Vickery motioned to adjourn at 8:56 p.m., seconded by Trustee Goodman, all in favor.*

Respectfully submitted,



Dora E. Zeno  
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary