

**HACKENSACK BOARD OF EDUCATION
191 SECOND STREET, HACKENSACK, NJ 07601
ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2023**

I. Flag Salute/Sunshine Statement/Call to Order

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. The January 4, 2023 Annual Organization Meeting of the Hackensack Board of Education was called to order at 6:17 p.m. by Lydia Singh, President Pro Tem. It was held at the Hackensack High School Media Center.




II. Roll Call

<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Mr. Bendezu (Julio)		X
Mr. Carroll (Demetrius)	X	
Mr. Coleman (Christopher)*	X	
Mr. Goodman (Ira)	X	
Ms. Maury (Jennifer)	X	
Mr. Oates (Michael)	X	
Mr. Powell (Lancelot)	X	
Mr. Rodriguez (Anthony)*	X	
Ms. Somerville (Marlene)	X	
Mr. James-Vickery (Scott)	X	

*Mr. Coleman and Mr. Rodriguez participated electronically via Zoom

III. Election Results

Hackensack School Board (three three-year terms)

Candidate	Total Votes
Michael Scott James-Vickery*	3,274 
Demetrius Carroll*	3,683 
Lissette Cordero-Outen	3,102 
Jarret Freeman	1,632

*Incumbent

IV. The Oath of Office was Administered to newly elected Board Members:

- Demetrius Carroll
- Michael Scott James-Vickery
- Lissette Cordero-Outen

V. Nominations/Election of Board President

The Board Secretary accepted nominations for the Office of President of the Hackensack Board of Education for the calendar year 2023.

- Mr. Coleman nominated Mr. James-Vickery
- Mr. Powell nominated Ms. Sommerville

In the absence of further nominations, the Board Secretary closed nominations and a roll call for each candidate ensued.

On the nomination for **Mr. James-Vickery:**

<i>Motion: Mr. Coleman</i>	<i>Second: Trustee</i>			
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Mr. Bendezu (Julio)				X
Mr. Carroll (Demetrius)	X			
Mr. Coleman (Christopher)	X			
Ms. Cordero-Outen (Lissette)	X			
Mr. James-Vickery (Scott)	X			
Ms. Maury (Jennifer)	X			
Mr. Oates (Michael)	X			
Mr. Powell (Lancelot)			X	
Mr. Rodriguez (Anthony)	X			
Ms. Sommerville (Marlene)		X		

The nomination to elect Mr. Michael Scott James-Vickery to serve as President of the Board of Education for the 2023 calendar year resulted in a vote of 7 Ayes, 1 Nay, and 1 Abstention. Mr. James-Vickery then assumed the seat of the President.

VI. Nominations/Election of Board Vice President

The Board President accepted nominations for the Office of Vice President of the Hackensack Board of Education for the 2023 calendar year.

- Mr. Oates nominated Mr. Rodriguez
- Mr. Powell nominated Ms. Maury

In the absence of further nominations, the Board President closed nominations and a roll call for each candidate ensued.

On the nomination for **Candidate Rodriguez:**

<i>Motion: Trustee Oates</i>	<i>Second: Trustee</i>			
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Mr. Bendezu (Julio)				X
Mr. Carroll (Demetrius)		X		
Mr. Coleman (Christopher)	X			
Ms. Cordero-Outen (Lissette)	X			
Mr. James-Vickery (Scott)	X			
Ms. Maury (Jennifer)		X		
Mr. Oates (Michael)	X			
Mr. Powell (Lancelot)		X		
Mr. Rodriguez (Anthony)	X			
Ms. Sommerville (Marlene)		X		

The nomination to elect Mr. Rodriguez to serve as Vice President of the Board of Education for the 2023 calendar year resulted in a vote of 5 Ayes, 4 Nays, and 0 Abstentions. Mr. Rodriguez then assumed the seat of the Vice President.

VII. Distribution/Discussion Code of Ethics for School Board Members pursuant to the School Ethics Act (c.178,P.L.2001)

NJSBA Code of Ethics

The members of the Board of Education recognize that they hold authority not as individuals but as the members of the Board. In order to make a clear public statement of its philosophy of service to the pupils of the district, the Board adopts as its own, the School Board Member Code of Ethics promulgated by the New Jersey School Boards Association on May 10, 1975 and reproduced below:

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 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 policy making, 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 interests 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.

VIII Public Comments

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

1. 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.

Public comments was accepted in the following order:

1. In-person oral comments (if applicable);
 2. Remote oral comments (if applicable);
 3. In-person oral comments of those who have already spoken.
- Happy New Year everyone
 - Welcome to new board member Cordero-Outen
 - Concern regarding level of equity on the board. Women passed upon to take the role of President or Vice President

IX. Resolutions (Consent Agenda) Done in May of 2022

01. Be It Resolved, that the Hackensack Board of Education designates the following meeting dates for Regular Public Meetings, for the 2023 calendar year; all meetings shall be held in accordance with the “Open Public Meetings Act” and formal action may be taken at any meeting; all meetings to be held at the Hackensack High School, commencing at 6:15 pm, convening immediately into Executive Session and reconvening the Regular Public Meeting to follow (time approximate 7:30 pm); and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board approves Roberts' Rules of Order, Newly Revised, to govern the Hackensack Board of Education in its deliberations and acts in all cases in which it is not inconsistent with statutes of the State of New Jersey, rules of the State Board of Education, or these Bylaws in accordance with Board Bylaw 0164:

<i>Meeting Date</i>	<i>Meeting Type</i>	<i>Location</i>
January 23, 2023	Regular Meeting	High School
February 27, 2023	Regular Meeting	High School
March 27, 2023	Regular Meeting	High School
April 24, 2023	Budget Hearing & Regular Meeting	High School
May 22, 2023	Regular Meeting	High School
June 26, 2023	Regular Meeting	High School

January 4, 2023

Hackensack Annual Organization Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2023*	Board Meeting Retreat	High School
July 24, 2023	Regular Meeting	High School
August 28, 2023	Regular Meeting	High School
September 18, 2023*	Regular Meeting	High School
October 23, 2023	Regular/Joint Boards Meeting	High School
November 20, 2023	Regular Meeting	High School
December 18, 2023	Regular Meeting	High School
January 4, 2024	Annual Organization Meeting	High School

**All meetings are held on the Fourth Monday unless it is a holiday or there is a conflict with the City Council meeting schedule or to meet the statutory Budget Public Hearing Schedule*

02. Be It Resolved, that the Hackensack Board of Education establishes the following Agenda Format to be observed and the order of business conducted at the Regular Public Meetings of the Board of Education; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board President has sole discretion to change the Agenda Format and order of business in the best interest of the Board of Education.

REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

I. Flag Salute/ Moment of Silence/Sunshine Statement/ Call to Order/ Roll Call
II. Executive Session
III. Approve Minutes
IV. Presentations
V. Superintendent's Report
VI. Public Comment: *Individuals may address the Board once on Agenda and School Matters of Community Interest for three (3) minutes on any item.*

VII. Committee Reports/Resolutions
A. Personnel
B. Policy
C. Curriculum/Special Education
D. Finance/Budget
E. Buildings/Grounds

VIII. Board Comments

IX. Adjournment

The Board Agenda was modified by the Board to include;

- Community Relations
- Old Business
- New Business

Consent agenda items 01 through 02

<i>Motion: Trustee Carroll</i>	<i>Second: Trustee Powell</i>			
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Mr. Bendezu (Julio)				X
Mr. Carroll (Demetrius)	X			
Mr. Coleman (Christopher)	X			
Ms. Cordero-Outen (Lissette)	X			
Mr. James-Vickery (Scott)	X			
Ms. Maury (Jennifer)	X			
Mr. Oates (Michael)	X			
Mr. Powell (Lancelot)	X			
Mr. Rodriguez (Anthony)	X			
Ms. Sommerville (Marlene)	X			

X. Board Comments

Happy New Year. Happy Holidays
Welcome new trustee Cordero-Outen
Welcome back to returning board members
Possibility of rotating leadership roles (President & Vice-President) in the future
Thank you to the community for voting. Looking forward to serving the community
New body of people with the opportunity to start fresh
Every conversation/comment must relate back to the students

XI. Adjournment:

*Trustee Powell motioned to adjourn at 7:55 p.m., seconded by Trustee Carroll,
with all members present voting aye.*

Respectfully submitted,



Lydia Singh,
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary