

**HACKENSACK BOARD OF EDUCATION
 191 SECOND STREET, HACKENSACK, NJ 07601
 ORGANIZATION MEETING
 MINUTES
 JANUARY 4, 2024**

I. Flag Salute/Sunshine Statement/Call to Order

In accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, *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 Organization Meeting of the Hackensack Board of Education, Thursday, January 4, 2024, in the Hackensack High School Media Center, at 6:16 pm.

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
Ms. Cordero-Outen (Lissette)	X	
Ms. Harris (Jennifer)	X	
Mr. Meehan (Andrew)		X
Mr. Powell (Lancelot)	X	
Ms. Somerville (Marlene)	X	
Mr. Rodriguez (Anthony), Vice President		X
Mr. James-Vickery (Scott), President	X	

** Board Secretary to distribute Board Member Packets*

III. Election Results

Hackensack School Board (three-year terms)

Candidate	Total Votes
Mark Stein	2,036 ✓
Kenneth Martin	1,988 ✓
Shivonnie Pringle	1,821 ✓
Susan Avallone	1,075
Yvette Irving	1,064
Nancy Veloz	1,045
Sophia Brown	877
Dana Martinez	853
Andrew Meehan	454

*Incumbent

IV. Administer the Oath of Office to newly elected Board Members:

- Mark Stein
- Kenneth Martin
- Shivonnie Pringle

State Representative Josh Gotthemier administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Trustee Martin, Pringle, and Stein.

Meeting adjourned for a break at 6:45pm and resumed at 7:00pm

V. Nominations/Election of Board President

The Board Secretary will now entertain nominations for the Office of President of the Hackensack Board of Education for the calendar year 2024.

- Ms. Cordero-Outen nominated Mr. James-Vickery

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

<i>Motion: Trustee</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			
Ms. Cordero-Outen (Lissette)	x			
Ms. Harris (Jennifer)		x		
Mr. Martin (Kenneth)	x			
Mr. Powell (Lancelot)			x	
Ms. Pringle (Shivonnie)	x			
Ms. Somerville (Marlene)			x	
Mr. Stein (Mark)	x			
Mr. James-Vickery (Scott)	x			

The nomination to elect Mr. Scott James-Vickery to serve as President of the Board of Education for the 2023/2024 school year resulted in a vote of 6 Ayes, 1 Nay, and 2 Abstentions. 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 2023/2024 school year

- Mr. Stein nominated Ms. Cordero-Outen
- Ms. Somerville nominated Ms. Harris

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

On the nomination for **Candidate Cordero-Outen:**

Motion: Trustee	Second: Trustee			
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Bendezu (Julio)				x
Mr. Carroll (Demetrius)	x			
Ms. Cordero-Outen (Lisette)	x			
Ms. Harris (Jennifer)		x		
Mr. Martin (Kenneth)	x			
Mr. Powell (Lancelot)		x		
Ms. Pringle (Shivonnie)	x			
Ms. Somerville (Marlene)		x		
Mr. Stein (Mark)	x			
Mr. James-Vickery (Scott)	x			

The nomination to elect Ms. Cordero-Outen to serve as Vice President of the Board of Education for the 2022/2023 school year resulted in a vote of 6 Ayes, 3 Nays, and 0 Abstentions, thus there were sufficient votes of the majority of those present and therefore Ms. Cordero-Outen assumed the seat of Vice-President.

VII. Code of Ethics Presentation pursuant to the School Ethics Act (c.178,P.L.2001) by Matt Lee-Field Service Representative for Bergen County

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.

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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 shall be 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
 - All about the students
 - Wednesday meetings pose a concern for the community churches
 - New curriculum in math and reading has been difficult for both students and teachers and needs to meet developmental standards
 - Congratulations to the new board members
 - Professional development opportunities to stay informed with teaching methods

IX. Resolutions (Consent Agenda) Done in May of 2024

01. Be It Resolved, that the Hackensack Board of Education designates the following meeting dates for Regular Public Meetings, for the 2024 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 4, 2024	Annual Organization Meeting	High School

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<i>Meeting Date</i>	<i>Meeting Type</i>	<i>Location</i>
January 24, 2024	Regular Meeting	High School
February 21, 2024	Regular Meeting	High School
March 27, 2024	Regular Meeting	High School
April 24, 2024	Budget Hearing & Regular Meeting	High School
May 22, 2024	Regular Meeting	High School
June 26, 2024	Regular Meeting	High School
July 10, 2024*	Board Meeting Retreat	High School
July 24, 2024	Regular Meeting	High School
August 21, 2024	Regular Meeting	High School
September 25, 2024	Regular Meeting	High School
October 23, 2024	Regular/Joint Boards Meeting	High School
November 20, 2024	Regular Meeting	High School
December 18, 2024	Regular Meeting	High School
January 3, 2025	Annual Organization Meeting	High School

**All meetings are held on the third or fourth Wednesday of the month unless it is a holiday, 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 01-02				
Motion: Trustee Carroll		Second: Trustee Cordero-Outen		
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Bendezu (Julio)				x
Mr. Carroll (Demetrius)			x 01	
Ms. Cordero-Outen (Lissette)	x			
Ms. Harris (Jennifer)		x 01		
Mr. Martin (Kenneth)	x			
Mr. Powell (Lancelot)			x 01	
Ms. Pringle (Shivonnie)	x			
Ms. Somerville (Marlene)		x 01		
Mr. Stein (Mark)	x			
Mr. James-Vickery (Scott)	x			

X. Board Comments

- Happy New Year Everyone
- Congrats and Welcome to new trustees
- Congratulations to Dr. McBryde
- Matt Lee knowledgeable
- Welcome students and teachers back into school after the break
- Thank you State Representative Gotteimer
- Dr. McBryde taking Hackensack to another level
- Thank you teachers for comments and attending board meetings
- Thank you everyone for coming out

XI. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:36pm

Respectfully submitted,



Lydia Singh,
 School Business Administrator/Board Secretary