

Perth Amboy Board of Education
ORGANIZATION MEETING
January 7, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.
Perth Amboy High School
931 Convery Boulevard

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Michael LoBrace, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Notice of Meeting
“The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Perth Amboy Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted at the bulletin board in the Administrative Headquarters Building, mailing notices to The Home News Tribune, El Diario/La Prensa, City Clerk Kupsch, as well as all other persons requiring notification pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law.”
4. Report on Election – Michael LoBrace, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
5. Oath of Office – Administration of Oath of Office to newly elected members

Mr. LoBrace reported on results of elections.

- Ms. Crawford - 3,165 votes
- Mr. George -3,775 votes
- Ms. Velez -3,840 votes

Newly elected Board members were sworn in by the Board Secretary.

6. Roll Call – Mr. Michael LoBrace, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mr. Anderson	<u>P</u>	Ms. Crawford	<u>P</u>
Mr. George	<u>P</u>	Ms. González	<u>P</u>
Mr. Marte	<u>P</u>	Ms. Melendez	<u>P</u>
Mr. Quiles	<u>P</u>	Ms. Velez	<u>P</u>

Administration:

Dr. Roman	<u>P</u>
Dr. Medina	<u>P</u>
Mr. Rodriguez	<u>P</u>
Ms. Machado	<u>P</u>
Mr. LoBrace	<u>P</u>

7. Election of Board President:

A. Nominations

Nomination for Ms. González

<u>George</u>	<u>Melendez</u>
Moved	Seconded

Nomination for Mr. Marte

<u>Crawford</u>	<u>Anderson</u>
Moved	Seconded

B. Motion to Close Nominations

<u>González</u>	<u>Velez</u>
Moved	Seconded

All in favor

C. Roll Call

Votes for M. González

Mr. Anderson	<u> N </u>	Ms. Crawford	<u> N </u>
Mr. George	<u> Y </u>	Ms. González	<u> Y </u>
Mr. Marte	<u> Y </u>	Ms. Melendez	<u> Y </u>
Mr. Quiles	<u> Y </u>	Ms. Velez	<u> Y </u>

Motion passes 6 to 2. Ms. González is elected Board President

8. Election of Board Vice President:

A. Nominations

Nomination for Ms. Melendez

<u>González</u>	<u>Velez</u>
Moved	Seconded

B. Motion to Close Nominations

<u>George</u>	<u>González</u>
Moved	Seconded

All in favor

C. Roll Call

Votes For J. Melendez

Mr. Anderson	<u> A </u>	Ms. Crawford	<u> Y </u>
Mr. George	<u> Y </u>	Ms. González	<u> Y </u>
Mr. Marte	<u> Y </u>	Ms. Melendez	<u> Y </u>
Mr. Quiles	<u> Y </u>	Ms. Velez	<u> Y </u>

Motion passes 7 to 0 with one Abstention

9. **WHEREAS** the following Code of Ethics (Bylaws Nos. 9270 and 9271) for Board Members is set forth as a guide to conflict-of-interest situations and unethical activity for Board Members:
- 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 and ethical procedures.
 - 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.
 - I will confine my Board action to policymaking, 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.
 - 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.

- 3 -

- 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.
- I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or the gain of friends.
- 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.
- I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the Chief Administrative Officer.
- I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties.
- 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 (Authority: BD2/71, DA 5/75-CR Ethics, BD 6/85, DA 5/97-7, 11/98-SR);

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that each Board Member shall abide by the Code of Ethics and has signed an Acknowledgment of Receipt to confirm that they have received a copy of the Code of Ethics for School Board Members contained within the School Ethics Act, C.178, P.L. 2001. Failure to sign this Acknowledgment does not relieve a Board Member of the responsibility to understand and adhere to the Code of Ethics.

Mr. LoBrace reviewed the Code of Ethics.

10. Meeting open to the public for discussion of agenda items and non-agenda items. There will be only one public participation session at this meeting.

At this time, comments are invited on any matter. Public participation shall be governed by Policy No. 0167. Anyone wishing to address the Board, please state your name, municipality of residence and group affiliation. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer. No member of the public may address or question board members individually. Although the Board encourages public participation, it reserves the right, through its presiding officer, to terminate remarks to and/or by any individual not keeping with the conduct of a proper and efficient meeting. The Board discourages the public from speaking negatively about any employee, administrator, or student. Individuals can be held personally liable for defamatory or libelous statements made at public meetings. The Board bears no responsibility for comments made by members of the public. Comments regarding employees, administrators or students cannot be legally responded to by any member of the Board or administration.

Public Speaker #1 - Congratulated the new Board members and wished them well.

Public Speaker #2 – Extended congratulations to the new Board members and expressed gratitude to the entire Board for their collective efforts. Recognized the academic achievement of a former student.

Anderson
Motion

Crawford
Seconded

(To close following discussion)

All in favor.

11. **WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b), the Board of Education may exclude the public from that portion of a public meeting wherein the board discusses any of the matters set forth at N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b) (1) -(9);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act (“Act”), the Board of Education shall conduct a closed session pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) for the purpose of discussing the following matter(s):

- ☐ Matters rendered confidential by state or federal law
- ☐ Personnel
- ☐ Student(s) – Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying
- ☐ Termination of employee
- ☒ Appointment of a public official

- 4 -

- _____ Matters covered by the attorney-client privilege
- _____ Pending or anticipated litigation
- _____ Pending or anticipated contract negotiations
- _____ Protection of the safety or property of the public
- _____ Matters involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds
- _____ Matters which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy
- _____ Matters in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the United States Government
- _____ Matters concerning collective negotiations and/or the negotiations of terms and conditions of employment of employees of the Board of Education
- _____ Possible imposition of a civil penalty or suspension
- _____ Any matter which could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of the matters were disclosed

It is anticipated that the length of time of this executive session will be 15 minutes, and that action may be taken in public after the executive session.

Motion to enter Executive Session

<u>Quiles</u>	<u>Velez</u>
Motion	Seconded

All in favor 6:09pm

Motion to close Executive Session

<u>Quiles</u>	<u>Velez</u>
Motion	Seconded

All in favor 7:02pm

12. Candidate interviews – Vacant Board Member Position

The Board Interviewed Mr. Isaiah Gomez for the vacant position. Only one candidate application was submitted.

Motion to close candidate interviews

<u>Anderson</u>	<u>Velez</u>
Motion	Seconded

All in favor.

13. There was no need for a second Executive Session.

14. Motion to appoint New Board Member to vacant position

Roll call to appoint Mr. Gomez as a Board Member

Mr. Anderson	<u> Y </u>	Ms. Crawford	<u> Y </u>
Mr. George	<u> Y </u>	Ms. González	<u> Y </u>
Mr. Marte	<u> Y </u>	Ms. Melendez	<u> Y </u>
Mr. Quiles	<u> Y </u>	Ms. Velez	<u> Y </u>

15. Motions

Adoption of regular meeting schedule of the Board.

Thursday, February 6, 2025	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, March 13, 2025	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Wednesday, April 10, 2025	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, May 8, 2025	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, June 12, 2025	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, August 28, 2025	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, September 18, 2025	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, October 16, 2025	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, November 20, 2025	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd

16. Motions

- A. Designation of the following banks as depositories for school funds upon evidence of eligibility from the State of New Jersey, and the signatures required for withdrawals on the various bank accounts maintained at the aforementioned banks be designated as indicated in Attachment A:

- Wells Fargo
- TD Bank
- The Provident Bank
- Central Jersey Federal Credit Union
- Lakeland Savings Bank
- Popular Bank

- B. Designation of the Home News Tribune as the newspaper of general circulation published in New Jersey circulating within the Perth Amboy area to be utilized for advertisements concerning public bids and other notices in accordance with Title 18A:14-10, 22-11 and 39-3 of the New Jersey State Statutes, and for El Diario/La Prensa to receive all Board meeting announcements and are hereby to receive a schedule of same.

- C. Re-adoption of the existing By-Laws and Policies in full force for the operation of the Board and school system

- D. Resolved, that the Perth Amboy Board of Education, in the County of Middlesex, does hereby adopt and/or reaffirm the adoption of all curricula for courses of study listed for the Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 school curriculum and

Be it further Resolved that an official record of all courses be maintained on file in the Board of Education Office and be available for review.

- E. Resolved, all warrants shall be signed by the Board President, Board Secretary, and/or Treasurer of School Moneys, as appropriate to the district. The Board must approve all claims for payment.

Be it further Resolved, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary or his designee, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:19-4.1, is authorized to approve payment of claims, interest on bonds as it becomes due, payments to redeem bonds as they become due, progress payments to contractors in accordance with a contract approved by the Board and is directed to execute warrants without further action on the part of the Board for payment, when due, of the salaries and health benefits of all Board of Education personnel heretofore, as well as other payments necessary to the payroll operation prior to presentation to the Board. Any such approval of payment must be presented to the Board for ratification at the next regular Board meeting.

A motion was made to for the approval of items 15 through 16E.

Melendez
Motion

Quiles
Seconded

All in favor.

17. There was no need for another Executive Session

Old Business

Quiles
Motion

Melendez
Seconded

Motion to close old business

Quiles
Motion

Crawford
Seconded

All in favor

- 6 -

New Business

Quiles
Motion

Crawford
Seconded

Dr. Roman honored former Board member Ms. Megan Oduyela by presenting her with an award.

Ms. Oduyela expressed gratitude, thanked her colleagues, and encouraged the Board to continue progressing.

President González acknowledged the former Board member with accolades.

Mr. Marte also recognized the former Board member and thanked her for her dedicated service.

Motion to close new business

Crawford
Motion

Melendez
Seconded

All in favor

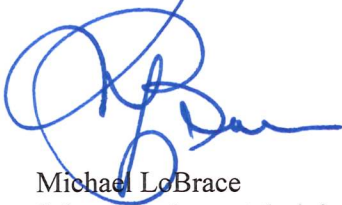
Motion to Adjourn

Velez
Motion

Crawford
Seconded

All in favor. 7:22pm

Respectfully submitted,



Michael LoBrace
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary