

JACKSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REORGANIZATION MEETING  
ON-LINE VIDEO CONFERENCE FORMAT BOARD MEETING  
(GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC CRISIS)  
JANUARY 6, 2021

The Reorganization Meeting of the Jackson Township Board of Education was held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law and was called to order by the Board Secretary/Business Administrator, Michelle Richardson at 6:30 P.M.

After the salute to the flag and the Certification of the meeting according to the tenets of the Open Public Meeting Law, Ms. Richardson made the following statement:

“This meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law and has been duly advertised in the Asbury Park Press on January 2<sup>nd</sup> as an Official Meeting.

Welcome to the Jackson Township Board of Education Meeting. Thank you for joining us. We usually meet at 151 Don Connor Blvd. However, because of COVID-19 and Governor Murphy’s mandate that we can only have 25 people in a public meeting, this BOE meeting is being held in this online video conferencing format.

We will follow the guidelines we set up in the spring for this meeting format. Our goal is to have opportunities for the public to view and participate in the meeting, as is their right under the Open Public Meetings Act. This is a temporary method we can use while the state is in the COVID-19 State of Emergency and while social distancing requirements are in place for your safety and ours.

If you would like to have an agenda for tonight’s meeting, please go to the district website. There is an announcement right on the home page and you will find the agenda and directions for how to participate in the meeting.

During this meeting, there is one public forum. If any member of the public has a question, please follow the directions on the banner at the bottom of your screen to ask your question. If a member of the public is disruptive, the individual will be muted and will be warned that continued disruption may result in them being prevented from speaking during the meeting or being removed from the meeting.”

Roll Call: Present: Mr. Herman  
Mr. Burnetsky  
Mr. Colucci  
Mr. Walsh  
Mrs. Rivera  
Mr. Sargent

Absent: Mr. Acevedo

Also present: Mrs. N. Pormilli, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. D. Baginski, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. R. Rotante, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. M. Zitomer, Board Attorney.

At this time Board Secretary, Ms. Richardson announced the Official Election Results from the Ocean County Clerk’s office for the November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 School Board Election. Scott Sargent received 14,504 votes, Tara Rivera received 13,413 votes, and Tzvi Herman received 10,635 votes as certified by the County Board of Elections on November 23. Ms. Richardson administered the Oath of Office and swore in re-elected Board Members, Mrs. Tara Rivera and Mr. Scott Sargent, and newly elected Board Member, Mr. Tzvi Herman, as members of the Jackson Board of Education.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

At this time, nominations for the President of the Board were requested by the Board Secretary.

#### **Nominations for President**

Mr. Herman nominated Mrs. Rivera for President.

Mr. Burnetsky nominated Mr. Walsh for President.

Mr. Colucci nominated Mr. Walsh for President.

Mr. Walsh nominated himself for President.

Mrs. Rivera nominated herself for President.

Mr. Sargent nominated Mrs. Rivera for President.

On a motion by Mr. Burnetsky, seconded by Mr. Walsh, the board secretary closed the nominations for President and proceeded with the roll call vote for President nominees, Mr. Michael Walsh and Mrs. Tara Rivera.

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Roll Call Vote: Mr. Herman voted Mrs. Rivera for President.  
Mr. Burnetsky voted Mr. Walsh for President.  
Mr. Colucci voted Mr. Walsh for President.  
Mr. Walsh voted himself for President.  
Mrs. Rivera voted herself for President.  
Mr. Sargent voted Mrs. Rivera for President.

Absent: Mr. Acevedo

Votes Received: Three Votes for Mr. Michael Walsh  
Three Votes for Mrs. Tara Rivera

Mr. Zitomer explained that per policy number #0152, the roll call vote should be conducted a second time. Mr. Zitomer asked if anyone was willing to nominate another candidate or withdraw their name from consideration. Hearing no comment, Ms. Richardson proceeded.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Herman voted Mrs. Rivera for President.  
Mr. Burnetsky voted Mr. Walsh for President.  
Mr. Colucci voted Mr. Walsh for President.  
Mr. Walsh voted himself for President.  
Mrs. Rivera voted herself for President.  
Mr. Sargent voted Mrs. Rivera for President.

Absent: Mr. Acevedo

Votes Received: Three Votes for Mr. Michael Walsh  
Three Votes for Mrs. Tara Rivera

Mr. Zitomer recommended moving on to the nomination for Vice President. He stated that the law dictates that should a board not decide on the presidency, the county superintendent would fill the position. Mr. Zitomer recommended electing a Vice President tonight to run the meeting and to vote for a President at the next meeting, when the full board is present.

**Nominations for Vice President**

Mr. Herman nominated Mr. Sargent for Vice President.

Mr. Burnetsky nominated Mr. Colucci for Vice President.

Mr. Colucci nominated himself for Vice President.

Mr. Walsh nominated Mr. Colucci for Vice President.

Mrs. Rivera nominated Mr. Sargent for Vice President.

Mr. Sargent nominated himself for Vice President.

On a motion by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Burnetsky, the board secretary closed the nominations for Vice President and proceeded with the roll call vote for Vice President nominees, Mr. Thomas Colucci and Mr. Scott Sargent.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Herman voted Mr. Sargent for Vice President.  
Mr. Burnetsky voted Mr. Colucci for Vice President.  
Mr. Colucci voted himself for Vice President.  
Mr. Walsh voted Mr. Colucci for Vice President.  
Mrs. Rivera voted Mr. Sargent for Vice President.  
Mr. Sargent voted himself for Vice President.

Absent: Mr. Acevedo

Votes Received: Three Votes for Mr. Thomas Colucci  
Three Votes for Mr. Scott Sargent

Mr. Zitomer recommended that the vote be taken again per policy #0152. If a Vice President cannot be elected, it was recommended that Ms. Richardson, Board Secretary preside over the meeting and a vote for President and Vice President will be conducted at the next meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Herman voted Mr. Sargent for Vice President.  
Mr. Burnetsky voted Mr. Colucci for Vice President.  
Mr. Colucci voted himself for Vice President.  
Mr. Walsh voted Mr. Colucci for Vice President.  
Mrs. Rivera voted Mr. Sargent for Vice President.  
Mr. Sargent voted himself for Vice President.

Absent: Mr. Acevedo

Votes Received: Three Votes for Mr. Thomas Colucci  
Three Votes for Mr. Scott Sargent

Mr. Zitomer requested that Ms. Richardson formally preside over the meeting in the absence of a President and Vice President.

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Burnetsky, the reorganization agenda was moved for approval.

Present: Mr. Herman  
Mr. Burnetsky  
Mr. Colucci  
Mr. Walsh  
Mrs. Rivera  
Mr. Sargent

Absent: Mr. Acevedo

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ms. Richardson turned the meeting over to Mrs. Pormilli.

Mrs. Pormilli introduced Mr. Zitomer to present the Board with a Code of Ethics presentation and discussion.

**Board Attorney Advisement - Code of Ethics**

1/8/2021

SCHENCK PRICE SMITH & KING, LLP  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
- FOUNDED 1912 -

Ethics  
Values

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**ETHICS FOR SCHOOL OFFICIALS**

Jackson Board of Education  
January 6, 2021

Presented by: Marc H. Zitomer, Esq.

Schenck Price

The School Ethics Act

In our representative form of government, it is essential that the conduct of members of local boards of education and local school administrators hold the respect and confidence of the people. The officials must avoid conduct which is in violation of the public trust or which creates a justifiable impression among the public that such trust is being violated.



Schenck Price

To Whom Does the Act Apply?

- The Act applies to Board members, employees or officers of the NJSBA and school administrators.
- The Code of Ethics contained in the Act applies only to Board members.



Schenck Price

The School Ethics Act

- Section 1 – The Prohibited Acts: addresses conflicts of interest (See Policy 0142).
- Section 2 – Code of Ethics (See Policy 0142).



Schenck Price

Code of Ethics Provisions:

I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, color, sex or social standing. §(b)

Schenck Price

Code of Ethics Provisions:

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. §(c).

Schenck Price

Code of Ethics Provisions:

**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. §(d).**



Schenck Price

To prove violation:

One must show that Respondent(s) gave a direct order to school personnel or became directly involved in activities or functions that are the responsibility of school personnel or the day-to-day administration of the school district. *NJAC 6A:28-6.4(a)(4)*

SEC found a violation of this section where a board member asked for copies of SAT reports directly from the guidance secretary, inspected lockers in the boys' locker room and instructed staff on the supervision of students. *In the Matter of Lahn, Deisea Bd. of Ed., C25-05 (December 20, 2005)*

Schenck Price

Code of Ethics Provisions:

- I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board. §(e).
- Factual evidence of a violation of this Code provision shall include evidence that the respondent made personal promises or took action beyond the scope of his or her duties such that, by its nature, had the *potential* to compromise the board.

Schenck Price

Code of Ethics Provisions:

**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. §(f)**

Schenck Price

Code of Ethics Provisions:

- I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters I will provide accurate information. §(g)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Schenck Price

Code of Ethics Provisions:

- I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties. §(i)
- Factual evidence of a violation of this Code provision shall include evidence that the respondent(s) took deliberate action which resulted in undermining, opposing, compromising or harming school personnel in the proper performance of their duties.

Schenck Price

Code of Ethics Provisions:

I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution §(j)



Schenck Price

Referral of Complaints to CSA cont.

The Code does not explain how the complaint is to be referred to the CSA.  
 Referral may be made by the Board member him/herself directly to the CSA; *or*  
 The Board member may direct the constituent to go directly to the CSA.



Schenck Price

Who Can File A Complaint?

- Any person may file a complaint alleging a violation of the Act or Code.
- There is a 6 month statute of limitations for filing complaints.



Schenck Price

The School Ethics Commission:

- The SEC is the only entity that can determine whether a school official's conduct violated the Act.
- Anyone can request an advisory opinion from the SEC about their own, or somebody else's, proposed course of conduct.

**VIOLATION**

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Sanctions for Violations of the Act:

- Reprimand;
- Censure;
- Suspension; or
- Removal.



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BOE MEMBER FREE SPEECH ISSUES:

- Board members have a First Amendment to express themselves, however, according to the Ethics Code, they may not disclose information which is inaccurate, confidential or which has the potential to compromise the Board.
- Members should not publicly criticize the staff.



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**FREE SPEECH CONTINUED:**

Members shall not represent his/her personal opinion as the position of the Board and shall include in all formal expressions in which his/her Board affiliation is likely to be recognized, such as letters to government officials or newspapers, speeches to organizations, and the like, a statement that he/she is a member of the Board, is speaking as a private citizen and the opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Board. (See Policy 0146, 0169 0169.02).

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**QUIZ**

1. A Board member would violate the Code of Ethics for Board members by actively participating in Initial and/or exit interviews for staff members.

True  
 Or  
 False

A31-15

Schenck Price  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**QUIZ**

2. A Board President violated section (l) of the Code when he posted a blog which included comments about a teacher in the District that implied she received the job due to her brother's political activities and that she was unqualified for her position"; alleged that Complainant did not want to resolve contract negotiations; President also referred to Complainant as a "greedy bastard" and implied she was a "bully;

True  
 Or  
 False

*Kwapniewski v. Curfoni, Lodi BOE (Dec. 2019)*



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**QUIZ**

3. It was a violation of Section (c) of the Act for the school principal in the district who was also the mayor and had relatives employed in the district to say during his Mayoral Address to the community "As an Educator, I have to vote for the [school] budget and I hope everyone else does too."

True  
 Or  
 False

C21-20

Schenck Price  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**QUIZ**

4. A board member violated section (e) of the Code when, after being pulled over, told a police officer she was a Board member, used profanity and threatened to call the Township administrator.

True  
 Or  
 False

*Fields v. Lawson-Muhammad*  
 C34-18



Schenck Price  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**QUIZ**

5. It is a violation of the Act for a board member to also serve as an executive officer of the PTA or any other PTA executive officer position.

True  
 or  
 False

A15-18

Schenck Price  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**QUIZ**

6. It was a violation of the Section(e) of the Code for a majority of Board members to negotiate a new contract for the Superintendent without informing the remaining Board members that they were doing so. (the final contact was eventually presented to the full Board for vote).

True  
 Or  
 False

C63-19

Schenck Price  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**QUIZ**

7. Board member was found to have violated *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1(g)* by inadvertently "replying all" to an email that included not only the board but the parent who brought a complaint to the board (the reply expressed that the board member felt that the board did not adequately address the parent's concern).

True  
 Or  
 False

C09-19

Schenck Price  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**QUIZ**

8. A Board member violated section (e) and (l) of the Code by asking the Director of Curriculum whether she was interested in the Superintendent, (her boss's) job?

True  
 Or  
 False

*Schwartz v. Gallagher, Avalon Stone Harbor BOE C01-018*



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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**QUIZ**

9. By *making a motion* to rename a school in the name of the Lieutenant Governor, Respondent violated *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1(f)* because he (Respondent), as a politically appointed Board member, used "the schools for personal gain" to have a school renamed in the name of the Lieutenant Governor, and in East Orange which is her "political base."

True  
 Or  
 False

*Jeffries v. Pullins, E. Orange BOE C44-19*

Schenck Price  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**QUIZ**

10. A board member who is currently a member of the NJEA in another district can vote on the final contract with the local association once the salary guides have been developed.

True  
 Or  
 False

A31-15



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**QUESTIONS?**



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**SEPARATE BOARD MOTION & VOTE ON MOTION #1E**  
**SCHOOL ETHICS ACT AND CODE OF ETHICS**

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Colucci, the Board of Education reaffirmed the School Ethics Act and Code of Ethics for School Board Members.

**Document A.**

Present: Mr. Herman  
Mr. Burnetsky  
Mr. Colucci  
Mr. Walsh  
Mrs. Rivera  
Mr. Sargent

Absent: Mr. Acevedo

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Board Comments on Motions 1F through 1CC**

Mr. Sargent questioned motion 1L. He asked if there was a standard interest rate on accounts with Ocean First Bank and if so, what that interest rate was.

Ms. Richardson responded that yes there is a standard interest rate but she did not have that figure with her at the moment. She stated that would email the Board with the interest rate.

On a motion by Mr. Colucci, seconded by Mr. Walsh, the Board of Education approved the following motions 1F through 1CC in block formation:

- F. The Board of Education authorized the use of electronic equipment to record all official board meetings for the period of February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022 for the purpose of preparing the official minutes, such recordings to be maintained for 45-days.
- G. The Board of Education designated the cost of \$15.00 per year for disseminating the annual notice (as provided in the Guidelines, re: Open Public Meeting Law), to any person requesting same, other than those so designated in the law. Designated recipients by law are: township clerk and the newspaper being officially designated by the Board.
- H. The Board of Education designated the Asbury Park Press as official newspaper of the Board of Education.
- I. The Board of Education reaffirmed the Board's rules and regulations, policies, curriculum and employee labor contracts as they now exist.
- J. The Board of Education reaffirmed the Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, as the guide for the conduct of all meetings when specific statutory guidance is lacking.
- K. The Board of Education reaffirmed the Combined Committee of the Whole (COTW)/Business meeting structure.
- L. The Board of Education designated the following banks as official banks of the Jackson Board of Education for the period of February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022:
  - Ocean First Bank
  - Bank of America
  - New Jersey ARM
  - NJ Cash Management Fund
  - TD Bank
  - U.S. Bank
- M. The Board of Education approved the following Resolution authorizing direct deposit for the period of February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF  
JACKSON, COUNTY OF OCEAN  
AUTHORIZING DIRECT DEPOSIT OF EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2013, Governor Chris Christie signed N.J.S.A. 52:14-15h, which requires direct deposit for all State employee compensation on and after July 1, 2014 and allows counties, county colleges, municipalities, and local school districts to opt for mandatory direct deposit for all employee compensation on or after July 1, 2014 into law; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2013 c. 38 further provides that a local school district is authorized to grant an exemption from the requirements adopted pursuant thereto, on such terms and

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conditions as the district may deem necessary, which exemption includes seasonal and temporary employees as may be deemed necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson Township Board of Education has implemented this system since May 2014 as part of its payroll account procedures for all School District employees; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Township of Jackson and the County of Ocean, New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Jackson Township Board of Education authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to continue to implement a system for direct deposit of net pay for all employees, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14-15h.
2. The Board Secretary and the Board Attorney shall take all further action necessary to effectuate the direct deposit of net pay for all employees directly deposited in a specific banking institution in a checking account, savings account, or share account designated in writing by the employee.
3. The Board shall make available for such employees who have net pay directly deposited as described hereinabove, all information concerning net pay, any accompanying information approved for distribution with net pay, and W-2 forms in accordance with applicable federal law, only on the Internet with restricted access and policies and procedures to protect the integrity and confidentiality of the information.
4. The Board is authorized to grant an exemption from the requirements adopted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14-15h, on such terms and conditions as the Board may deem necessary.
5. The Board is authorized to grant an exemption for seasonal and temporary employees as the Board may deem necessary.
6. The Board's current designated banking institution is Ocean First Bank which shall implement the direct deposit program for banking purposes.

N. The Board of Education set the official meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 6, 2021	Reorganization	6:30 PM	Online Video Conference Format
January 20, 2021	Combined COTW/Business	6:30 PM	Online Video Conference Format
February 17, 2021	Combined COTW/Business/ 2021-2022 Budget Presentations	6:30 PM	Online Video Conference Format
March 17, 2021	Combined COTW/Business/ Adopt Tentative Budget	6:30 PM	Online Video Conference Format
April 28, 2021	Combined COTW/Business/ 2021-2022 Budget Hearing	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
May 19, 2021	Combined COTW/Business	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
June 23, 2021	Combined COTW/Business/	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
July 21, 2021	Combined COTW/Business/Goal Setting	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
August 18, 2021	Combined COTW/Business	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
August 25, 2021	Business-Personnel only	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
September 22, 2021	Combined COTW/Business	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
October 27, 2021	Combined COTW/Business	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
November 17, 2021	Combined COTW/Business	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
December 15, 2021	Combined COTW/Business	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
January 5, 2022	Reorganization	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
January 19, 2022	Combined COTW/Business	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium

- O. The Board of Education appointed the firm of Schenck, Price, Smith & King, LLP, as general legal and labor counsel to the Board of Education for the period of February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022, in accordance with the terms of the annual retainer agreement.
- P. The Board of Education appointed Comegno Law Group, Morrestown, New Jersey as Special Education Counsel for the period of February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022, in accordance with the terms of the retainer agreement on file with the Business Administrator.
- Q. The Board of Education appointed Nicholas Montenegro of the firm of Montenegro, Thompson, Montenegro and Genz as special counsel for land acquisitions and other casework on an as needed basis for the period of February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022, in accordance with the terms of the annual retainer agreement.
- R. The Board of Education appointed Brielle Orthopedics @ Rothman Orthopedics, as School Physician for the period February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022, at an annual fee of \$30,000.00.
- S. The Board of Education appointed Integrity Consulting Group as Broker of Record for Employee Benefits for the period of February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021 in accordance with 18A:18A-5(10) as an (EUS) Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service.

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- T. The Board of Education appointed Glenn Insurance, Inc., Absecon, New Jersey, as Broker of Record for Property, Casualty and Worker's Compensation Insurance and Student Accident Insurance for the period of February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022 in accordance with 18A:18A-5(10) as an (EUS) Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service.
- U. The Board of Education appointed George Stone as Treasurer of School Funds for the period of February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022, at a salary of \$8,085.00.
- V. The Board of Education appointed the firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company as Board Auditor for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 to conduct the 2020-2021 audit in the amount of \$36,950.00.
- W. The Board of Education appointed Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc. Architect, as District Architect of Record for the period of February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022, in accordance with the terms of the professional services contract.
- X. The Board of Education appointed School Bus Ads, JAX Media Innovations for School Bus Advertising and approves a renewal contract to provide revenue sources for the Jackson Township Board of Education for the period of February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022, as per the policy of the Jackson Township Board of Education and the guidelines of the State of New Jersey.
- Y. The Board of Education appointed Ms. Michelle Richardson as the Qualified Purchasing Agent for the period of February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022.
- Z. The Board of Education, in compliance with the Department of the Treasury, Affirmative Action Office, designated Patricia Senus, Purchasing Specialist, as Public Agency Compliance Officer for the Jackson School District.
- AA. The Board of Education designated Mr. Ed Ostroff, Director-Buildings & Grounds for the following responsibilities, for the period of February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022:
- a. AHERA Representative
  - b. Asbestos Management Officer
  - c. Designated Person
  - d. District Safety Coordinator
  - e. EPA Designated Point of Contact
  - f. Indoor Air Quality Point of Contact
  - g. Integrated Pest Management Coordinator
  - h. Lead Paint Removal and Restoration
- BB. The Board of Education acknowledged receipt of procedures regarding "over expenditure of funds" N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)(4) (formerly N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(d)), with forms to be sent directly to the county superintendent of schools, if they suspect an over-expenditure of funds in the district.
- CC. The Board of Education authorized the Superintendent of Schools to sign and file all grant applications to the United States government and state government for educational program grants and to represent the District as required in reference to such grant applications.

Present: Mr. Herman  
Mr. Burnetsky  
Mr. Colucci  
Mr. Walsh  
Mrs. Rivera  
Mr. Sargent (Voted NO to motion 1L)

Absent: Mr. Acevedo

**MOTIONS CARRIED**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Walsh, the public forum was opened by acclamation.

Ms. Erwin connected caller Mr. Mordechai Burnstein, who congratulated the three newly elected board members. He commented that he had the opportunity to meet Mr. Herman and commended him for being a gentleman who is a passionate advocate for children. Mr. Bernstein also commended Ms. Richardson for her diligence and professionalism.

Ms. Erwin read an email from a resident that discussed at length the challenges that his student is facing. The parent felt that his student's special needs were not being accommodated and that his student's skills were regressing past repair.

Mrs. Pormilli responded that we agree; this is not the best case scenario for learning. We are in the planning stages and have a plan for students to return. That plan has been shared with the Board of Education and with the public. Our Phase II plan had to be paused based on where we are with the state and the high risk category that we are now in. We also recognize that students needed more in the hybrid model which is why we turn to synchronous learning on the day that the students return from remote. We know that the very best place for our students is in person in front of us. We have a lot of health guidelines we must follow and we are committed to getting students back as soon as we can.

Mrs. Pormilli continued that we want to implement a face-to-face plan and we are hopeful that in the next few weeks, we will get over this hurdle of an increase of cases. This will allow us to go back to our Phase II plan, which includes bringing our elementary students back five days a week, all of them in person on that half day schedule. We want to recognize to our parents and the public that we know this is not the best-case scenario for learning. When you look at districts around us, they too will acknowledge that. While some districts right now have actually moved to full remote learning due to the increases in COVID cases, we are working really hard to keep our schools open. It is a difficult task however. Staffing is very tight right now. Before the holiday break, we were right on the threshold of not having enough staff to cover our in-person classrooms due to the amount of quarantining needed. We are committed to keeping our schools open and right now, we are working hard to do that. We are setting up compensatory services soon for students as well as we are very much aware that we need to help close gaps and catch our students up and are planning accordingly.

Ms. Erwin read an email from another resident that discussed in length their concerns with the current learning models being offered.

Mrs. Pormilli answered that we agree with the fact that this is not the best way we should be educating students. It is more than ten people who problem solve these scenarios and we do spend a lot of time every day assessing and looking at what we can do next to expand where we are. That is where synchronous came from. As far as the "one size fits all" model, I do want to comment that we do not have a one size fits all model right now. We have had from the beginning of September when we opened our doors our special education students who are self-contained students come five days a week. The very next phase is to bring our elementary students into that too because we agree. For our youngest learners, it is more difficult for them to learn, not in person. You are not going to hear a disagreement from us seeing as we agree that we need to move in that direction. We are hopeful again in the next few weeks that when the spike goes down, we can staff better and we can move to Phase II.

There being no response, on a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Colucci, the public forum was closed by acclamation.

#### **RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION**

##### **FINANCE:**

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Burnetsky, the Board of Education approved the following motions in block formation:

1. The Board of Education approved the following Educational Services Commission Coordinated Transportation Resolution:

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION  
FOR PARTICIPATION IN COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION  
SY 2020-2021

WHEREAS, the **Jackson Township** Board of Education desires to transport special education, non-public, public and vocational school students to specific destinations; and

WHEREAS, the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey, hereinafter referred to as the ESCNJ, offers coordinated transportation services; and

WHEREAS, the ESCNJ will organize and schedule routes to achieve the maximum cost effectiveness;

NOW THEREFORE, it is agreed that in consideration of pro-rated contract costs, plus an administration fee of 2% or 4% for member districts, or of 6% for non-member districts, as presented to the **Jackson Township** Board of Education as calculated by the billing formula adopted by the ESCNJ's Board of Education. Said formula shall be based on a route cost divided by the number of students allocated to each participating district. The total amount to be charged to districts will be adjusted based on actual costs.

- I. The ESCNJ will provide the following services:
  - a. Routes coordinated with other districts to achieve a maximum cost reduction while maintaining a realistic capacity and travel time;
  - b. Monthly billing and invoices;
  - c. Computer print-outs of student lists for all routes coordinated by ESCNJ;
  - d. All necessary interaction and communication between the sending district, receiving school, and the respective transportation contractors;
  - e. Constant review and revision of routes;
  - f. Provide transportation within three days or sooner after receipt of the written request; and

It is further agreed that the **Jackson Township** Board of Education will provide the ESCNJ with the following:

- a. Requests for special transportation on approved forms to be provided by the ESCNJ, completed in full and signed by authorized district personnel;
  - b. Withdrawal for any transportation must be provided in writing and signed by authorized district personnel; no billing adjustments will be made without this completed form and will become effective on the date the form is received;
- II. Additional Cost – all additional costs generated by unique requests such as mid-day runs or early dismissals will be borne by the district. All such costs must first be approved by the **Jackson Township** Board of Education.
- III. Length of Agreement – this agreement and obligations and requirements therein shall be in effect between **July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021**.
- IV. Entire Agreement – this agreement constitutes the entire and only agreement between the parties and may be amended by an instrument in writing over authorized signature.

Present: Mr. Herman  
Mr. Burnetsky  
Mr. Colucci  
Mr. Walsh  
Mrs. Rivera  
Mr. Sargent

Absent: Mr. Acevedo

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PROGRAMS:**

On a motion by Mr. Burnetsky, seconded by Mr. Walsh, the Board of Education approved the following motions in block formation:

1. The Board of Education approved a revised 2020-2021 District Calendar reflecting the continuation of the Hybrid Group In Person schedule through March, 2021.

**Document C.**

2. The Board of Education approved the 2021-2022 District Calendar.

**Document D.**

3. The Board of Education approved the Title II Teacher Leader – Synchronous Learning Support for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid by Title II Grant Funds (20-270-200-110-09), not to exceed \$15,000.00, at no cost to the Board.

Present: Mr. Herman  
Mr. Burnetsky  
Mr. Colucci  
Mr. Walsh  
Mrs. Rivera  
Mr. Sargent

Absent: Mr. Acevedo

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PERSONNEL:**

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Colucci, the Board of Education approved the following motions in block formation:

1. The Board of Education approved the following Settlement Agreement and Release:

Resolved that the Board of Education hereby approves the Settlement Agreement and Release with Employee I.D. #2021-04/101742; and

Be it further resolved, that the Board hereby accepts the employee's resignation effective at the close of business on February 22, 2021.

2. The Board of Education approved the following personnel for the Title II Teacher Leader – Synchronous Learning Support for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid by Title II Grant Funds (20-270-200-110-09), not to exceed \$15,000.00, at no cost to the Board, effective January 7, 2021 through June 30, 2021:

Teachers, stipend \$1,500.00 each, unless otherwise noted:

- a. Marcus Villecco, Crawford-Rodriguez
- b. Meghan Swingle, Elms
- c. Tammy Johnson, Holman

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- d. Kimberly Scott-Carretta, Johnson
- e. Ian Struthers, Rosenauer
- f. Robert Autenrieth, Switlik-50%, shared position with Kristen Hoermann, \$750.00
- g. Kristen Hoermann, Switlik-50%, shared position with Robert Autenrieth, \$750.00
- h. Charles Rotunno, Goetz
- i. Caryn Buonocore, McAuliffe
- j. Katie Weir, JLHS
- k. Joseph Pienkowski, JMHS

3. The Board of Education approves the following Agreement:

Resolved, that the Board of Education approves the Agreement with Employee I.D.#2021-05/104392 in accordance with the terms and conditions therein.

Present: Mr. Herman (Abstained)  
Mr. Burnetsky (Abstained on Transportation &  
All Supervisors Related to Transportation)  
Mr. Colucci  
Mr. Walsh  
Mrs. Rivera  
Mr. Sargent

Absent: Mr. Acevedo

**MOTION CARRIED**

There being no further discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Walsh, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Richardson  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary