

MINUTES OF THE REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE WOODSTOWN-PILES GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 4, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY THROUGH GOOGLE HANGOUTS DUE TO COVID-19 DISTRICT CLOSURE.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Chin, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

READING OF STATEMENT OF NOTICE

Mrs. Chin read aloud the following: The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Woodstown-Piles Grove Regional Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in the South Jersey Times, Elmer Times, Borough of Woodstown Municipal Hall, Township of Piles Grove Municipal Hall, general offices and faculty rooms of the district's four schools, the school district's central office, and with the Borough of Woodstown Clerk and the Township of Piles Grove Clerk.

ROLL CALL OF SEATED BOARD MEMBERS:

Members Present: Mr. Carney, Mrs. Chiarelli, Dr. Haddad (arrived at 7:04 p.m.), Mr. Zigo

Members absent: Mrs. Miller.

Also Present: Mrs. Virginia M. Grossman, Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Rose Wang Chin, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Administrators Present: Mrs. Martinez, Ms. Pessolano, and Mr. Ursino.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AND APPOINTED SENDING DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. Chin administered the oath of office to the newly elected Board Members and appointed sending district representative as follows (Note: Upper Pittsgrove and Alloway had not named representatives at this time):

Richard Carr  
Robert Scardino  
Jeffrey String  
Shonta Thomas

Mrs. Chin then roll called the newly sworn in and seated board members.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Dr. Carr, Mr. Scardino, Mr. String and Ms. Thomas.

FLAG SALUTE

Mrs. Chin then led the group in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Chin asked for a motion to open the floor for nominations for the Office of President of the Board of Education.

Moved by Mr. Carney, seconded by Mrs. Chiarelli, and carried 8-0 that the Board of Education open the floor for nominations for the Office of President.

Mr. String nominated Maricia Chiarelli as President.

Mr. Zigo nominated Nelson Carney as President.

There being no further nominations, Mrs. Chin asked for a motion to close the floor for nominations for the Office of President.

Moved by Mr. Scardino, seconded by Mrs. Chiarelli, and carried 8-0 that the Board of Education close the floor for nominations for the Office of President.

A show of hands was taken for the Office of President as follows:

<u>Mrs. Chiarelli</u>	<u>Mr. Carney</u>
Mrs. Chiarelli	Mr. Carney
Dr. Haddad	Dr. Carr
Mr. String	Mr. Scardino
	Mr. Zigo
	Mrs. Thomas

Motion that the Board of Education approve Nelson Carney as President of the Board of Education for a term of one year, commencing January 4, 2021 and until their successor is elected and shall qualify.

Motion made by: Maricia Chiarelli

Motion seconded by: Shonta Thomas

Nelson Carney – Yes

Richard Carr – Yes

Maricia Chiarelli – Yes

Victoria Haddad – Yes

Robert Scardino – Yes

Jeffrey String – Yes

Shonta Thomas – Yes

Travis Zigo – Yes

Mrs. Chin asked for a motion to open the floor to nominations for the Office of Vice President of the Board of Education.

Moved by Mr. Scardino, seconded by Mrs. Chiarelli, and carried 8-0 that the Board of Education open the floor for nominations for the Office of Vice-President.

Mr. Zigo nominated Maricia Chiarelli as Vice-President.

There being no further nominations, Mrs. Chin asked for a motion to close the floor for nominations for the Office of Vice-President.

Moved by Mr. Carr, seconded by Mr. String, and carried 8-0 that the Board of Education close the nominations for the Office of Vice-President.

Motion that the Board of Education approve Maricia Chiarelli as Vice-President of the Board of Education for a term of one year, commencing January 4, 2021 and until their successor is elected and shall qualify.

Motion made by: Nelson Carney  
Motion seconded by: Mr. Scardino  
Nelson Carney – Yes  
Richard Carr – Yes  
Maricia Chiarelli – Yes  
Victoria Haddad – Yes  
Robert Scardino – Yes  
Jeffrey String – Yes  
Shonta Thomas – Yes  
Travis Zigo – Yes

#### APPOINTMENT OF BOARD SECRETARY AND PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER (P.A.C.O)

Motion that the Board of Education approve the following appointments:

Approve by resolution, and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A: 17-5, the appointment of Mrs. Rose Wang Chin, as Board Secretary effective immediately for a one-year term that expires January 15, 2022.

Designate Mrs. Rose Wang Chin as the Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O) effectively immediately through to the next reorganization meeting in January 2022.

Motion made by: Nelson Carney  
Motion seconded by: Travis Zigo  
Nelson Carney – Yes  
Richard Carr – Yes  
Maricia Chiarelli – Yes  
Victoria Haddad – Yes  
Robert Scardino – Yes  
Jeffrey String – Yes  
Shonta Thomas – Yes  
Travis Zigo – Yes

#### CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING - Mrs. Chin reviewed the Code of Ethics attachments with the Board.

Motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey School Boards Association "Code of Ethics" shall be considered the official Code of Ethics of the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional Board of Education.

Motion made by: Maricia Chiarelli  
Motion seconded by: Shonta Thomas  
Nelson Carney – Yes  
Richard Carr – Yes  
Maricia Chiarelli – Yes  
Victoria Haddad – Yes  
Robert Scardino – Yes  
Jeffrey String – Yes  
Shonta Thomas – Yes  
Travis Zigo – Yes

#### ADOPTION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS

Motion to authorize the South Jersey Times and the Elmer Times be adopted as the official newspapers to be used for the advertisement of meetings and legal ads and all other necessary public notifications for 2021.

Motion made by: Nelson Carney  
Motion seconded by: Maricia Chiarelli  
Nelson Carney – Yes  
Richard Carr – Yes  
Maricia Chiarelli – Yes  
Victoria Haddad – Yes  
Robert Scardino – Yes  
Jeffrey String – Yes  
Shonta Thomas – Yes  
Travis Zigo – Yes

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT/ESTABLISH MEETING DATES, TIME AND PLACE

Motion that the Board of Education approve the following Open Public Meetings Act Resolution and attached Board of Education meeting dates for 202 through to the next reorganization meeting in January 2022. (see page \_\_\_)

RESOLVED that the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional Board of Education, pursuant to Chapter 231, PAL. (Open Public Meetings Act) does hereby proclaim the public meetings of the Board of Education will be held in William Roper School Multi-Purpose Room, 211 East Lake Road, Pilesgrove, NJ, at 7:00 p.m., as set forth in the attachment unless indicated otherwise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the Regular Meetings shall be the normal conduct of business of the Board of Education and any other items brought to the Board's attention by the Board Members, Board Attorney, Superintendent and Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education does hereby designate the South Jersey Times and the Elmer Times as official newspapers to receive notices of meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notices of meetings of the Board of Education will be sent to the Borough of Woodstown Clerk, Township of Pilesgrove Clerk, and will be posted in the Borough of Woodstown Municipal Hall, the Township of Pilesgrove Municipal Hall, the general offices and faculty rooms of the four District schools, the School District's Central Office and the school district's website; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education reserves the right to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time to discuss such matters that may be considered in closed session. However, the Board will first adopt a resolution stating the general nature of the subject to be discussed, and, as precisely as possible, the time and circumstances under which disclosure to the public will be made; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in order to conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board shall require the following procedures pertaining to public participation at Board meetings:

- Any individual desiring to speak shall give his or her name, address, and the group, if any, that is represented.
- The presentation shall be as brief as possible but no more than three (3) minutes per individual.
- The Board vests in its president, or other presiding officer, authority to terminate the remarks of any individual if he/she deems it in the best interest of those present to do so.

Motion made by: Robert Scardino

Motion seconded by: Nelson Carney

Richard Carr – Yes

Maricia Chiarelli – Yes

Victoria Haddad – Yes

Robert Scardino – Yes

Jeffrey String – Yes

Shonta Thomas – Yes

Travis Zigo – Yes

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Motion to approve the following resolution:

Except as may otherwise be provided by law, the proceedings of the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District School Board shall ordinarily be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order; provided, that a failure to observe or enforce such rules shall in no manner affect the regularity, validity or legality of any action or proceeding taken by the Board. The School Board, in its discretion, hereby reserves the right to proceed at any time otherwise than as prescribed in Robert's Rules of Order and to appoint the board secretary and board attorney to act as the parliamentarians for 2021.

Motion made by: Nelson Carney

Motion seconded by: Maricia Chiarelli

Nelson Carney – Yes

Richard Carr – Yes

Maricia Chiarelli – Yes

Victoria Haddad – Yes

Robert Scardino – Yes

Jeffrey String – Yes

Shonta Thomas – Yes

Travis Zigo – Yes

BOARD POLICIES/REGULATIONS

Motion to adopt all existing Board Policies and Procedures.

Motion made by: Shonta Thomas

Motion seconded by: Travis Zigo

Nelson Carney – Yes

Richard Carr – Yes

Maricia Chiarelli – Yes

Victoria Haddad – Yes

Robert Scardino – Yes

Jeffrey String – Yes

Shonta Thomas – Yes

Travis Zigo – Yes

## DOCTRINE OF NECESSITY

Motion to approve the Doctrine of Necessity resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq. was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence in school board members and school administrators and to provide specific ethical standards to guide their conduct; and

WHEREAS, questions have arisen regarding how a Board should invoke the Doctrine of Necessity when a quorum of a board of education has conflicts of interest on a matter required to be voted upon; and

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Commission has provided some guidance in Public Advisory Opinion A03-98 (April 1, 1998) but finds that there is a need to repeat and clarify its opinion; and

WHEREAS, the opinion set forth that, when it is necessary for a Board to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity, the Board should state publicly that it is doing so, the reason that such action is necessary and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

WHEREAS, the opinion further provided that if the Board must invoke the Doctrine of Necessity not just to vote, but also to form a negotiations committee because it is without even three members to serve as a committee, then the Board must determine whether to act as a committee of the whole or to choose a smaller negotiations committee from among its members after stating publicly its reason for doing so as set forth above; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the Legislative purpose as set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:12-22(a) the School Ethics Commission views public disclosure of conflicts of interest to be paramount when it is necessary to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the School Ethics Commission hereby requires Boards of Education and Charter School Boards of Trustees that must invoke the Doctrine of Necessity to adopt a resolution setting forth that they are invoking the Doctrine, the reason for doing so and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Boards of Education and Charter School Boards of Trustees that invoke the Doctrine are directed to read the resolution at a regularly scheduled public meeting, post it where it posts public notices for 30 days and provide the Commission with a copy;

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall distribute this Resolution to the county superintendents for distribution to the school districts and charter schools, the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials and the New Jersey Education Association.

Motion made by: Nelson Carney

Motion seconded by: Robert Scardino

Nelson Carney – Yes

Richard Carr – Yes

Maricia Chiarelli – Yes

Victoria Haddad – Yes

Robert Scardino – Yes

Jeffrey String – Yes

Shonta Thomas – Yes

Travis Zigo – Yes

## BOARD MEMBER TRAINING

Mrs. Chin reviewed with the Board the mandatory Board Member training requirements.

## NEW BUSINESS

Board Appreciation Month

Motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the mission of the public schools is to meet the diverse educational needs of all children and to empower them to become competent, productive contributors to a democratic society and an ever-changing world; and

WHEREAS, local school board members are committed to children and believe that all children can be successful learners and that the best education is tailored to the individual needs of the child; and

WHEREAS, local school board members work closely with parents, educational professionals, and other community members to create the educational vision we want for our students; and

WHEREAS, local school board members are responsible for ensuring the structure that provides a solid foundation for our school system; and

WHEREAS, local school board members are strong advocates for public education and are responsible for communicating the needs of the school district to the public and the public's expectations to the district;

NOW, THEREFORE, do hereby recognize and express appreciation to the members of the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School Board and proclaim the month of January, as

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH. We urge all citizens to join us in recognizing the dedication and hard work of local school board members and in working with them to mold an education system that meets the needs of both today's and tomorrow's children.

Motion made by: Victoria Haddad  
Motion seconded by: Maricia Chiarelli  
Nelson Carney – Yes  
Richard Carr – Yes  
Maricia Chiarelli – Yes  
Victoria Haddad – Yes  
Robert Scardino – Yes  
Jeffrey String – Yes  
Shonta Thomas – Yes  
Travis Zigo – Yes

REPORT FROM THE SCHOOL PHYSICIAN

Mrs. Grossman provided background information concerning Dr. Roberts' request to address the Board.

Dr. Roberts discussed his rationale to use school sites to serve as vaccination clinics for the community.

The Board posed questions and expressed concerns.

INSTRUCTION

Motion to approve the following as recommended by the Superintendent:  
Readoption of the Curriculum for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion made by: Nelson Carney  
Motion seconded by: Robert Scardino  
Nelson Carney – Yes  
Richard Carr – Yes  
Maricia Chiarelli – Yes  
Victoria Haddad – Yes  
Robert Scardino – Yes  
Jeffrey String – Yes  
Shonta Thomas – Yes  
Travis Zigo – Yes

Motion to **table** the following item until more information can be obtained.  
Update to Appendix J of the WPRSD School Reopening Plan to allow school sites to serve as vaccination clinics for the community.

Motion made by: Nelson Carney  
Motion seconded by: Robert Scardino  
Nelson Carney – Yes  
Richard Carr – Yes  
Maricia Chiarelli – Yes  
Victoria Haddad – Yes  
Robert Scardino – Yes  
Jeffrey String – Yes  
Shonta Thomas – Yes  
Travis Zigo – Yes

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn this meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Motion made by: Nelson Carney  
Motion seconded by: Shonta Thomas  
Nelson Carney – Yes  
Richard Carr – Yes  
Maricia Chiarelli – Yes  
Victoria Haddad – Yes  
Robert Scardino – Yes  
Jeffrey String – Yes  
Shonta Thomas – Yes  
Travis Zigo – Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Rose Wang Chin  
SBA/BS

Approved by Motion of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature /SBA