

FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
November 3, 2023
MINUTES

The In-Person Special Meeting of the Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education was called to Order by the Board President at 5 p.m.

In accordance with the State's Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by sending a notice of the time, date, location and, to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting on November 3, 2023 to the Courier-News. Copies of the notice have also been placed in the Board Office and posted on the District website

Ms. Hurley took roll call

Members Present

Jaclyn Arce
Valerie Bart
Loretta Borowsky, arrived at 5:10 p.m., left meeting at 7:17 p.m.
Lilian Colpas
Gina Criscitiello
Tiffany Jarrett, arrived at 5:05 p.m.
Laurie Markowski, left meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Susan Mitcheltree
Michelle Hurley

Members Absent

Attorney Present

Douglas Silvestro

Ms. Mitcheltree read the District Mission Statement.

As a Community of One, WE:

Foster social, emotional, and academic growth within a connected learning community
Respect, honor and embrace diverse family and community values by building collaborative partnerships
Strengthen opportunities that nurture creative and critical thinkers
Develop and inspire personal excellence.

Every Student - Every Day - Every Opportunity

On the motion of Ms. Arce, seconded by Ms. Bart, the Board adopted the following resolution to meet in Executive Session at 5:07 p.m. viva voce.

SUNSHINE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act authorizes Boards of Education to meet in executive session under certain circumstances;

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting to go into private session;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Flemington-Raritan School District Board of Education that it is necessary to meet in executive session to discuss certain items involving:

- Matters of personal confidentiality rights, including but not limited to, staff and/or student discipline matters, and specifically: _____
- Matters in which the release of information would impair the right to receive government funds, and specifically: _____
- Matters which, if publicly disclosed, would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy, and specifically: _____
- Matters concerning negotiations, and specifically: _____
- Matters involving the purchase of real property and/or the investment of public funds, and specifically: _____
- Matters involving the real tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public, and specifically: _____
- ✓ Matters involving anticipated or pending litigation, including matters of attorney-client privilege, and specifically: **Contract Litigation**
- ✓ Matters involving personnel issues, including but not limited to, the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion or discipline of any public officer or employee, and specifically: **Personnel**
- Matters involving quasi-judicial deliberations, and specifically: _____

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public as soon as feasible. The minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session for public comment.

The Board returned to public session at 8:35 p.m.

Board counsel made note that no action would be taken at the meeting and while he cannot talk about closed session, he can say that the meeting purpose was so that the Board could all be on the same page which could only be accomplished during this type of meeting. He further noted, that no one is losing their job, nor are any policies changing. This was an information session for the Board of Education to share information so everyone is on the same page. It was a lengthy but positive session, it was not meant that anyone was being attacked or that the direction of the district would shift.

CITIZENS ADDRESS THE BOARD

The public is invited to respectfully share their concerns, comments, and suggestions according to the Board's policy and by-laws. Each speaker will have 3 minutes and the total session will be 30 minutes. The public is requested to sign the register and to state their name, municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable. While all comments will be considered, Board Members will not respond to speakers at this time.

Ms. Hurley set the session to 30 minutes with 3 minutes for each person.

Jeff Cain, Flemington Borough – Shared concerns that litigation would distract from the work of the district and urged the Board to continue to focus on their goals, budget, capital planning and the important work of educating children.

Ms. Hurley clarified that the two items on the agenda are unrelated to each other and Board counsel offered further clarification.

Aileen Marsh, FREA President – shared concerns on the nature of the meeting, the way it was called for and noted that it raises a lot of questions, causing concern amongst members and noted that transparency matters.

Marie Corfield, Teacher – spoke about the troubles of past leadership and shared her support of Dr. McGann as Superintendent.

Sue Vala, Teacher – asked why this couldn't have waited until the November 13th meeting and shared her support of Dr. McGann as Superintendent, also noted transparency issues.

Janet Quartarone, community member - shared concern that there might be an unwarranted move to replace the Superintendent and shared her support of Dr. McGann as Superintendent.

Jae Hoff, Flemington Borough – Shared her background as a social worker and involvement with the LGBTQ community and noted that erasing materials from the curriculum and library is concerning.

Noelle O'Donnell, Flemington Borough – noted why people are in attendance because they care about the students and teachers; shared concerns about transparency, policies on curriculum and spoke in support of Dr. McGann.

Dan Bland, Assistant Superintendent - Shared his support of Dr. McGann.

Joey Novick, TapInto - Asked if the Board could give some idea of the urgency and why it couldn't wait until November 13.

Board Counsel clarified and stated there was a reason to have it now. Board President, Ms. Hurley stated this was the only time to conduct this meeting and noted there was urgency to make sure the Board was on the same page. Ms. Hurley shared appreciation to everyone for coming and waiting for the Board to exit executive session.

On the motion of Ms. Bart seconded by Ms. Arce the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. viva voce.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Tanya Dawson
Business Administrator/Board Secretary