

I. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

The August 14, 2019 Special Public Meeting of the Edison Board of Education was called to order by Board President, Mr. Jingwei (Jerry) Shi, at 6:30 P.M. at the Education Center, 312 Pierson Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Pepe took the roll, and the following members were present:

Mr. Jingwei (Jerry) Shi, President, Mr. Ralph Errico, Vice President, Mrs. Theresa E. Ward, Mrs. Beth Moroney, Mr. Richard Brescher, Mrs. Falguni N. Patel and Mrs. Elizabeth Conway. Mrs. Shannon Peng and Dr. Yunxia (Yuna) Chen were absent.

Also in attendance were Mr. Richard Pepe, Assistant Business Administrator, and Mr. Ivan Tukhtin, Board Attorney.

III. OPENING STATEMENT

Mr. Shi read the following opening statement:

“The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure 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 this act, the Edison Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Board of Education Administrative Offices. Copies of these notices were sent to the Home News and Tribune and the Star Ledger on August 9, 2019.

The Public may participate at regular meetings in accordance with the By-Laws and the applicable State regulations.

IV. ADJOURN TO PRIVILEGED SESSION

Mr. Pepe read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 PL 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE,  
BE IT RESOLVED: by the Board of Education of the Township of Edison, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter-specified subject matters.

- Appointment of Acting Superintendent

It is anticipated at this time that the above-stated subject matter shall be made public at such time as the need for non-disclosure no longer exists.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Mr. Shi asked for a motion to approve the privileged session resolution at 6:32 P.M. Mr. Errico made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Conway. Mr. Pepe took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Conway, Mrs. Patel, Mr. Brescher,  
Mrs. Moroney, Mrs. Ward, Mr. Errico, Mr. Shi

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

V. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

There being no further questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. Shi asked for a motion to reconvene this August 14, 2019 Special Public Meeting of the Edison Board of Education to open session at 6:58 P.M. Mr. Errico made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Conway. Mr. Pepe took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Conway, Mrs. Patel, Mr. Brescher,  
Mrs. Moroney, Mrs. Ward, Mr. Errico, Mr. Shi

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS (RESOLUTIONS ONLY)

There were no public comments at this time.

VII. RESOLUTION

1. Resolution Appointing Margaret Contaldi as Acting Superintendent

BE IT RESOLVED:

AS FOLLOWS: the Edison Township Board of Education (the "Board") hereby appoints Margaret E. Contaldi, director of Human Resources as Acting Superintendent for the period of August 15, 2019 through November 30, 2019, until the Interim Superintendent returns from leave or a successor Superintendent is appointed, whichever is sooner; and

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that the Board hereby amends the Employment Agreement between Margaret E. Contaldi and the Board to provide the services as Acting Superintendent for the additional daily rate of \$206.00 not to exceed an additional \$1,030.00 per week.

Mr. Shi asked for a motion to approve the Resolution appointing Margaret Contaldi as Acting Superintendent. Mr. Errico made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Ward. Mr. Pepe took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Conway, Mr. Brescher, Mrs. Moroney,  
Mrs. Ward, Mr. Errico, Mr. Shi

NAYS: Mrs. Patel

The motion was carried.

VIII. BOARD MEMBERS – OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Shi spoke about the Superintendent Search process with the search team. He also spoke about the Edison high school baseball turf field and the law suit with the Zoning Board. He also mentioned that the modular classrooms at the FD Roosevelt Building and Woodrow Wilson Middle School will be in place by September 1st.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anthony DeAmarin, resident, spoke about the superintendent search and the upcoming bond referendum.

Sue Campione, resident, spoke about the substitute workshops, asking if they could be held during the summer and when college students are home on spring and winter breaks.

Carol Bodofsky, resident, asked if the children at the FD Roosevelt School will be in their classrooms in September and in the correct settings according to their IEPs.

Jim Casey, resident, asked if the John P. Stevens High School baseball complex will get turf fields. He also suggested not having home games at Edison High School and John P. Stevens High School on the same days.

Chris Makropoulos, resident, suggested drug testing be done in the schools instead of sending the students out for these tests. He also mentioned areas at various schools that have room to put additions on to them to help the overcrowding issue and asked about renaming Lindeneau School.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. Shi asked for a motion to adjourn this August 14, 2019 special public meeting of the Edison Board of Education at 7:30 P.M. Mrs. Conway made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brescher and approved by all members present.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Pepe  
Assistant Business Administrator  
RP:jmc