

I. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

The January 15, 2019 Special Public Meeting of the Edison Board of Education was called to order by Board President, Mr. Jingwei (Jerry) Shi, at 7:00 P.M. at the Education Center, 312 Pierson Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Michaud 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, Mrs. Elizabeth Conway and Dr. Yunxia “Yuna” Chen. Mrs. Shannon Peng was absent.

Also in attendance were Mr. Daniel P. Michaud, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Mr. Ramon Rivera, 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 January 11, 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. Michaud 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.

The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
Attorney/Client Privileged Discussion Regarding:

- Revised Election Procedures
- Personnel –
 1. Appointments
 2. Change of Status

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 7:05 P.M. Mrs. Moroney made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Ward. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Dr. Chen, 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 January 15, 2019 Special Public Meeting of the Edison Board of Education to open session at 7:18 P.M. Mr. Brescher made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Ward. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Dr. Chen, 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. RESOLUTIONS

A. PERSONNEL – LABOR RELATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Edison Board of Education approves the following personnel items as indicated below:

1. APPOINTMENTS - Employment Verification Pending (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6, et. seq)

<u>Administrative Staff</u>	<u>Step/Salary</u>	<u>Reason for Vacancy</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>
Kissane, Patrick Effective 01/14/19-06/30/19	\$130,000 (pro-rated)	New Position in 2018-19 Budget	Director of School Safety and Security Education Center (new position)

2. CHANGE OF STATUS

<u>Administrative Staff</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Reason for Change</u>	<u>To</u>
Marasco, Shannon	English Teacher Herbert Hoover Middle School Salary \$112,238 Effective 09/01/18-06/30/19	Transfer	Middle School Supervisor – Social Studies Herbert Hoover Middle School Salary \$137,726 Effective TBD-06/30/19 (for B. Mirfield)

Mr. Shi asked for a motion to approve the Personnel Resolution. Mrs. Moroney made the motion, seconded by Mr. Errico. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

VIII. DISCUSSION – ELECTION DATE CHANGE

Mr. Shi reported that earlier this week, it came to the attention of this Board that the Town Council was convening a special meeting to discuss the movement of this year’s Board of Education election to April. He convened tonight’s special meeting of the Board so that, as a Board, everyone had the chance to weigh in. Earlier this evening, he was informed that Council President Gomez cancelled the Town Council’s special meeting.

There are a number of opinions, some in favor, some opposed, to moving the Board of Education election to April. Those in favor have expressed the benefits of the move. Those opposed have highlighted the challenges.

Tonight, Board members and the public have the opportunity to weigh in on the subject. Even though the Council has cancelled its meeting, this board can still have a discussion on this matter.

Regardless of where this ends up, Mr. Shi would like to see greater participation by Edison residents. This past election saw tens of thousands of votes cast for Board of Education candidates. We should continue to encourage that level of participation and try to exceed those numbers. When residents participate in the process, the process becomes stronger.

IX. BOARD MEMBERS – OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Brescher wanted to clear up what he heard at the last town council meeting. Many people believed that the Board of Education has a loaded pot of money. Edison is in the lowest 10-percent in costs to educate students. Edison does not overspend on anything. The facts are there. The budget is put together in April and over the past summer there were over 500 new students enrolled. These students were not included in the new budget.

Mrs. Conway felt the election should stay in November.

Mrs. Moroney believes there is a spirit of cooperation with the Board of Education and the Town Council.

Mrs. Ward thanked the Town Council for cooperating with the Board of Education.

Mr. Shi stated that 2019 will be a busy year with the Superintendent Search and the Bond Referendum. He asked the Curriculum and Technology Committee to add Cricket to the curriculum, due to the demands and demographics of Edison. He also wants the Education Center to look into implementing a Student/Parent Phone Request System and to look into working with Middlesex County College to get students into the school. Mr. Shi asked the Food Service Committee to look into the complaints regarding the quality, quantity and freshness of the food served in the cafeterias. He mentioned that the Finance and Facilities Committee is in the process of getting modular classrooms at the F. D. Roosevelt School and roofing issues are being looked into, along with the possibility of adding solar panels on many roofs. A new transportation software package is being implemented and the Board is looking into security tracking devices for all buses. The Policy Committee will update some of the outdated policies. The Special Education Committee had many complaints and will make sure the students are getting the best services. The Community Relations Committee plans on working with the community to listen to their needs.

Mrs. Moroney spoke about the Wingman Program at James Monroe Elementary School and explained how the fifth graders were teaching the first graders. She also met with the student at John P. Stevens High School who encouraged the district to use biodegradable trays for lunches. This student is now working on a plan to have students separate their garbage into categories.

Mr. Errico questioned a holiday request from Mrs. Patel. This matter is being researched by the Superintendent's office.

Mr. Shi reported that the Board will hire a search firm for the Superintendent Search and he is asking the attorney to send out an RFP for a search team.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carol Bodofsky, resident, discussed the history of the election process.

Matt Hrevnak, ETEA Vice-President, felt moving the election would have a negative effect on the Board of Education.

Maria Orchid, resident, invited everyone to attend Junior College Night at Edison High School on Thursday.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. Shi asked for a motion to adjourn this January 15, 2019 special public meeting of the Edison Board of Education at 7:53 P.M. Mrs. Ward made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brescher and approved by all members present.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel P. Michaud
Board Secretary
DPM:jmc