

I. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO NEWLY-ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS BY BOARD SECRETARY

Mr. Michaud had the newly elected board members recite the following Oaths of Allegiance:

State of New Jersey Required Oaths for School Board Members

(Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-2.1 and R.S. 41:1-1 and 1-3):

I, Ralph Errico, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the Governments established in the United States and this State, under the authority of the people. So help me God.

I, Ralph Errico, do solemnly swear that I possess the qualifications prescribed by law for the office of member of a board of education and that I am not disqualified as a voter pursuant to R.S. 19:4-1 nor disqualified due to conviction of a crime or offense listed in N.J.S.A. 18:12-1, and that I will faithfully, impartially and justly perform all duties of that office according to the best of my ability. So help me God.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January AD 2019

/s/ Ralph Errico /s/ Daniel P. Michaud, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

School District of Edison Township

County of Middlesex / State of New Jersey

I, Elizabeth Conway, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the Governments established in the United States and this State, under the authority of the people. So help me God.

I, Elizabeth Conway, do solemnly swear that I possess the qualifications prescribed by law for the office of member of a board of education and that I am not disqualified as a voter pursuant to R.S. 19:4-1 nor disqualified due to conviction of a crime or offense listed in N.J.S.A. 18:12-1, and that I will faithfully, impartially and justly perform all duties of that office according to the best of my ability. So help me God.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January AD 2019

/s/ Elizabeth Conway /s/ Daniel P. Michaud, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

School District of Edison Township

County of Middlesex / State of New Jersey

I, Yunxia “Yuna” Chen, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the Governments established in the United States and this State, under the authority of the people. So help me God.

I, Yunxia “Yuna” Chen, do solemnly swear that I possess the qualifications prescribed by law for the office of member of a board of education and that I am not disqualified as a voter pursuant to R.S. 19:4-1 nor disqualified due to conviction of a crime or offense listed in N.J.S.A. 18:12-1, and that I will faithfully, impartially and justly perform all duties of that office according to the best of my ability. So help me God.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January AD 2019

/s/ Yunxia “Yuna” Chen /s/ Daniel P. Michaud, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

School District of Edison Township

County of Middlesex / State of New Jersey

II. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

The January 2, 2019 Reorganization Meeting of the Edison Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Daniel P. Michaud, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, at 7:00 P.M. at the Education Center, 312 Pierson Avenue, Edison, New Jersey.

Boy Scout Troop No. 66 of Edison presented the Flag and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

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

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

Also in attendance were Paul J. Saxton, Superintendent, Mr. Daniel P. Michaud, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Mr. Ramon Rivera, Board Attorney.

IV. OPENING STATEMENT (By Board Secretary, Temporary Chairperson)

“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 Star Ledger on January 8, 2017.

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

V. CERTIFIED ELECTION RESULTS

3 Candidates (3-Year Term)

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>No. of Votes</u>
<b>A1 – Elizabeth Conway</b>	<b>11,014</b>
A2 – Harish Verma	9,970
<b>A3 – Ralph Errico</b>	<b>11,429</b>
<b>A4 – Yunxia “Yuna” Chen</b>	<b>10,919</b>
A5 – Shivi Prasad-Madhukar	4,968
A6 – Anthony DeAmorin	3,591

# Registered Voters            57,763

Voters at the Polls            23,118

% of Voters at the Polls    40.02%

VI. NOMINATION & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President:

Mr. Michaud opened the floor for nominations for President of the Board of Education.

Mr. Brescher nominated Mr. Shi, seconded by Mrs. Peng.

Mrs. Conway nominated Mrs. Moroney. There was no second for this nomination.

Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote for the nomination of Mr. Shi for President, and the result was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Brescher, Dr. Chen, Mr. Errico, Mrs. Patel, Mrs. Peng, Mr. Shi, Mrs. Ward

NAYS: Mrs. Conway, Mrs. Moroney

Mr. Shi was chosen President.

Vice-President:

Mr. Shi opened the floor for nominations for Vice-President of the Board of Education.

Mr. Shi nominated Mr. Errico, seconded by Mr. Brescher.

Mrs. Patel nominated Mrs. Moroney, seconded by Mrs. Conway.

Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES FOR MR. ERRICO: Mr. Brescher, Dr. Chen, Mr. Errico, Mrs. Peng, Mr. Shi, Mrs. Ward

NAYS FOR MR. ERRICO: Mrs. Conway, Mrs. Moroney, Mrs. Patel

Mr. Errico was chosen Vice-President.

VII. RESOLUTIONS

Approval of Parliamentary Procedures

BE IT

RESOLVED: that the Edison Board of Education, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, to the extent consistent with State Law, Policies and By-Laws of the Board will be guided by "Robert's Rules of Order."

Mr. Shi asked for a motion to approve the resolution for the approval of the Parliamentary Procedures resolution. Mr. Errico made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brescher. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (RESOLUTIONS)

There were no public comments at this time.

IX. REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS

i. Meeting Dates

BE IT

RESOLVED: that the Edison Board of Education designates the dates for the regular public action meetings and caucus meetings of the Board of Education as listed below:

<u>CAUCUS MEETINGS</u>		<u>ACTION MEETINGS</u>		
Location: Education Center		Location: Alternate Locations		
Wednesday	01/23/19	John P Stevens HS	Monday	01/28/19
Wednesday	02/20/19	Edison HS	Monday	02/25/19
Wednesday	03/20/19	John P Stevens HS	Monday	03/25/19
Wednesday	04/10/19	Edison HS	Monday	04/15/19
-----	-----	Education Center * <u>Budget Hearing/Personnel Approval</u>	Monday	05/06/19
Wednesday	05/15/19	JP Stevens HS	Monday	05/20/19
Wednesday	06/12/19	Edison HS	Monday	06/17/19
-----	-----	Education Center ** 6:00 PM	Monday	07/29/19
-----	-----	Education Center **6:00 PM	Monday	08/26/19
Wednesday	09/18/19	John P Stevens HS	Monday	09/23/19
Wednesday	10/16/19	Edison HS***	Monday	10/28/19
Wednesday	11/20/19	John P Stevens HS	Monday	11/25/19
Wednesday	12/18/19	Edison HS	Monday	12/23/19
-----	-----	Education Center/ <u>Reorganization</u>	Wednesday	01/08/20

School Locations:

Education Center – 312 Pierson Avenue, Edison, NJ  
Edison High School – 50 Boulevard of Eagles, Edison, NJ  
John P. Stevens High School – 855 Grove Avenue, Edison, NJ

- \* **Budget Hearing & Personnel Approval Meeting**
- \*\* **Summer Meetings Held at the Education Center (6:00 PM)**
- \*\*\* **Meeting Held 12 Days After Caucus Meeting**

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED:

that the 2019-2020 Budget Hearing meeting of the Board of Education shall be conducted on Monday, May 6, 2019 at the Education Center, 312 Pierson Avenue, Edison, New Jersey; and

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED:

that the Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Education shall be conducted on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at the Education Center, 312 Pierson Avenue, Edison, New Jersey; and

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED:

that all meetings of the Board of Education commence at 7:00 P.M. on the date set forth, unless otherwise specified by the Board of Education (July & August Meetings Commence at 6:00 PM), but in no case, later than 8:00 P.M. and formal action may be taken by the Board at any and all meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that pursuant to the Public Meetings Act, the Board Secretary is hereby directed to publish these dates in the official newspaper of the Board of Education and to post notices of the foregoing dates at the offices of the Board of Education, the Municipal Town Hall and in all schools of the district.

ii. Designation of Depositories – 2018-2019 School Year (Revised)

BE IT

RESOLVED: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Edison Board of Education approves that all checks, notes, drafts and warrants be signed by all of the following: appointment of the following:

1. Jingwei (Jerry) Shi, President
2. Daniel P. Michaud, Board Secretary

whose signatures shall be duly certified to said banks, and that all checks, drafts, notes and warrants issued by the Board of Education will not be honored unless so signed.

Mr. Shi asked for a motion to approve the resolution for the Meeting Dates and the designation of Depositories for 2018-2019 – Signatures (Revised). Mr. Errico made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brescher. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

X. ADOPTION OF STATE MANDATED CODE OF ETHICS

Mr. Michaud read each of the ten provisions of the Code Of Ethics to the board members and asked them to inquire about the meaning and intent of each, if they were not perfectly clear on their rationale. Mr. Rivera, Board Attorney, and Mr. Michaud were available to clarify any concerns or questions. Each board member was given a copy of the Code Of Ethics and asked to sign a document that they received them and understood their content.

Code of Ethics

Title 18A:12-24.1 Code of Ethics for School Board Members requires that a board member shall abide by the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members:

- a. I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- b. 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, sex, or social standing.
- c. 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.
- d. 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.

- e. 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.
- f. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
- g. 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, and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its school.
- h. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- i. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- j. 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.

Mr. Shi asked for a motion to approve the Code of Ethics. Mrs. Moroney made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Ward. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

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

NAYS: None The motion was carried.

## XII. FINANCE RESOLUTIONS

### i. Approval of the Mobilease Modular Space, Inc. Proposal

BE IT

RESOLVED: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Edison Board of Education approve the Mobilease Modular Space, Inc. Proposal for the relocatable modular classrooms at the F. D. Roosevelt School, in accordance with the Keystone Purchasing Network Cooperative, as attached hereto.

### ii. Approval of USA Architects for Modular Classroom Project

BE IT

RESOLVED: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Edison Board of Education approve the agreement with USA Architects, 20 N. Doughty Avenue, Somerville, NJ 08876 to provide architectural services for the modular classroom addition at the F. D. Roosevelt School for a fee of \$88,400, as attached hereto.

Mr. Shi asked for a motion to approve the Mobilease Modular Space, Inc. Proposal and USA Architects for Modular Classroom Project Resolutions. Mr. Brescher made the motion, seconded by Mr. Errico. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

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

NAYS: None The motion was carried.

X. BOARD MEMBERS – OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Shi gave the following statement to the Board:

“As we begin this New Year, I want to thank each of my fellow Board members for their confidence in me and I am humbled by your support. Thank you.

2019 presents a chance for this Board to build on our successes from last year. I look forward to working in partnership with each member of this Board as we tackle the challenges facing our school district. Make no mistake; each member of this Board brings a unique skill set, an important base of knowledge and exceptional resources. Together, we can leverage those assets to deliver real solutions to the students, parents, and taxpayers of Edison.

I want to welcome our newest Board members, Elizabeth Conway and Dr. Yuna Chen. Congratulations. I look forward to collaborating with you. I also want to congratulate our newly elected Vice President, Ralph Errico. Ralph, you have provided vital leadership on the Overcrowding Taskforce, and I look forward to working with you in your new role.

I ask that we all commit to the two greatest challenges facing our district. First, that we select our next superintendent in an impartial, fair, open, and transparent process, ensuring that the next superintendent has the necessary qualifications, experience, vision, and temperament.

Second, that we continue with the progress we have made in solving the overcrowding crisis, that magnifies each day and that we create a concrete plan to alleviate overcrowding and implement a full day kindergarten program.

I also ask that this Board commit to re-evaluate our budget. Our taxpayers deserve our watchful eyes. That is why I will ask this Board to evaluate our expenses, seeing where we can cut costs without sacrificing the quality of our education. We should not take a dime away from our classrooms, but we should never fear to cut fraud, waste, abuse and fat from our budget. We have already saved nearly \$4 million. We can do more.

Next, I ask that this Board consider how we can best incorporate technology to help our parents. We need to make our schools friendlier and more accessible to our parents. From busing to class registration, parents have made it clear that we need a better way. We need to cut the red tape and find ways to make it easier for parents to communicate with the School District.

These challenges will not be easy to face. We, as a Board, will and should have lively debate on these issues, exploring the best solutions, keeping an open mind, and committing to thoughtful debate. We may not always agree, and that is okay, that is democracy at work. But we do agree on our goal, a stronger and safer school district, that honors our educators, delivers value to our taxpayers, functions for our parents, and most importantly, the best education for our students. Thank you.”

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Andy Hibell, resident, mentioned that seconds on nominations are not required for President and Vice-President based on board policy. Therefore, after a discussion with the board, Mr. Rivera requested that we take a revote for President with two candidates nominated, Mr. Jingwei “Jerry” Shi and Mrs. Beth Moroney.

XI. REVOTE FOR BOARD PRESIDENT

A revote was taken on the position of Board President. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote for Mr. Shi, and the result was as follows:

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

NAYS: Mrs. Conway, Mrs. Moroney

Mr. Shi was chosen as President.

Joseph Johnson, resident, invited the Board to attend a program at the YMCA on Oak Tree Road on April 6, 2019 from 2-4 P.M. The guest speaker will be former Mayor, Antonia Ricigliano.

Anthony DeAmorin, resident, spoke of the complications of legalizing marijuana. He encouraged the Board to start up the D.A.R.E. program again.

Joseph Romano, resident, congratulated the new board members.

Bret Baker, resident, discussed Board Member responsibilities. He recommended having full-day Kindergarten in Edison once again.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. Shi asked for a motion to adjourn this January 2, 2019 Reorganization Meeting of the Edison Board of Education at 7:44 P.M. Mr. Errico made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brescher and approved by all members present.

Respectfully submitted,

*Daniel P. Michaud*

Daniel P. Michaud  
Secretary  
DPM:jmc