

I. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

The May 24, 2018 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, Mrs. Shivi Prasad-Madhukar, Mr. Ralph Errico, Mrs. Shannon Peng, Mr. Richard Brescher, Mr. Paul Distefano and Mrs. Falguni N. Patel. Mrs. Beth Moroney, Vice-President, and Mrs. Theresa E. Ward were 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 May 21, 2018.

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

IV. 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:

- Contractual Negotiations with a Vendor

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 7:03 P.M. Mr. Errico made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brescher. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Patel, Mr. Distefano, Mr. Brescher, Mrs. Peng,  
Mr. Errico, Mrs. Prasad-Madhukar, Mr. Shi

NAYS: None The motion was carried.

V. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Mr. Shi asked for a motion to reconvene this May 24, 2018 Special Public Meeting of the Edison Board of Education to open session at 7:38 P.M. Mr. Errico made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Prasad-Madhukar. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Patel, Mr. Distefano, Mr. Brescher, Mrs. Peng,  
Mr. Errico, Mrs. Prasad-Madhukar, Mr. Shi

NAYS: None The motion was carried.

VI. RESOLUTION AMENDING BOARD RESOLUTION APPOINTMENT BROKER OF RECORD APRIL 23, 2018

WHEREAS, the Edison Township Board of Education (the “Board”) desires to provide quality and cost-effective insurance services for the employees of the Edison Township School district (the “District”); and

WHEREAS, the Board has appointed Alamo Insurance Group, Inc. (“Alamo”) as the District’s Broker of Record for all of the District’s lines of insurance services and specifically appoints Alamo as the District’s Broker-of-Record for Employee Benefits, and the District’s Property and Casualty Risk Manager Insurance Agent employee Benefits for the period of May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019, pursuant to Resolution on April 23, 2018 (the “April 23, 2018 Resolution”); and

WHEREAS, the April 23, 2018 Resolution provided that Alamo shall provide a quote for insurance services with savings of at least One Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,100,000.00) for the District by July 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, AETNA and Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company (“Cigna”) in addition to the providers currently contracted with the District: Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield, New Jersey Rx Shared Services administered by Benecard Services, LLC, and Delta Dental submitted proposals for medical, dental and prescription drug coverage; and

WHEREAS, Cigna has provided the most cost effective proposal for a fully insured quote with an excess of Three Million Dollars in Annual Program Savings, inclusive of broker compensation and guaranteed that benefits shall be “equal to or better” than those currently provided; and that Cigna awarded the District with a One Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$100,000.00) grant to be used on Wellness Programs for the benefit of the Districts employees; and Cigna shall provide an integrated Employee Assistance program (EAP”) at no additional charge to the District with around-the-clock customer service and mobile technology.

NOW, THEREFORE,  
BE IT RESOLVED: that the Edison Board of Education shall accept the Cigna proposal effective July 1, 2018 with “equal or better” benefits as guaranteed in the attached May 12, 2018 letter. The Cigna medical, dental and prescription rates are guaranteed from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 (12 months); and

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED: that the Board affirms the Appointment of Alamo Insurance Group, Inc. (“Alamo”) as the Broker-of-Record until July 1, 2019, at no additional cost to the District; Alamo shall not receive any direct compensation from the District amending the April 23, 2018 Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED: that the district shall terminate its participation in the Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield, New Jersey Rx Shared Services administered by Benecard, LLC, and Delta Dental programs.

Mr. Shi asked for a motion to approve the resolution amending board resolution appointing broker-of-record April 23 2018. Mr. Errico made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brescher. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Patel, Mr. Distefano, Mr. Brescher, Mrs. Peng,  
Mr. Errico, Mrs. Prasad-Madhukar, Mr. Shi

NAYS: None The motion was carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Resolution Only)

Andrew Hibell, resident, asked how the Board could vote on this issue without public comments, and asked numerous questions regarding the new insurance plan.

B. Talke, resident, questioned the reason for rushing this through, and asked numerous questions.

George Clark, from CIGNA, answered many of the employees questions.

Susan Campione, resident, questioned the waivers for the insurance.

Diane Bruno, resident, questioned the out of state doctors’ visits.

Elizabeth Conway, resident, felt that public presentations should have taken place prior to tonight.

G. Campione, resident, asked what was revised on the resolution.

Matt Hrevnak, ETEA Vice President, asked if Omnia was equal or better than this insurance. He also questioned coverage abroad.

Jeff Bowden, ETEA President, questioned Tier 1 hospitals.

Lisa LaPlant, resident, questioned the wellness plans.

John Kelly, resident, questioned the prescription plans.

Brett Baker discussed the lines of communications.

XIII. BOARD MEMBERS – OPEN DISCUSSION

There were no board comments at this time.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. Shi asked for a motion to adjourn this May 24, 2018 special public meeting of the Edison Board of Education at 8:50 P.M. Mr. Brescher made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Patel and approved by all members present.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel P. Michaud  
Board Secretary  
DPM:jmc