

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, Jingwei (Jerry) Shi, 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, Jingwei (Jerry) Shi, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January AD 2018  
/s/ Jingwei (Jerry) Shi /s/ Daniel P. Michaud, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
School District of Edison Township  
County of Middlesex / State of New Jersey

I, Falguni N. Patel, 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, Falguni N. Patel, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January AD 2018  
/s/ Falguni N. Patel /s/ Daniel P. Michaud, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
School District of Edison Township  
County of Middlesex / State of New Jersey

I, Beth Moroney, 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, Beth Moroney, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January AD 2018  
/s/ Beth Moroney /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 3, 2018 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.

III. ROLL CALL

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

Mr. Richard M. Brescher, Mr. Paul Distefano, Mr. Ralph Errico, Mrs. Shivi Prasad-Madhukar, Mrs. Beth Moroney, Mrs. Falguni N. Patel, Mrs. Shannon Peng, Mr. Jingwei (Jerry) Shi and Mrs. Theresa E. Ward.

Also in attendance were Richard J. O'Malley, Ed.D, Superintendent, Mr. Daniel P. Michaud, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Douglas Silvestro, 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 5, 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>Jingwei (Jerry) Shi – A3</b>	<b>6,401</b>
<b>Falguni Patel – A5</b>	<b>6,272</b>
<b>Beth Moroney – A7</b>	<b>6,100</b>
Elizabeth Conway – A4	5,124
Carol Bodofsky – A2	5,050
Maria C. Wise – A1	3,662
Aqib Virani – A6	1,749
Sunil R. Vuppula – A9	1,625
Ruchika Juneja – A8	1,378

1 Candidate (1-Year Term)

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>No. of Votes</u>
<b>Paul Distefano – A1</b>	<b>7,223</b>
William Araujo – A2	4,073

Registered Voters	56,305
Number of Voters at Polls	18,565
Percentage Who Voted	32.97%

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.

Mr. Errico made a motion to close the nominations for President and to vote for the office of President, seconded by Mr. Brescher. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Brescher, Mr. Distefano, Mr. Errico, Mrs. Prasad-Madhukar,  
Mrs. Moroney, Mrs. Patel, Mrs. Peng, Mr. Shi, Mrs. Ward

NAYS: None

Mr. Shi was chosen President unanimously.

Vice-President:

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

Mr. Brescher nominated Mr. Errico; Mrs. Prasad-Madhukar nominated Mrs. Moroney.

Mr. Distefano made a motion to close the nominations for Vice-President and to vote for the office of Vice-President, seconded by Mrs. Prasad-Madhukar.

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

VOTES FOR MR. ERRICO: Mr. Brescher, Mr. Errico, Mrs. Peng, Mr. Shi

VOTES FOR MRS. MORONEY: Mr. Distefano, Mrs. Prasad-Madhukar, Mrs. Moroney, Mrs. Patel, Mrs. Ward

Mrs. Moroney was chosen Vice-President by a vote of 5 to 4.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (RESOLUTIONS)

Elizabeth Conway, resident, stated that it was important to follow Parliamentary Procedures.

Carol Bodofsky, resident, questioned the posting of caucus meeting minutes.

VIII. 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."

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>		
Education Center		Alternating Locations		
Wednesday	01/17/18	W Wilson MS	Monday	01/22/18
Wednesday	02/21/18	Lindeneau ES	Monday	02/26/18
Wednesday	03/14/18	Woodbrook ES	Monday	03/19/18
Wednesday	04/18/18	T Jefferson MS	Monday	04/23/18
-----	-----	Education Center/ <u>Budget Hearing</u>	Wednesday	05/02/18
Wednesday	05/16/18	JP Stevens HS	Monday	05/21/18
Wednesday	06/13/18	Edison HS	Monday	06/18/18
-----	-----	<b>Education Center * 6:00 PM</b>	Monday	07/30/18
-----	-----	<b>Education Center *6:00 PM</b>	Monday	08/27/18
Wednesday	09/12/18	J Adams MS	Monday	09/17/18
Wednesday	10/10/18	Washington ES	Monday	10/15/18
Wednesday	11/14/18	J Madison IS	Monday	11/19/18
Wednesday	12/12/18	H Hoover MS	Monday	12/17/18
-----	-----	Education Center/ <u>Reorganization</u>	Wednesday	01/02/19

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  
 Thomas Jefferson Middle School – 450 Division Street, Edison, NJ  
 Herbert Hoover Middle School – 174 Jackson Avenue, Edison, NJ  
 John Adams Middle School – 1081 New Dover Road, Edison, NJ  
 Woodrow Wilson Middle School, 50 Woodrow Wilson Drive, Edison, NJ  
 Washington Elementary School – 153 Winthrop Road, Edison, NJ  
 Lindeneau Elementary School – 50 Blossom Street, Edison, NJ  
 Woodbrook Elementary School – 15 Robin Road, Edison, NJ  
 James Madison Intermediate School – 838 New Dover Road, Edison, NJ  
 \*\* Summer Meetings Held at the Education Center

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that the 2018-2019 Budget Hearing meeting of the Board of Education shall be conducted on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 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 2, 2019 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.

Designation of Depositories – 2017-2018 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 approval of parliamentary procedures, the meeting dates and the designation of depositories for 2017-2018 – Signatures (Revised). Mr. Errico made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Prasad-Madhukar. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

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

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

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

#### X. BOARD MEMBERS – OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Brescher acknowledged Dr. Frank Heelan in the audience and commended him for his past service as a board member.

Mrs. Prasad-Madhukar congratulated Mr. Shi and Mrs. Moroney for becoming the new President and Vice-President, and thanked Dr. Heelan for his service to the Board.

Mr. Shi stated that it is an honor to be selected by his fellow board members as the President of the Board. He thanked them for their trust and said he was truly humbled. He thanked his wife and family for their support during the past year. He also thanked the Edison voters for trusting the unity team, and a special thanks to the 80 plus volunteers and all the friends who supported the unity team.

Mr. Shi reported that last year was a tough year for all of us. Now that we have turned the page to 2018, he said that he hoped to start fresh, move past our divisions, and work to find common ground. His guiding principle has always been to put the students' interests first. It is what prompted him to run for school board to begin with, and it is what he aims to do as Board President. In his conversations with each fellow board member, he continued, he was heartened to hear that each of them is similarly focused on how to provide the best education for our students. Together the Board can take a great school system to even greater heights.

Mr. Shi stated that Edison is one of the best school districts in the state and has made tremendous progress in recent years. However, the overcrowding is at a crisis level now. Although 56% of property taxes go to our school district, we still do not have full day kindergarten. Edison has lots of issues with bus service; with technology use in the classroom; diversity; new curriculum and new courses, etc. The list can go on and on.

Some of the issues can be solved internally within the district, while others need collaboration with the township, county and the state. The school district cannot operate as a separate entity alone any more.

Both Mayor Lankey and Council President, Ajay Patil, make it very clear in their swearing in ceremonies on Monday that they wanted to work with the district to solve overcrowding issues and work on more shared services. Mr. Shi stated: "Let's seize this golden opportunity and work together to achieve our ultimate goal."

As Board President, Mr. Shi continued, he will be open to any and all suggestions and ideas from any individuals or groups on how to improve the district. He is looking forward to enhance working relationships and having more open dialogues with all stakeholders in our district including our parents, taxpayers, administration team, teachers and staff, and our five unions.

In closing, he encouraged everyone to make 2018 the year of unity and the year of collaboration for our school district. Working together, Mr. Shi stated, the Board can make huge strides for our students and our taxpayers. He thanked everyone for their trust and wished the district a prosperous 2018.

Mrs. Moroney congratulated Mr. Shi and welcomed Dr. Heelan as a visitor to the meeting.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Yee, resident, thanked the board members for their service.

Mrs. Conway, resident, asked if the Board could address emailed questions from the public at action meetings.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. Shi asked for a motion to adjourn this January 3, 2018 Reorganization Meeting of the Edison Board of Education at 7:38 P.M. Mr. Errico made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brescher and approved by all members present.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel P. Michaud  
Secretary  
DPM:jmc