

I. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

The November 11, 2019 Special Public Meeting of the Edison Board of Education was called to order by Board President, Mr. Jingwei (Jerry) Shi, at 6:00 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 Ward, Mrs. Beth Moroney, Mrs. Shannon Peng, Mr. Richard Brescher, Mrs. Falguni Patel, Mrs. Elizabeth Conway and Dr. Yunxia (Yuna) Chen.

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 October 31, 2019.

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

IV. BOARD MEMBERS – OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Shi congratulated the newly elected board members: Shivi Prasad-Madhukar, Shannon Peng and Carol Bodofsky and he thanked all the Veterans for their service on this Veteran’s Day.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carol Bodofsky, resident, asked the Board to please choose wisely in the appointment of the new superintendent.

VI. 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.

- Superintendent Candidates

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 6:07 P.M. Mr. Errico made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Moroney. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

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

NAYS: None The motion was carried.

Mrs. Conway questioned why there will be a resolution and vote at this time, when the announcement for the meeting stated that no action would be taken.

Mr. Rivera explained that this resolution is only a request to send the contract to the County Executive Superintendent for review.

VII. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

There being no further questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. Shi asked for a motion to reconvene this November 11, 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 Dr. Chen. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

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

ABSENT: Mrs. Moroney left the meeting at 6:50 P.M.

NAYS: None The motion was carried.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (RESOLUTION ONLY)

There were no public comments at this time.

IX. BOARD COMMENTS (RESOLUTION ONLY)

Mrs. Conway stated that she was disappointed that this resolution vote is taking place since it was advertised that there would be no public actions. If more people knew there would be a vote, she felt more people would be in attendance at this meeting.

X. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BOARD COUNSEL TO TRANSMIT THE SUPERINTENDENT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR BERNARD F. BRAGEN, JR. TO THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE SUPERINTENDENT

WHEREAS, the Edison Township Board of Education (“Board”) must seek approval from the Middlesex County Executive Superintendent determining that the terms and conditions of “those provisions of the contract” between the Board and Bernard F. Bragen, Jr. as Superintendent of Schools that are “subject to [his] review are in compliance with applicable laws and regulations..”

WHEREAS, the Board and Bernard F. Bragen, Jr. have agreed to the terms and conditions of employment as contained in the attached draft Superintendent Employment Contract.

NOW, THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED: that the Edison Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board counsel to send the attached contract for Bernard F. Bragen, Jr. as Superintendent of Schools for the period commencing on December 9, 2019 through June 30, 2023 to the Middlesex County Executive Superintendent.

Mr. Errico made a motion to add to the agenda this Resolution authorizing the Board Counsel to transmit the Superintendent Employment Contract for Bernard F. Bragen, Jr. to the Middlesex County Executive Superintendent, and this motion was seconded by Dr. Chen. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

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

NAYS: Mrs. Conway, Mrs. Ward

The motion was carried.

Mr. Shi asked for a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the Board Counsel to transmit the Superintendent Employment Contract for Bernard F. Bragen, Jr. to the Middlesex County Executive Superintendent. Mr. Errico made the motion, seconded by Dr. Chen. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

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

NAYS: Mrs. Conway, Mrs. Ward

The motion was carried.

XI. 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.

- Superintendent Candidates

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 second privileged session resolution at 7:02 P.M. Mr. Errico made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Patel. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

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

NAYS: None The motion was carried.

XII. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

There being no further questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. Shi asked for a motion to reconvene this second closed session meeting of the November 11, 2019 Special Public Meeting of the Edison Board of Education to open session at 7:25 P.M. Mr. Brescher made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Peng. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

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

ABSENT: Mr. Errico left the meeting at 7:03 P.M.

NAYS: None The motion was carried.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. Shi asked for a motion to adjourn this November 11, 2019 special public meeting of the Edison Board of Education at 7:26 P.M. Dr. Chen made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Conway and approved by all members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel P. Michaud
Board Secretary
DPM:jmc