

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

Dr. Bragen introduced former Governor, the Honorable Richard J. Codey, Senator, who had the newly elected board members recite the following Oath 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, Mohin 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, Mohin 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 4th day of January AD 2021
/s/ Mohin Patel /s/ Richard J. Codey, Senator
School District of Edison Township
County of Middlesex / State of New Jersey

I, Virginia White, 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, Virginia White, 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 4th day of January AD 2021
/s/ Virginia White /s/ Richard J. Codey, Senator
School District of Edison Township
County of Middlesex / State of New Jersey

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 4th day of January AD 2021
/s/ Jingwei (Jerry) Shi /s/ Richard J. Codey, Senator
School District of Edison Township
County of Middlesex / State of New Jersey

II. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

The January 4, 2021 Reorganization Meeting of the Edison Board of Education was called to order by Bernard F. Bragen, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, at 7:25P.M. at Edison High School, 50 Boulevard of Eagles, Edison, NJ.

III. ROLL CALL

Dr. Bragen took the roll call, and the following members were present:

Mrs. Carol Bodofsky, Dr. Yunxia “Yuna” Chen, Mrs. Elizabeth Conway, Mrs. Shivi Prasad-Madhukar, Mr. Mohin Patel, Mrs. Shannon Peng, Mr. Jingwei “Jerry” Shi, Mrs. Virginia White

Also in attendance were Bernard F. Bragen, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent, and Ms. Hope Blackburn, Board Attorney.

IV. OPENING STATEMENT (By Dr. Bragen, 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 September 22, 2020 and November 25, 2020.

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>
NP1 – Christo Makropoulos	3,908
NP2 – Clifton Prescod	3,891
NP2 – Brett H. Baker	4,903
NP3 – Yash Pandya	9,858
NP4 – Virginia R. White	12,815
NP4 – Jingwei “Jerry” Shi	12,313
NP4 – Mohin K. Patel	13,627
NP5 – Maria Wise	8,784
NP5 – Padmaja “Paddy” Chinta	8,873
NP5 – Anthony “Tony” DePasquale	9,352
NP6 – Ernest Kregeloh	2,846
NP7 – Brian Rivera	1,998

VI. NOMINATION & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President:

Dr. Bragen opened the floor for nominations for President of the Board of Education.

Mr. Patel nominated Mr. Shi for President. Mrs. Bodofsky nominated Mrs. Conway for President.

Each board member filled out a ballot with their choice of President and returned the ballots to Dr. Bragen.

Dr. Bragen read the ballots off and the results were as follows:

MR. SHI: Dr. Chen, Mr. Patel, Mr. Shi, Mrs. White, Mrs. Peng

MRS. CONWAY: Mrs. Bodofsky, Mrs. Conway, Mrs. Madhukar

Mr. Shi was elected President.

Vice President:

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

Mrs. Bodofsky nominated Mrs. Conway. Mrs. White nominated Mr. Patel.

Each board member filled out a ballot with their choice of Vice President and returned the ballots to Mr. Shi.

Mr. Shi read the ballots off and the result was as follows:

MRS. CONWAY: Mrs. Conway, Mrs. Bodofsky

MR. PATEL: Mrs. Madhukar, Mr. Patel, Dr. Chen, Mr. Shi, Mrs. Peng, Mrs. White

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. Dr. Chen made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Conway. Dr. Bragen took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Bodofsky, Dr. Chen, Mrs. Conway, Mrs. Madhukar,
Mr. Patel, Mrs. Peng, Mr. Shi, Mrs. White

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

VIII. ADOPTION OF STATE MANDATED CODE OF ETHICS

Ms. Blackburn 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. Ms. Blackburn, Board Attorney, and Dr. Bragen 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 State Mandated Code of Ethics resolution. Mrs. Bodofsky made the motion, seconded by Dr. Chen. Dr. Bragen took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Bodofsky, Dr. Chen, Mrs. Conway, Mrs. Madhukar,
Mr. Patel, Mrs. Peng, Mr. Shi, Mrs. White

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS (RESOLUTIONS)

There were no public comments at this time.

X. REORGANIZATION MEETING RESOLUTIONS

i. Designation of Depositories – 2020-2021 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. Bernard F. Bragen, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent

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.

ii 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>PUBLIC MEETINGS</u>		
Alternating Locations		Alternating Locations		
Thursday	01/21/21	Tuesday	01/26/21	Both Meetings at John P Stevens HS
Thursday	02/18/21	Tuesday	02/23/21	Both Meetings at Edison HS
Thursday	03/18/21	Tuesday	03/23/21	Both Meetings at John P Stevens HS
Thursday	04/22/21	Tuesday	04/27/21	Both Meetings at Edison HS
		Wednesday	05/05/21	Budget Hearing/Personnel Reappointments at John P Stevens HS
Thursday	05/20/21	Tuesday	05/25/21	Both Meetings at John P Stevens HS
Thursday	06/10/21	Tuesday	06/15/21	Both Meetings at Edison HS
Thursday	---	Tuesday	07/27/21	One Meeting at John P Stevens HS
Thursday	---	Tuesday	08/24/21	One Meeting at Edison HS
Thursday	09/23/21	Tuesday	09/28/21	Both Meetings at John P Stevens HS
Thursday	10/21/21	Tuesday	10/26/21	Both Meetings at Edison HS
Thursday	11/18/21	Tuesday	11/23/21	Both Meetings at John P Stevens HS
Thursday	12/16/21	Tuesday	12/21/21	Both Meetings at Edison HS
-----	-----	Monday	01/03/22	John P. Stevens HS for the <u>Reorganization Meeting</u>

School Locations:

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

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that all meetings of the Board of Education commence at 7:00 PM on the date set forth, but in no case, later than 8:00 PM and formal action may be taken by the Board at any and all meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED:

that until further notice, in keeping with the spirit of Executive Orders 156 & 173, in order to permit social distancing out of concern for the health and safety of our community, the meetings will be held with no more than 25% of the capacity of the room being filled (and a maximum of 100 people in attendance). All persons in attendance will have their temperatures taken prior to entering the building, will social distance and everyone is required to wear a mask; and

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED:

that the board meetings and information for the YouTube live stream will be posted on the District website at www.edison.k12.nj.us ; and

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED:

that the agenda of each meeting, to the extent known, is to conduct the monthly caucus and public meetings of the Edison Board of Education and any other matter that may come to the attention of the Board. Formal action will be taken by the Board; and

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED:

that the Edison Board of Education reserves the right to go into privileged session at any time to discuss personnel and/or legal matters if necessary; 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.

Mr. Shi asked for a motion to approve the resolution for the Designation of Depositories for 2020-2021 – Signatures (Revised) and the Meeting Dates. Mr. Patel made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Conway. Dr. Bragen took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Bodofsky, Dr. Chen, Mrs. Conway, Mrs. Madhukar,
Mr. Patel, Mrs. Peng, Mr. Shi, Mrs. White

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

XI. BOARD MEMBERS – OPEN DISCUSSION

Mrs. Madhukar welcomed the new Board Members.

Mr. Patel thanked everyone for their support.

Mrs. White thanked her family for their support.

Mrs. Conway welcomed the new members and congratulated the new president and vice president.

Mr. Shi read the following:

“Good evening. Happy New Year. On behalf of the Board of Education I want to extend my gratitude to all those in attendance both here physically as well as virtually.

As we begin this new year, I want to once again recognize our outgoing board members, Falguni Patel and Beth Moroney. Also some of you might not aware, Mr. Ralph Errico's last day on the Board was December 31st. I want to take this opportunity to recognize his contributions to our district. Mr. Errico served on the board for 5 straight years plus he was assigned twice to the board for well over two years. I want to specially recognize him over the last year when he co-captained the District with Falguni, along with Dr. Bragen, our administrators, and staff, through a turbulent 2020. Thank you Mr. Errico for your leadership and your service.

I want to recognize our special guest, the honorable Governor Richard Codey. Governor Codey was kind enough to be here with us tonight to administer the oath of office to our incoming board members, and we are grateful to him, not just for being with us tonight, but for his service and dedication to all the residents in this state. Governor Codey is the longest-serving state legislator in New Jersey history and has been a steadfast proponent of fair school funding. He is an advocate for the inclusion of diversity in the curriculum. His efforts have resulted in important legislation on issues pertaining to mental health and addiction services, issues that are more important than ever during COVID-19.

We look forward to a strong partnership with Governor Codey and the leadership in Trenton as we advocate for greater funding from Trenton to our school district.

Each new year bring with it new hope and new promise. I look forward to working with all our board members, our administration, educators, staff, parents, students, and our school community. I want to welcome Mrs. Virginia White and Mr. Mohin Patel to the Board. I am confident that they will enhance our Board and our school district.

I am confident that if we work together we can reduce the financial burden placed on taxpayers in Edison without sacrificing the quality of our education system. I am confident that we will put the word "public" back into Edison Public Schools by creating a more open, accessible, and resident friendly education center that communicates with the public in a timely manner. I am confident that we will prioritize the health and wellness of our students and staff and give our school community the resources they need. Most importantly, I am confident that we will be able to ensure that our 17,000 students are offered the best education possible as our schools continue to shine brighter than ever.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Yosh Pandya, resident, congratulated the new board members.

Andy Hibell, resident, congratulated the new board members and questioned the vacancy of the Board Secretary.

Tony DiPasquale, resident, questioned the number of vendors the board uses. He asked the board to work together for the betterment of the students of Edison.

Christo Makropoulos, resident, questioned the Code of Ethics and stated that he will provide his resume for the open position of the board.

Maria Orchid, resident, congratulated the new board members.

A resident congratulated the new board members and thanked the other members for serving on the board.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. Shi asked for a motion to adjourn this January 4, 2021 Reorganization Meeting of the Edison Board of Education at 8:23 P.M. Mr. Patel made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Madhukar and approved by all members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernard F. Bragen, Jr.

Bernard F. Bragen, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
BFB:jmc