

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

Dr. Bragen introduced Middlesex County Judge, the Honorable Alberto Rivas, 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, Biral 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, Biral 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 3rd day of January AD 2022
/s/ Biral Patel /s/ The Honorable Alberto Rivas, Middlesex County Judge
School District of Edison Township
County of Middlesex / State of New Jersey

I, Douglas Schneider, 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, Douglas Schneider, 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 3rd day of January AD 2022
/s/ Douglas Schneider /s/ The Honorable Alberto Rivas, Middlesex County Judge
School District of Edison Township
County of Middlesex / State of New Jersey

I, Brian Rivera, 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, Brian Rivera, 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 3rd day of January AD 2022
/s/ Brian Rivera /s/ The Honorable Alberto Rivas, Middlesex County Judge
School District of Edison Township
County of Middlesex / State of New Jersey

II. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

The January 3, 2022 Reorganization Meeting of the Edison Board of Education was called to order Ann T. Kluck, Assistant Business Administrator/Board Secretary, at 7:20 P.M. at John P. Stevens High School, 855 Grove Avenue, Edison, NJ.

III. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Kluck took the roll call, and the following members were present:

Mrs. Carol Bodofsky, Mrs. Shivi Prasad-Madhukar, Mr. Biral Patel, Mr. Mohin Patel, Mrs. Shannon Peng, Mr. Brian Rivera, Mr. Jingwei “Jerry” Shi, Mrs. Virginia White

Also in attendance were Bernard F. Bragen, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent.

IV. OPENING STATEMENT (By Mrs. Kluck, 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, 2021 and December 21, 2021.

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>
1 – Padmaja “Paddy” Chinta	4,839
2 – Douglas Schneider	7,359
3 – Biral Patel	7,501
4 – Brian Rivera	6,732
5 – David Tingle	4,886
6 – Vimal A. Parikh	4,372
7 – Elizabeth M. Conway	4,619
8 – Ralph Errico	2,546
9 – Gabriel Haller	3,120

VI. NOMINATION & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President:

Mrs. Kluck opened the floor for nominations for President of the Board of Education.

Mrs. White nominated Mr. Schneider for President. There were no other nominations for President.

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

Mrs. Kluck read the ballots off and the results were as follows:

MR. SCHNEIDER: Mrs. Bodofsky, Mrs. Madhukar, Mr. B. Patel, Mr. M. Patel, Mrs. Peng,
Mr. Rivera, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Shi, Mrs. White

Mr. Schneider was elected President.

Vice President:

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

Mrs. Bodofsky nominated Mrs. Madhukar.

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

Mrs. Kluck read the ballots off and the result was as follows:

MRS. MADHUKAR: Mrs. Bodofsky, Mrs. Madhukar, Mr. B. Patel, Mr. M. Patel, Mrs. Peng,
Mr. Rivera, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Shi, Mrs. White

Mrs. Madhukar was elected 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. Schneider asked for a motion to approve the resolution for the approval of the Parliamentary Procedures resolution. Mr. M. Patel made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Madhukar. Mrs. Kluck took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Bodofsky, Mrs. Madhukar, Mr. B. Patel, Mr. M. Patel, Mrs. Peng,
Mr. Rivera, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Shi, Mrs. White

NAYS: None The motion was carried.

VIII. ADOPTION OF STATE MANDATED CODE OF ETHICS

Mrs. Kluck 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. Mrs. Kluck, 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. Schneider asked for a motion to approve the State Mandated Code of Ethics resolution. Mr. B. Patel made the motion, seconded by Mr. Shi. Mrs. Kluck took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Madhukar, Mr. B. Patel, Mr. M. Patel, Mrs. Peng,
Mr. Rivera, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Shi, Mrs. White

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS (RESOLUTIONS)

Christo Makropoulos, resident questioned the Code of Ethics.

X. REORGANIZATION MEETING RESOLUTIONS

- i. Designation of Depositories – 2021-2022 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. Douglas Schneider, President
2. Bernard F. Bragen, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent
3. Christopher Mullins, Treasurer of School Monies

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. Schneider asked for a motion to approve the resolution for the Designation of Depositories for 2021-2022 – Signatures (Revised). Mr. B. Patel made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Madhukar. Mrs. Kluck took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Bodofsky, Mrs. Madhukar, Mr. B. Patel, Mr. M. Patel, Mrs. Peng,
Mr. Rivera, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Shi, Mrs. White

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

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 Both High Schools			Alternating Locations Both High Schools		
Thursday	01/20/22	John P. Stevens HS	Tuesday	01/25/22	John P. Stevens HS
Thursday	02/17/22	Edison HS	Tuesday	02/22/22	Edison HS
Thursday	03/17/22 Preliminary Budget Approval	John P. Stevens HS	Tuesday	03/22/22	John P. Stevens HS
Thursday	04/14/22	Edison HS	Tuesday	04/26/22 ***	Edison HS *** One week break between meetings due to Spring Break
-----	-----	-----	Wednesday	05/04/22	Budget Hearing and Personnel Reappointments -John P. Stevens HS
Thursday	05/12/22 Budget Adoption	John P. Stevens HS	Tuesday	05/17/22	John P. Stevens HS
Thursday	06/09/22	Edison HS	Tuesday	06/14/22	Edison HS
-----	-----	-----	Tuesday	07/19/22	One Monthly Meeting in Summer John P. Stevens HS • 6:00 P.M. • Start Time
-----	-----	-----	Tuesday	08/23/22	One Monthly Meeting in Summer Edison HS • 6:00 P.M. • Start Time
Thursday	09/15/22	John P. Stevens HS	Tuesday	09/20/22	John P. Stevens HS
Thursday	10/13/22	Edison HS	Tuesday	10/18/22	Edison HS
Thursday	11/17/22	John P. Stevens HS	Tuesday	11/22/22	John P. Stevens HS
Thursday	12/15/22	Edison HS	Tuesday	12/20/22	Edison HS
Monday	01/02/23	REORGANIZATION MEETING – Education Center			

School Locations:

Edison High School – 50 Boulevard of Eagles, Edison, NJ
John P. Stevens High School – 855 Grove Avenue, Edison, NJ
Education Center – 312 Pierson 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, with the exception of the July and August meetings which will commence at 6:00 PM, 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 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 all 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. Schneider asked for a motion to approve the resolution for the Meeting Dates. Mr. B. Patel made the motion, seconded by Mr. B. Patel. Mrs. Kluck took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Bodofsky, Mrs. Madhukar, Mr. B. Patel, Mr. M. Patel, Mrs. Peng,
Mr. Rivera, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Shi, Mrs. White

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

XI. BOARD MEMBERS – OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Shi congratulated the new board members. She spoke about the opening of school and COVID testing and protocol. Mr. Shi also discussed the protocols and process of notifying schools.

Mrs. White congratulated the new board members.

Mr. M. Patel welcomed the new board members and thanked Mr. Shi for his term as Board President.

Mr. B. Patel thanked Mr. Shi for his term as Board President.

Mr. Rivera stated he was excited to work with the Board.

Mrs. Bodofsky congratulated the new Board Members.

Mrs. Madhukar stated that she is looking forward to working together with the Board. She welcomed Mr. Schneider, Mr. Rivera and Mr. Biral Patel to this year's board. Mrs. Madhukar also spoke about the overcrowding issues in the schools and about in-person supervised classes and allowing some students to work from home during the COVID epidemic. She asked that COVID procedures and policy protocol be sent to all parents.

Mr. Schneider stated that he is honored to serve on the Board and thanked his family for supporting him in this endeavor. He spoke about COVID concerns for students and the community and said with confidence that all Board administrators and employees have gone above and beyond to do their best for the students and staff during this troubled times.

Moving forward, Mr. Schneider welcomed Mrs. Madhukar as the new Vice President and felt they would serve as co-presidents. He commended Mrs. Madhukar for her wealth of knowledge that she has brought to the Board and felt all nine board members are her for the same reasons and looks forward to working with everyone. Mr. Schneider thanked Mr. Shi and Mr. Mohin Patel for the work they did serving the Board during the past year. He said the board needs to reaffirm their commitment to each other as members of this board with no transparency and will have a student-focused agenda.

Mr. Schneider asked for a motion to close Board Member comments. Mr. Shi made the motion, seconded by Mr. Rivera and approved by all members.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joyce Ship-Freeman, resident, discussed overcrowding in the schools and the need for new schools.

Elizabeth Conway, resident, congratulated the 2022 Board. She discussed her grandson's school which was virtual and the use of Chromebooks. Mrs. Conway questioned the protocols for overcrowding in schools and asked Mrs. White to add COVID quick answers to the parent Help Desk

Students from the Edison High School newspaper discussed COVID issues.

Many residents questioned COVID issues in the schools, including remote learning, ways to keep the students and staff healthy in schools, mental health issues, learning loss, busing issues, overcrowding issues, extra-curricular activities and staffing problems.

Mr. Schneider asked for a motion close Public Comments. Mr. M. Patel made the motion, seconded by Mr. Rivera. Mrs. Kluck took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Bodofsky, Mrs. Madhukar, Mr. B. Patel, Mr. M. Patel, Mrs. Peng,
Mr. Rivera, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Shi, Mrs. White

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. Schneider asked for a motion to adjourn this January 3, 2022 Reorganization Meeting of the Edison Board of Education at 11:32 P.M. Mr. M. Patel made the motion, seconded by Mr. Shi and approved by all members present.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann T. Kluck
Assistant Business Administrator/
Board Secretary
ATK:jmc