

MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes  
January 3, 2024

7:00 p.m. - Reorganization Meeting

Call to Order - Paul DeAngelo, Business Administrator/Board Secretary called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. DeAngelo, Board Secretary conducted Roll Call

	Diane Margolin	Jennifer Rosenblum
	Constance Quinn	Linda Watters
	Jonathan Rood	James J. Winand

Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Statement of Adequate Notice

Mrs. Quinn provided the Statement of Adequate Notice of this meeting in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act has been given by posting one copy of a Notice of Meeting in the Mansfield Township Board of Education Office, by mailing copies to The Express-Times, Star-Ledger and to the Township clerk in Mansfield Township.

Paul DeAngelo, Board Secretary, administered the Oath of Office to Newly Elected Members of the Board of Education. The oath of office was signed, notarized, and held by the Board Secretary in the Board of Education Office.

- Mr. Jonathan Lemp - Majority of votes cast, Three Years
- Mrs. Judy Irwin - Majority of votes cast, Three Years
- Mrs. Jennifer Rosenblum - Majority of votes cast, Three Years

**Reorganization Agenda - Board Organization  
Temporary Chair Appointment to Conduct Election of Board President**

There was a motion by Linda Watters and seconded by James Winand and approved by a 6-0-0 Board to appoint Board Secretary, as temporary Chair, to conduct election of Board President.

**Board Organization - Board Secretary**

**NOMINATION OF OFFICERS THE BOARD SECRETARY CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT:**

1. Resolved to nominate Constance Quinn for President. Motion Made By: Diane Margolin  
Seconded By: Linda Watters. There were no additional nominees.
2. Motion to appoint Constance Quinn as Board President. Nominations for Mansfield Board President.

MOTION:		SECOND:		
Name	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Judy Irwin	X			
Jonathan Lemp	X			
Alison Lorentson	X			
Diane Margolin	X			
Constance Quinn	X			
Jonathan Rood	X			
Jennifer Rosenblum	X			
Linda Watters	X			
James J. Winand	X			

**The Board Secretary turned the meeting over to the newly elected President.**

3. The Board President called for nominations for Vice President and on a motion by Diane Margolin and Second by Constance Quinn to nominate Linda Watters for Vice President. Hearing no other nominations from the floor. Resolved to close nominations for Vice President.
4. On a motion by Constance Quinn seconded by Diane Margolin the BOE appointed Linda Watters as Mansfield Board Vice President.

MOTION:		SECOND:		
Name	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Judy Irwin	X			
Jonathan Lemp	X			
Alison Lorentson	X			
Diane Margolin	X			
Constance Quinn	X			

Jonathan Rood	X			
Jennifer Rosenblum	X			
Linda Watters	X			
James J. Winand	X			

5. On a motion by Constance Quinn and seconded by Linda Watters the BOE approved a motion on a 9-0 roll call vote to adopt Code of Ethics - Resolved that the Board of Education adopts the New Jersey School Boards Association Code of Ethics as listed; Be It Further Resolved each Board of Education Member will sign the documentation that he/she has received a copy of the code and it is understood.

#### CODE OF ETHICS

1. I will uphold and enforce all laws, state board rules and regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
2. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.
3. 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.
4. I will behave toward my fellow board members with the respect due their office-demonstrating courtesy, decorum and fair play at all public meetings and in all public statements.
5. I will refrain from inappropriate conduct in public meetings and in making public statements, refraining from any disparagement of my fellow board members or others on a personal, social, racial or religious basis.
6. 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.
7. I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the board.
8. 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.

9. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. But 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 schools.

10. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief school administrator.

11. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.

12. I will refer all complaints to the chief school administrator and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

MOTION:		SECOND:		
Name	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Judy Irwin	X			
Jonathan Lemp	X			
Alison Lorentson	X			
Diane Margolin	X			
Constance Quinn	X			
Jonathan Rood	X			
Jennifer Rosenblum	X			
Linda Watters	X			
James J. Winand	X			

The following motions were approved by Constance Quinn and seconded by Linda Watters and approved by a 9-0-0 Roll call vote with the exception of Item 9.0 which will be addressed at a later date.

6. Motion to approve the Parliamentary Procedures Resolved, to adopt Robert's Rules of Order as the official parliamentary procedure manual to be used to conduct meetings and to appoint the board secretary and board attorney to act as the parliamentarians until the next Reorganization Meeting on January 2, 2025.
7. Motion to approve the 2024-2025 Mansfield Township Board of Education Meeting dates.
8. Motion to readoption of Policy Manual Resolved, to readopt all current written policies, by-laws and rules/regulations of the Mansfield Township School District for the period from the date of this Reorganization Meeting until the Reorganization Meeting in the next calendar year unless modified by the Board of Education in accordance with those applicable policies, by-laws and/or rules/regulations.

9. Motion to **table** the appointment of Delegates and Representatives Resolved, to appoint the following delegates/representatives:

Warren County Educational Services Commission \_\_\_\_\_  
 Warren County School Boards Association \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Jersey School Boards Association \_\_\_\_\_  
 Township Committee Liaison \_\_\_\_\_

10. Motion to designate Official Newspapers/Meeting Schedule Whereas, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of NJ (1975) known as, and hereinafter designated as, the "Open Public Meetings Act" requires notification of meetings of public bodies, as therein defined, in the manner therein set forth, now therefore be it Resolved, that for purposes of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act the Mansfield Township Board of Education hereby makes the following designations: The Star-Gazette and (primary) and The Express Times (secondary) are hereby designated as the two newspapers to receive notification of meetings as required by any and all sections of the Open Public Meetings Act. Notices of meetings shall be posted on the bulletin boards in the main entrance of the schools, on the district website, and sent to the Township Clerk. Be it Further Resolved, to approve the annual board meeting calendar as follows: The regular monthly meetings of the Mansfield Township Board of Education in Warren County begin with an executive session at 7:00 p.m. and the regular public meeting held at 7:30 p.m. and are open to the public.

MOTION:		SECOND:		
Name	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Judy Irwin	X			
Jonathan Lemp	X			
Alison Lorentson	X			
Diane Margolin	X			
Constance Quinn	X			
Jonathan Rood	X			
Jennifer Rosenblum	X			
Linda Watters	X			
James J. Winand	X			

**Superintendent's Report** - Dr. McCartney introduced John Comegno, Esq. Mansfield Township BOE attorney, who provided the ethics training.

**Communications and Petitions (If required)** – The Superintendent and members of the Board may acknowledge any communications and/or petitions received.

Mr. DeAngelo discussed the grant forum, the SOP updates, and Governance I, II, III, IV BOE Training, and the settlement payment for the Brown Deed.

Mr. DeAngelo read into Communication the letter of support by Mrs. Marusic supported John Melitsky as Superintendent.

**Public Comments Agenda - None**

Public comments are invited on matters pertaining only to the agenda action items at this time. All participants shall be given three (3) minutes to speak and shall state their name, place of residence, and group affiliation, if appropriate. The Board uses the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to citizen concerns, but please be aware that not all issues brought to a board meeting will be resolved this evening; rather, the Board will, in appropriate cases, delegate the authority to investigate the matter to the Superintendent or his designee.

Please let the record reflect that the BOE does not endorse your comments nor will the BOE be held liable for comments you make about a staff member, or other person, which the staff member, or other person, may consider defamatory and/or libelous, as that individual retains all rights to pursue any legal remedies against you. The Board will hear all public comments and then close the public comment session and respond if appropriate.

**New Business - None**

**Old Business - None.**

**FUTURE BOE MEETING DATES**

January 18, 2024

February 15, 2024

March 14, 2024 - Budget Due to County March 20, 2024

The BOE discussed the 2024 BOE Meeting Dates and the consensus was to approve the meeting dates and for BOE to review the dates.

Second Executive Session - On a motion by Linda Watters and second by Constance Quinn, the Board of Education adjourned to closed session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal matters.

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-11, permits the board of education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Mansfield Township Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss:

- 1) Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule
- 2) Pending Litigation

- 1) Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule
- 2) Pending Litigation
- 3) Personnel Matters
- 4) Matters of Attorney/Client Privilege
- 5) Confidential Student Matters

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mansfield Township Board of Education reserves the right to discuss such other matters rendered confidential by law should the need arise; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Action may be taken.

The Board of Education adjourned from Executive Session at 9:50 p.m.

**Recommended Action** - On a Motion by Constance Quinn and seconded by Linda Watters adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

MOTION:		SECOND:		
Name	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Judy Irwin	X			
Jonathan Lemp	X			
Alison Lorentson	X			
Diane Margolin	X			
Constance Quinn	X			
Jonathan Rood	X			
Jennifer Rosenblum	X			
Linda Watters	X			
James J. Winand	X			

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Paul DeAngelo  
SBA/Board Secretary

Mrs. Linda Watters  
Vice-President