

I. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

The January 2, 2024 Reorganization Meeting of the Edison Board of Education was called to order by Jonathan B. Toth, Business Administrator/Board Secretary at 7:00 P.M. at the Education Center, 312 Pierson Avenue, Edison, NJ.

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

Mr. Jonathan Toth, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, 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, 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 2nd day of January AD 2024
/s/ Virginia White /s/ Jonathan B. Toth, Secretary
School District of Edison Township
County of Middlesex / State of New Jersey

I, Anjana 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, Anjana 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 2nd day of January AD 2024
/s/ Anjana Patel /s/ Jonathan B. Toth, Secretary
School District of Edison Township
County of Middlesex / State of New Jersey

I, Christopher Lugo, 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, Christopher Lugo, 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 2nd day of January AD 2024
/s/ Christopher Lugo /s/ Jonathan B. Toth, Secretary
School District of Edison Township
County of Middlesex / State of New Jersey

III. ROLL CALL

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

Mr. Christopher Lugo, Mrs. Anjana Patel, Mr. Biral Patel, Mr. Vishal Patel, Mrs. Shannon Peng, Mr. Brian Rivera, Mr. Joseph Romano, Mr. Douglas Schneider, Mrs. Virginia White

Also in attendance were Edward Aldarelli Ed.D., Superintendent, Mr. Jonathan B. Toth, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Mr. Matthew Moench, Board Attorney.

IV. OPENING STATEMENT (By Mr. Jonathan Toth, 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 3, 2023.

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>
Virginia White	6,866
Bijal Parikh	6,176
Anthony Dima	6,106
Christopher Lugo	6,537
Jingwei “Jerry” Shi	6,323
Anjana R. Patel	6,574

VI. NOMINATION & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President:

Mr. Toth opened the floor for nominations for President of the Board of Education.

Mr. Romano nominated Mr. Biral Patel for President.

Mrs. Peng nominated Mr. Vishal Patel for President.

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

Mr. Toth read the ballots off and the results were as follows:

MR. BIRAL PATEL: Mrs. A. Patel, Mr. B. Patel, Mr. Romano, Mr. Schneider, Mrs. White, Mr. Rivera

MR. VISHAL PATEL: Mrs. Peng, Mr. Lugo, Mr. V. Patel

Mr. Biral Patel was elected President.

Vice President:

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

Mr. B. Patel nominated Mr. Romano.

Mrs. Peng nominated Mr. Vishal Patel.

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

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

MR. ROMANO: Mr. Schneider, Mrs. White, Mr. B. Patel, Mr. Lugo, Mr. Romano, Mr. Rivera

MR. VISHAL PATEL: Mrs. Peng, Mrs. A. Patel, Mr. V. Patel

Mr. Romano 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. B. Patel asked for a motion to approve the resolution for the approval of the Parliamentary Procedures resolution. Mr. Schneider made the motion, seconded by Mr. Romano. Mr. Toth took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mr. Lugo, Mrs. A. Patel, Mr. B. Patel, Mr. V. Patel, Mrs. Peng,
Mr. Rivera, Mr. Romano, Mr. Schneider, Mrs. White

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

VIII. ADOPTION OF STATE MANDATED CODE OF ETHICS

Mr. Moench, Board Attorney, 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. Rubin, Board Attorney, and Mr. Toth 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. B. Patel asked for a motion to approve the State Mandated Code of Ethics resolution. Mr. Romano made the motion, seconded by Mr. Schneider. Mr. Toth took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mr. Lugo, Mrs. A. Patel, Mr. B. Patel, Mr. V. Patel, Mrs. Peng,
Mr. Rivera, Mr. Romano, Mr. Schneider, Mrs. White

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS (RESOLUTIONS)

There were no public comments at this time.

X. RESOLUTIONS

APPROVAL OF 2024 MEETING DATES

BE IT

RESOLVED: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Edison Township Board of Education designates the date, time and locations for the Caucus Meetings and Public Action Meetings of the Board of Education as listed below:

Thursday	01/18/24	Education Center – 7:00 P.M.
Tuesday	01/23/24	Edison High School – 7:00 P.M.
Tuesday	02/27/24	Edison High School – 5:30 P.M.
Thursday	03/21/24	Education Center – 7:00 P.M. • Preliminary Budget Approval
Tuesday	03/26/24	Edison High School – 7:00 P.M.
Thursday	04/25/24	Education Center – 7:00 P.M.
Tuesday	04/30/24	Edison High School – 7:00 P.M. • Budget Hearing
Tuesday	05/07/24	Edison High School – 5:30 P.M. • Personnel Reappointments
Tuesday	05/21/24	Edison HS – 5:30 P.M.
Tuesday	06/18/24	Edison HS – 5:30 P.M.
Tuesday	07/23/24	Education Center – 5:30 P.M.
Tuesday	08/20/24	Education Center – 5:30 P.M.
Thursday	09/19/24	Education Center – 7:00 P.M.
Tuesday	09/24/24	Edison HS – 7:00 P.M.
Tuesday	10/29/24	Edison HS – 5:30 P.M.
Tuesday	11/19/24	Edison HS – 5:30 P.M.
Tuesday	12/17/24	Edison HS – 5:30 P.M.
Thursday	01/02/25	Education Center – 7:00 P.M. • Reorganization Meeting

School Locations:

Edison High School – 50 Boulevard of Eagles, 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 P.M. for separate Caucus and Public Action Meetings or at 5:30 P.M. for combined Caucus/Public Action Meetings on the dates 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 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 meeting 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. B. Patel asked for a motion to approve the 2024 the Meeting Dates. Mr. Romano made the motion, seconded by Mr. B. Patel. Mr. Toth took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mr. Lugo, Mrs. A. Patel, Mr. B. Patel, Mr. V. Patel, Mrs. Peng,
Mr. Rivera, Mr. Romano, Mr. Schneider, Mrs. White

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

XI. BOARD MEMBERS – OPEN DISCUSSION

The Board Members congratulated the new board and all looked forward to a new year.

Dr. Aldarelli wished everyone a happy and healthy new year and congratulated the newly elected Board Members. He highlighted the Strategic Plan process.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public congratulated the new board.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. B. Patel asked for a motion to adjourn this January 2, 2024 Reorganization Meeting of the Edison Board of Education at 8:00 P.M. Mrs. A. Patel made the motion, seconded by Mr. Schneider and approved by all members present.

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan B. Toth
Board Secretary

JBT:JMC