

The Estell Manor Board of Education held a special meeting on Monday, April 18, 2016 at the Estell Manor Elementary School. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Board President, Mrs. Barbetto.

Call to Order

This is to advise those present that adequate notice of meeting has been given in the official newspapers and posted in two public places as required by laws of 1975, Ch. 231, commonly known as the Open Meeting Act.

Open Public Meeting
Announcement

The Flag Salute was led by the President, Bonnie Barbetto.

Flag Salute

Present – John Cressey, Brianne Seelman, Mrs. Barbetto, Mrs. Ferrari, Noelle Jacquelin, Superintendent and Rose Millar, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Roll Call

Absent was Kathy Mimler (due to a death in the family out of state) and Brett Gorman of Parker McCay was not present.

MOTION: To Open Public Session. Mrs. Seelman Second: Mrs. Ferrari. Motion carried unanimously. (6:32 pm)

Mr. Klosek voiced disagreement with the board decision of non renewal of Ms. Jacquelin. Acknowledged the commitment of school board members but questioned individual tactics of members. Encouraged board members to reflect upon their decisions and look within themselves and question why this decision to non renew Ms. Jacquelin. Past performance evaluations were positive. Did not want to see "a cancer" on the board and small town politics. Informed the board of the excellent things Ms. Jacquelin has done for the school community. Inquired about how many training opportunities the Board has had for training

Mr. Adelman inquired about the ad for a new superintendent and public funds spent to retain NJSBA for a superintendent search. Mr. Adelman pointed out that four former Board Presidents were present and all have serious concerns about the action being taken by the Board. He believes the Board is making a big mistake and as a taxpayer, he has concerns.

Ms. Reese voiced her support of Ms. Jacquelin stating that school boards as well as HSA members do a great job with their commitments. She stated that her son learned a lot from the newly established CAL league basketball team as well as academically specifically mentioning Mr. Morganweck and Mrs. Baker. He went from depressed to better. She expressed her concern for the children – **three new superintendents. She doesn't** understand the reason for the decision. Her impression was that Ms. Jacquelin stepped into a difficult spot and did great.

Mr. Gothlin – has been a parent for a long time and now a Pop-Pop, spoke about how the job of superintendent has evolved since his children were small. Spoke about how the superintendent is responsible for the welfare and educational decisions for the children.

Ms. Corbit addressed the board and stated that she wanted to know why the non renewal. She felt she did not get an answer.

Mr. Dilg reiterated that he was present at the meeting where the school board attorney spoke about Ms. Jacquelin and stated that he believed she did a good job.

MOTION: To close Public Session. Mr. Seelman Second: Ms. Cressey. Motion carried unanimously. (6:52 pm)

NJSBA Presentation: Terry Lewis, Field Services Representative (in place of Jane Kershner, Field Services Director due to an illness), summarized the process for the NJSBA Superintendent Search specifically in reference to the search process, discussion of board criteria, the search timeline, and the preparation of the advertisement. (6:52pm-7:38pm)

Executive Session

WHEREAS, Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, known as the Open Public Meetings Act, provides that a public body may not exclude the public from any meeting to discuss any matter described therein until the public body has first adopted a Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Estell Manor School District has determined that the following items must be discussed in closed session and that the public must be excluded from said deliberations; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Estell Manor School District has determined that the subject matter of the closed discussion falls within those matters described in subsection 7b of the Open Public Meetings Act; Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the Board of Education of the Estell Manor School District, Atlantic County, state of New Jersey, that:

The Board of Education will go into closed session to discuss matters that may pertain to Legal, Privacy, Negotiations, Finance, Personnel, or Litigation. There may or may not be action taken.

Be it further resolved that the Board of Education of the Estell Manor School District will disclose to the public the subject matter of said closed discussions as soon as the matters have been resolved and the determination can be disclosed to the public.

Discussion of Interim Candidates

MOTION: To adopt the above Resolution. Mrs. Ferrari Second: Ms. Seelman. Motion carried unanimously. (7:38 PM)

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: To resume Open Public Meeting. Mrs. Ferrari Second: Mrs. Seelman. Motion carried unanimously. (7:50 PM)

Terry Lewis left at 7:50pm

MOTION: To Open Public Session. Mrs. Seelman Second: Mrs. Ferrari. Motion carried unanimously. (7:50 pm)

Mr. Graeff made a plea to the board to rescind their decision. Ms. Jacquelin has given the district an immense gift. She has helped the children and implemented great programs. He stated that the students are upset and that this is not going to be the end. **How can they hurt this woman's** career like this? This angers him. He distributed his own example of the superintendent advertisement. Stated again that it is wrong to destroy **someone's** life like this.

Mr. Klosek stated that a non renewal is technically a fire. He encouraged the Board to reflect on their decision and to truly make sure you understand the vote. Reminded the Board that Ms. Jacquelin is a single mother of four. He reminded the Board that at the March 10th board meeting, during open session, when he informed the Board to reevaluate the budget scenarios presented. He discussed how this situation with Ms. Jacquelin is the same process. The educational decision should be based on facts only and past evaluations and her accomplishments over the past three years.

Mrs. Dilg thanked Ms. Jacquelin for her service to the district. He stated that the list of qualifications just discussed by the Board for the ad for a new superintendent are what Ms. Jacquelin has. Intelligent people selected Ms. Jacquelin.

Ms. Adelman stated that he has 14 years of BOE experience. He is 63 years old. He has never voted against a school budget. He expressed that he feels that this is part of the reason Mr. Cressey ran for election – to non

renew the CSA. Mr. Adelman went on to say that the Board is lacking in good judgment. Mr. Adelman stated that the budget would absolutely not get his vote.

Mrs. McDonnell Commended Ms. Jacquelin on a job well done. Ms. McDonnell has had four children in Estell Manor School. Two currently enrolled (the others in high school).

Ms. Byrd stated that she was on the BOE for three years. She went on to **state that during the previous CST's evaluation process** (Dr Greenfield), Ms. Byrd did not feel qualified to evaluate him because she was very new to the Board let alone fire him. She requested that the Board put aside their emotions and stated that she hoped that the Board had a good reason to **take away Ms. Jacquelin's** career. She encouraged them to sleep on it and rethink.

MOTION: To close Public Session. Mr. Seelman Second: Ms. Cressey.
Motion carried unanimously. (8:09 pm)

Adjourn:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cressey Second: Mrs. Seelman.
Motion carried unanimously. Time: 8:09 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Rose M. Millar, Business Admin/Board Secretary