

Minutes of the Public Organization Meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Education held on May 1, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by the Board Secretary at 6:30 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Adam Layman, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Laura Allen CPA, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

ATTORNEY PRESENT

Mr. Vito Gagliardi, Porzio, Bromberg & Newman, P.C.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – 42

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board Secretary read the following statement:

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the Monroe Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published and electronic notice provided by having the date, time, and place thereof posted April 26, 2024:

1. At all schools,
2. On the District website at <https://www.monroe.k12.nj.us/>,
3. Home News Tribune,
4. Cranbury Press, and
5. Filed with the Clerk of the Municipality.

Ms. Allen stated that tonight's meeting is a unique board of education meeting where it begins without a Board President as Chair, and as Board Secretary, it is her role to chair the meeting until such time as a successful nomination process for a Board President.

ELECTION RESULTS

Ms. Allen stated that the Election Results have been certified by the Middlesex County Clerk of Elections, a copy has been placed in BoardDocs and copies are available on the bookcase for the public this evening. A copy of the election results will be maintained with the official set of minutes.

STATUTORY OATH

Ms. Allen administered the Statutory Oath to the following elected Board of Education Members:

Mr. Peter Piro

Ms. Usha Sharma

Mr. Charles Zeichner

Dr. Amanda Peck, Jamesburg Representative

A copy of the executed Statutory Oaths will be maintained with the official minutes.

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ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Carmen Alvarez
Ms. Gazala Bohra
Ms. Gail DiPane
Ms. Katie Fabiano
Dr. Amanda Peck, Jamesburg Representative
Mr. Peter Piro
Ms. Kate Rattner
Ms. Usha Sharma
Mr. Peter Tufano
Mr. Charles Zeichner

ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT

Ms. Allen announced that nominations were in order for the election of Board President.

Ms. DiPane nominated Ms. Fabiano for the position of Board President.

Ms. Allen announced that since there were no other nominations, the nominations for the position of Board President were closed.

Ms. Fabiano for Board President:

<u>Roll Call:</u>	<u>Vote:</u>
Ms. Carmen Alvarez	Yes
Ms. Gazala Bohra	Yes
Ms. Gail DiPane	Yes
Ms. Katie Fabiano	Yes
Dr. Amanda Peck	Yes
Mr. Peter Piro	Yes
Ms. Kate Rattner	Yes
Ms. Usha Sharma	Yes
Mr. Peter Tufano	Yes
Mr. Charles Zeichner	Yes

Roll call 10-0-0-0-0

Ms. Allen announced that Ms. Fabiano was elected Board President of the Monroe Township Board of Education. As the elected Board President, Ms. Fabiano began her role as Chair of the meeting.

ELECTION OF BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

Ms. Fabiano announced that nominations were now open for the election of Vice President of the Board of Education.

Mr. Piro nominated Ms. Alvarez for Vice President.

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Ms. Fabiano announced that since there were no other nominations, the nominations for the position of Board Vice President were closed.

Ms. Alvarez for Board Vice President:

<u>Roll Call:</u>	<u>Vote:</u>
Ms. Carmen Alvarez	Yes
Ms. Gazala Bohra	Yes
Ms. Gail DiPane	Yes
Ms. Katie Fabiano	Yes
Dr. Amanda Peck	Yes
Mr. Peter Piro	Yes
Ms. Kate Rattner	Yes
Ms. Usha Sharma	Yes
Mr. Peter Tufano	Yes
Mr. Charles Zeichner	Yes

Roll call 10-0-0-0-0. Motion carried.

Ms. Allen announced that Ms. Alavarez was elected Vice President of the Monroe Township Board of Education.

PUBLIC FORUM

Steve Riback, Monroe Township – congratulated Mr. Piro, Ms. Sharma and Mr. Zeichner on being elected to the Board of Education and welcomed Dr. Peck to the Board. Mr. Riback reminded the Board that the respect that they show to each other and those at the podium is seen by many and requested that they all work collegially and respectfully together.

CODE OF ETHICS

A motion was made by Ms. Bohra and seconded by Ms. Rattner that the members of the Monroe Township Board of Education acknowledge receipt of and acceptance of the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) Code of Ethics.

A motion was made by Ms. Rattner and seconded by Ms. Alvarez that the members of the Board of Education modify items 4&5 of the NJSBA Code of Ethics to read as a requirement rather than a recommendation. Roll call 10-0-0-0-0. Motion carried.

Roll call on the motion to accept the NJSBA Code of Ethics 10-0-0-0-0. Motion carried.

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

A motion was made by Ms. Rattner and seconded by Ms. Bohra that the members of the Board of Education accept and approve Organizational Items A-D by approved consent roll call.

A motion was made by Ms. Alvarez and seconded by Mr. Piro to change the start time of the meetings to 6:00 p.m. and begin with a closed session meeting and return to the public portion at 7:00 p.m.

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Regarding the 6:00 start time for meetings, Ms. Rattner inquired if any Board members would have a conflict arriving by that time. After a lengthy discussion regarding the start time, Ms. Alvarez withdrew her motion.

A motion was made by Ms. Alvarez and seconded by Mr. Prio to amend the start time of Board of Education meetings to 6:15 p.m. and the public portion of the meeting to begin at 7:15 p.m. Roll call 10-0-0-0-0. Motion carried.

Roll call on Organizational Items A-D 10-0-0-0-0. Motion carried.

OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

Ms. Fabiano congratulated and welcomed Mr. Piro, Ms. Sharma, and Mr. Zeichner on being elected to the Board of Education and welcomed Dr. Peck. Ms. Fabiano expressed gratitude for the trust that was put in her as being elected as the Board President. Ms. Fabiano stated that she is committed to leading the Board with honesty, transparency and a relentless focus on the advancement of student achievement and success. Accountability and fiscal responsibility will be at the forefront of their agenda while remembering that the ultimate goal is to ensure the success of the students and staff.

Ms. Bohra wished a quick recovery to Dr. Chanley, who is recovering from surgery. Ms. Bohra announced that the South Asian Student Association will be presenting the show Reputasian.

Ms. Rattner wished all teachers a Happy Teacher's Appreciation Week. Ms. Rattner reported that there is a NJSBA Legislative meeting on May 11th and requested that members provide her with any comments or concerns that she can bring forward on their behalf. Ms. Rattner suggested a calendar of events that can be shared so Board members are aware of them.

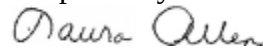
NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Ms. Fabiano stated that the next public meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Education will convene at 6:15p.m. on Monday, May 13, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

The public meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Allen, CPA

Business Administrator/Board Secretary

The video recording of this meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Education can be found on the district website or <https://monroetv.viebit.com/index.php?folder=Board+of+Education>



Wednesday, May 1, 2024

MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

**PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES DURING THE MEETING
ALL INDIVIDUALS SITTING AT THE BOARD TABLE SHOULD HAVE THEIR PHONES PUT AWAY**

**MONROE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL
200 SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD
MONROE TOWNSHIP, NJ 08831
6:30 P.M.**

Any member of the public may record the proceedings of a public meeting of the Board in a manner that does not interrupt the proceedings, inhibit the conduct of the meeting, or distract Board Members or other observers present at the meeting.

The Board will permit the use of tape recorders, still or movie cameras, or videotape cameras only when notice of such intended use has been given to the Board Secretary one day in advance of the meeting. Any video recording device must be located and operated from inconspicuous locations in the meeting room as determined by the presiding officer of the meeting. The presiding officer may also limit the number of video recording devices if he/she determines the number and position of the video recording devices will be an unnecessary intrusion to the meeting. In this event, preference will be given based on the order in which prior notice requesting to record the meeting was provided to the Board Secretary.

The presiding officer shall determine when any recording device interferes with the conduct of a Board meeting and may order that an interfering device be removed.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Subject	A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Meeting	May 1, 2024 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AGENDA
Category	2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Access	Public
Type	

3. STATEMENT

Subject	A. STATEMENT
Meeting	May 1, 2024 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AGENDA
Category	3. STATEMENT
Access	Public
Type	Information

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the Monroe Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published and electronic notice provided by having the date, time, and place thereof posted April 26, 2024:

1. At all schools,
2. On the District website at <https://www.monroe.k12.nj.us/>,
3. Home News Tribune,
4. Cranbury Press, and
5. Filed with the Clerk of the Municipality.

4. ELECTION RESULTS

Subject	A. ELECTION RESULTS
Meeting	May 1, 2024 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AGENDA
Category	4. ELECTION RESULTS
Access	Public
Type	

File Attachments

[Official 04.16.2024 Election Results.pdf \(19 KB\)](#)

5. STATUTORY OATH

Subject	A. STATUTORY OATH
Meeting	May 1, 2024 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AGENDA
Category	5. STATUTORY OATH
Access	Public
Type	

STATUTORY OATH

Mr. Peter Piro

Ms. Usha Sharma

Mr. Charles Zeichner

Dr. Amanda Peck - Jamesburg Representative

File Attachments

[Blank - Oath.pdf \(10 KB\)](#)

Executive File Attachments

[Oaths May 2024.pdf \(99 KB\)](#)

6. ROLL CALL

Subject	A. BOARD MEMBERS
Meeting	May 1, 2024 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AGENDA
Category	6. ROLL CALL
Access	Public
Type	Information

Ms. Carmen Alvarez
 Ms. Gazala Bohra
 Ms. Gail DiPane
 Ms. Katie Fabiano
 Mr. Peter Piro
 Ms. Kate Rattner
 Ms. Usha Sharma
 Mr. Peter Tufano
 Mr. Charles Zeichner

JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE (See Note 2)

Dr. Amanda Peck

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Sehaj Chadha
 Ms. Hetvi Thakker

Executive File Attachments

[Monroe BOE - Board Member Conflict Form\(7693905.1\).pdf \(59 KB\)](#)

7. ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT

8. ELECTION OF BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT

9. PRESENTATION OF PLAQUES TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS MATTHEW GORHAM, MICHELLE SCOTT, AND CHRISSY SKURBE

Subject	A. PRESENTATION OF PLAQUES TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS MATTHEW GORHAM, MICHELLE SCOTT, AND CHRISSY SKURBE
Meeting	May 1, 2024 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AGENDA
Category	9. PRESENTATION OF PLAQUES TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS MATTHEW GORHAM, MICHELLE SCOTT, AND CHRISSY SKURBE
Access	Public
Type	

10. PUBLIC FORUM

Subject	A. PUBLIC FORUM (See Note 3)
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Meeting	May 1, 2024 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AGENDA
Category	10. PUBLIC FORUM
Access	Public
Type	

See Note 3.

11. CODE OF ETHICS

Subject	A. CODE OF ETHICS
Meeting	May 1, 2024 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AGENDA
Category	11. CODE OF ETHICS
Access	Public
Type	

It is recommended that members of the Monroe Township Board of Education acknowledge receipt of and acceptance of the New Jersey School Boards Association Code of Ethics.

File Attachments
[School Ethics Act Code of Ethics.pdf \(618 KB\)](#)

Executive File Attachments
[Code of Ethics May 2024.pdf \(798 KB\)](#)

12. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

Subject	A. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS
Meeting	May 1, 2024 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AGENDA
Category	12. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS
Access	Public
Type	

It is recommended that the members of the Monroe Township Board of Education approve the Organizational Items A-D by consent roll call.

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

A. MEETING DATES

Be It Resolved that the regular meetings of the Board of Education of the Township of Monroe shall be held as per the previously submitted schedule, at which time formal action may be taken.

B. POLICY

Be It Resolved by the Board of Education of the Township of Monroe that all policies of the previous Board are hereby adopted until such time as the Board decides to revise, or otherwise alter policies.

C. DESIGNATION OF BANKS OR DEPOSITORIES

Be It Resolved that the Board of Education designates the following banks or depositories for school district funds:

The Depository Trust Company
 State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund
 Provident Bank*
 US Bank

*Provides most of the banking services.

Be it Further Resolved that the Business Administrator is authorized to establish accounts, and wire transfer funds among the accounts as needed, and approve the payment of bills between Board Meetings only as needed in exigent circumstances, with the Board duly informed and provided with an opportunity to ratify at the next regular meeting.

D. NEWSPAPERS FOR LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

Be It Resolved that the Board of Education designates the Cranbury Press or the Home News Tribune, both of which circulate in the school district, as official newspapers for legal advertisement.

File Attachments

[Policies.pdf \(41,078 KB\)](#)

[Regulations.pdf \(43,322 KB\)](#)

[Bylaws.pdf \(3,480 KB\)](#)

[Revised May 2024 - April 2025 BOE Meeting Dates.pdf \(132 KB\)](#)

Executive File Attachments

[Monroe BOE - Board Member Conflict Form\(7693905.1\).pdf \(59 KB\)](#)

13. OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

Subject**A. OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS**

Meeting

May 1, 2024 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
 AGENDA

Category

13. OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

Access

Public

Type

14. THE NEXT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 13, 2024

15. ADJOURNMENT

Subject**A. NOTES**

Meeting

May 1, 2024 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
 AGENDA

Category

15. ADJOURNMENT

Access	Public
Type	Action

NOTES

Note 1: Any member of the public may record the proceedings of a public meeting of the Board in a manner that does not interrupt the proceedings, inhibit the conduct of the meeting, or distract Board Members or other observers present at the meeting.

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The presiding officer shall determine when any recording device interferes with the conduct of a Board meeting and may order that an interfering device be removed.

Note 2: The Jamesburg Representative shall be eligible to vote on only those matters specifically designated in N.J.S.A 18A:38-8.1, as follows:

- (1) Tuition to be charged the sending district by the receiving district and the bill lists or contracts for the purchase, operation or maintenance of facilities, equipment and instructional materials to be used in the education of the pupils of the sending district.
- (2) New capital construction to be utilized by sending district pupils.
- (3) Appointment, transfer or removal of teaching staff members providing services to pupils of the sending district, including any teaching staff member who is a member of the receiving district's central administrative staff.
- (4) Addition or deletion of curricular and extracurricular programs involving pupils of the sending district.
- (5) Any matter directly involving sending district students or programs and services used by them.
- (6) The annual receiving district budget.
- (7) Any collectively-negotiated agreement involving employees who provide services used by sending district students.
- (8) Any individual employee contracts not covered by a collectively-negotiated agreement, if those employees provide or oversee programs or services utilized by sending district students.
- (9) Any matter concerning governance of the receiving district board of education, including, but not limited to, the selection of board president and vice-president, approval of board bylaws, and the employment of professionals or consultants such as attorneys, architects, engineers, or others who provide services to the receiving district board of education.

To the extent the Jamesburg Representative inadvertently votes on any other matter, his vote shall not be counted.

Note 3: Public discussion is confined to this portion of the Agenda unless permission is granted by the Board President prior to the start of the meeting or when the Board is considering a Special Agenda Item that the Board deems appropriate for public participation. Anyone wishing to address the Board is requested to stand and state his/her name and address.