

The meeting was called to order by the Board Secretary at 7:00 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Michael G. Kozak, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Dori Alvich, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Michael C. Gorski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC –18

CALL TO ORDER

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 by having the date, time and place thereof posted December 31, 2015:

1. At all Schools,
2. Home News Tribune,
3. Cranbury Press, and
4. Filed with the Clerk of the Municipality.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ELECTION RESULTS

Mr. Gorski announced that the candidates that won a position on the Board of Education were Mr. Marvin Braverman, Ms. Dawn Quarino, and Mr. Frank Russo. A copy of the certified election results can be found on the back table and will be attached to the official set of minutes.

STATUTORY OATH

Mr. Michael C. Gorski, Board Secretary/Business Administrator administered the statutory oath to the following elected Board of Education Members:

Mr. Marvin Braverman

Ms. Dawn Quarino

Mr. Frank Russo

Mr. Paul Rutsky – Jamesburg Representative

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Michele Arminio
Mr. Marvin Braverman
Ms. Jill DeMaio
Mr. Lew Kaufman
Ms. Kathy Kolupanowich
Mr. Thomas Nothstein
Ms. Dawn Quarino
Mr. Steven Riback
Mr. Frank Russo

JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Paul Rutsky

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Syed Ateeb Jamal
Mr. Nicholas Tharney

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Michael G. Kozak, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Dori Alvich, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael C. Gorski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT

Mr. Gorski announced that nominations were in order for the election of Board President.

Mr. Nothstein nominated Mr. Riback for the position of Board President. Ms. Arminio seconded the motion.

Mr. Gorski announced that since there were no other nominations, the nominations for the position of Board President were closed. Mr. Gorski proceeded with a roll call vote.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	<u>Vote:</u>
Ms. Arminio	Yes
Mr. Braverman	Yes
Ms. DeMaio	Yes
Mr. Kaufman	Yes
Ms. Kolupanowich	No
Mr. Nothstein	Yes

Ms. Quarino	Yes
Mr. Riback	Yes
Mr. Russo	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Gorski announced that Mr. Riback was elected President of the Monroe Township Board of Education.

Mr. Riback took his seat as President of the Monroe Township Board of Education. Mr. Riback thanked the other board members and stated that it was an honor to accept this position and he is looking forward to working together with this board.

ELECTION OF BOARD VICE- PRESIDENT

Mr. Riback announced that nominations were now in order for the election of Vice President for the Board of Education.

A motion was made by Ms. Arminio to nominate Mr. Nothstein as Vice President. Ms. Quarino seconded the motion.

Mr. Riback announced that since there were no other nominations, the nominations for the position of Board Vice President were closed. Mr. Gorski proceeded with a roll call vote.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	<u>Vote:</u>
Ms. Arminio	Yes
Mr. Braverman	Yes
Ms. DeMaio	No
Mr. Kaufman	Yes
Ms. Kolupanowich	No
Mr. Nothstein	Yes
Ms. Quarino	Yes
Mr. Riback	Yes
Mr. Russo	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Gorski announced that Mr. Nothstein was elected Vice President of the Monroe Township Board of Education.

OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

Mr. Riback announced that the student growth advisory committee will be meeting on Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Gorski handed out Committee Preference Forms and requested that they be completed and returned to him by Friday. Mr. Gorski announced that Mayor Tamburro scheduled a meeting with the leadership of the Board of Education, District Administration, Senator Greenstein, and Assemblymen Benson and D'Angelo. This meeting was called to discuss the limited amount of State Aid the district receives.

A motion was made by Ms. DeMaio and seconded by Ms. Kolupanowich to direct the board attorney to prepare a resolution for the board to consider at the next board meeting opposing the expansion of the Hatikvah Charter School into the middle school grades and further expansions as it would harm Monroe's budget and our taxpayers. Mr. Nothstein asked for clarification on the costs associated with district students attending Hatikvah. Mr. Nothstein also inquired about the \$15,000 per student cost that was utilized in the development of the budget philosophy as compared to the \$10,000 per student tuition the district pays Hatikvah. Mr. Gorski explained the method used in the budget process when calculating per pupil costs.

Ms. Arminio inquired about the philosophy behind charter schools and why they were established. Ms. DeMaio responded that charter schools were designed to allow students in low performance districts to go out of district to receive a better education. Mr. Russo inquired how charter schools are able to operate with a lower cost per student than public schools. Ms. DeMaio responded that they are privately funded and receive donations. Dr. Kozak added that state aid funding follows the student for charter schools unlike private schools where the parents choose to pay the tuition for attendance.

Mr. Riback suggested a roll call be taken. Mr. Gorski reminded board members that the motion was to direct the attorney to prepare a resolution for further deliberation among board members at the next meeting. Roll Call 5-4-1-0-0 motion carried with Mr. Braverman, Mr. Nothstein, Ms. Quarino and Mr. Russo voting No and Mr. Rutsky abstaining.

CODE OF ETHICS

A motion was made by Ms. Kolupanowich and seconded by Mr. Kaufman that the members of the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of and acceptance of the New Jersey School Boards Association Code of Ethics. Roll Call 10-0-0-0-0 Motion carried. The vote included the Jamesburg Representative where appropriate.

SUSPENSION OF POLICY/BYLAWS

A motion was made by Mr. Nothstein and seconded by Ms. Arminio to approve the following resolution:

It is recommended that the Board of Education suspend the operation of Policy/Bylaw #0164 to permit the Board to conduct only one public forum at this evening's public meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Riback explained the process that should be followed during the Public Forum. Mr. Riback specified that the following procedures should be followed:

- A.) Speakers should state their name and residence.
- B.) Statements should not exceed three minutes.
- C.) All statements should be directed to him and questions should not be directed to individual members of the board. Likewise board members should not comment to speakers during the public session.

PUBLIC FORUM

Harold Kane Newport Way – spoke in regards to the upcoming meeting with the township and legislators that Mr. Gorski announced earlier. Mr. Kane offered suggestions and information relating to Monroe's school funding issue and property tax concerns as compared to some other districts.

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS:

A motion was made by Mr. Nothstein and seconded by Mr. Riback that the members of the Board of Education accept and approve Item 12 – Organizational Items letters A-D and be approved by consent roll call. 10-0-0-0 Motion carried. The vote included the Jamesburg Representative where appropriate.

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 7:00 p.m., 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.

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.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT

Mr. Jamal reported the following; the high school will be holding a Relay for Life event on January 11th. Relay for Life is an overnight walk to raise money for the American Cancer Society; in December the high school hosted a Robotics Competition, the Monroe participants had malfunctions but overcame them and ended up winning the judges award for overcoming troubles and the Girls Varsity Basketball Team beat Manalapan in the Monroe Holiday Classic Game.

Mr. Tharney reported that the MTHS Drama Club held a Cabernet Night; Show Choir and Concerts in December; FBLA and DECA are continuing in their competitions; and MTHS Model UN Club will be attending their conference this weekend.

OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

Ms. Arminio welcomed the new board members and reiterated that every board member brings something new to the table. Ms. Arminio added that she is grateful for them and Mr. Braverman (re-elected) and the ability to discuss and deliberate for the benefit of the community and is looking forward to working with them this year.

Mr. Nothstein echoed Ms. Arminio's comments and welcomed Paul Rutsky the new Jamesburg Representative.

Mr. Riback reminded board members to return the Committee Preference Forms by close of business Friday.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Mr. Riback stated that the next public meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Education will convene at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Riback and seconded by Mr. Nothstein that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The public meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael C. Gorski, CPA
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

**423 Buckelew Avenue
Monroe Township, NJ 08831
(732) 521-1500
Fax (732) 521-1628**

**MICHAEL C. GORSKI, CPA
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary**

Vision Statement

“The Monroe Township Board of Education commits itself to all children by preparing them to reach their full potential and to function in a global society through a preeminent education.”

Mission Statement

“The Monroe Public Schools, in collaboration with the members of the community, shall ensure that all children receive an exemplary education by well-trained, committed staff in a safe and orderly environment.”

**AGENDA
PUBLIC MEETING,
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016
7:00 P.M.
MONROE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**(PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS DURING THE MEETING)
(Recording Board Meetings) (See Note 1 below)**

1. **STATEMENT**

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1. At all schools,
2. Home News Tribune,
3. Cranbury Press, and
4. Filed with the Clerk of the Municipality.

2. **CALL TO ORDER**

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **ELECTION RESULTS**

5. STATUTORY OATH:
Mr. Marvin Braverman
Ms. Dawn Quarino
Mr. Frank Russo
Mr. Paul Rutsky – Jamesburg Representative

6. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Michele Arminio
Mr. Marvin Braverman
Ms. Jill DeMaio
Mr. Lew Kaufman
Ms. Kathy Kolupanowich
Mr. Thomas Nothstein
Ms. Dawn Quarino
Mr. Steven Riback
Mr. Frank Russo

JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE (See Note 2 below)

Mr. Paul Rutsky

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Syed Ateeb Jamal
Mr. Nicholas Tharney

7. ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT
8. ELECTION OF BOARD VICE- PRESIDENT
9. CODE OF ETHICS
10. SUSPENSION OF POLICY/BYLAWS

It is recommended that the Board of Education suspend the operation of Policy/Bylaw #0164 to permit the Board to conduct only one public forum at this evening's public meeting.

11. PUBLIC FORUM (See Note 3 below)

12. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS:

a. Meeting Dates:

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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.

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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.

13. STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT

14. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

15. OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

16. NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 7:00 p.m. Monroe Township High School

17. ADJOURNMENT

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.

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.

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; and
- (4) Addition or deletion of curricular and extracurricular programs involving pupils of the sending district.

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.

***The Jamesburg Representative is only eligible to vote on the items delineated by an asterisk in the Superintendent's and Business Administrator/Board Secretary's Board Action section of the Agenda pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.1.**