

Oakland Public Schools
Work Session Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 14, 2023
5:30 PM

A Work Session of the Board of Education was held at the Oakland Board of Education Administrative Offices in person on November 14, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 5:39 PM by Mr. Mazzilli.

Mr. Mazzilli led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Open Public Meeting announcement as follows: 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 Oakland Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on November 7, 2023 in the Municipal Building, the Board Offices, all school offices and copies sent to newspapers serving Oakland: The Record News. The Board reserves the right to limit public discussion of personnel items, so as to preserve individual privacy.

The Board appreciates the concerns and comments expressed by the public and will take them into consideration. However, please remain advised that, neither the Board nor the administration may comment on or respond to public inquiries or statements regarding any internal personnel matters involving a District employee.

Please be further advised that there is no privilege or qualified privilege with regard to any statements that you make before the Board of Education. Furthermore, in addition to their respective rights to privacy, employees of this school district retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey.

Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise, sign in, and state their names and addresses. Each speaker shall be limited to three minutes. A speaker who has not finished in the allotted time will be directed by the presiding officer to summarize quickly and relinquish the floor within 30 seconds.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Ms. Cooper, Ms. Kilday, Mr. Mazzilli, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin.

Also present: Dr. Gina M. Coffaro, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Annette Wells, Board Secretary/Business Administrator, and Mr. Joseph Tumminia, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds.

Dr. Coffaro presented the number of school absences from the prior week.

Dr. Coffaro announced that a parent program on internet safety will be presented by Melissa Straub on November 30, 2023 from 6:45 - 8:00 pm. A program will also be held during the day for fifth and sixth graders.

The board discussed the policy for advertising on school property (P 6163 Advertising on School Property) and agreed that it would not be allowed.

Ms. Wells updated the board on the staff participation in our first wellness Monday virtual event.

Ms. Wells discussed items in the Buildings and Grounds and Finance areas of the agenda.

Mr. Tumminia updated the board on the situation with the two Dogwood air handlers. The board agreed to move forward with replacing the air handlers as soon as possible and included air conditioning in the replacement.

Mr. Scerbo presented and the board discussed the architectural drawings for possible plans at Dogwood Hill Elementary School. Mr. Scerbo requested that LAN share the estimated construction budget for plan #1.

Mr. Scerbo reported on the New Jersey School Boards Conference.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Ms. Shelkin seconded by Ms. Kilday to enter executive session at 6:45 pm.

WHEREAS, The Board of Education must discuss subjects concerning personnel matters, legal issues, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying, and/or contract negotiations concerning the District, and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid subjects are not appropriate subjects to be discussed in a public meeting; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid subjects to be discussed are within the exemptions which are permitted to be discussed and acted upon in closed executive session pursuant to P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, it is therefore

RESOLVED, that the aforesaid subjects shall be discussed in a closed executive session by this Board and administrative staff and information pertaining thereto will be made available to the public as soon thereafter as possible and once the reasons for nondisclosure no longer exist.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Public Work Session

November 14, 2023

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION-

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:54 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ms. Shelkin, seconded by Ms. Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 pm.

Upon call of the question, the motion carried unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Annette M. Wells

School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary