

MINUTES
PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
REORGANIZATION MEETING
January 7, 2025
7:00 p.m. Anticipated Public Session
NEW EGYPT HIGH SCHOOL

Vision Statement

“Unleashing Unlimited Opportunities . . . Empowering One Warrior At A Time!”

Mission Statement

The Plumsted Township School District shall inspire all students to realize their personal potential. A rich and challenging learning environment, in partnership with the community, will develop critical thinkers, lifelong learners and productive citizens in an emerging global society.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gately, Board Secretary, will preside and voice the call to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, this is to announce that adequate notice of this meeting has been given in the form of an Annual Notice contained in Resolution No. 2024-1, which Resolution was immediately thereafter posted upon the bulletin board in the main office of all four schools and the Board Secretary’s office and disseminated within seven (7) days of passage to the Asbury Park Press and The Trenton Times, and a copy of such resolution was filed with the Plumsted Township Clerk. No advance written notice of this meeting was requested and paid for by any person according to the record of the Secretary of the Board. I direct the Secretary of the Board to enter into the minutes of this meeting this public announcement.

III. FLAG SALUTE

IV. REORGANIZATION

A. Election Results

Mr. Gately, Board Secretary, presented the election results of the 2024 Official School Election held on November 12, 2024.

Kevin Dreher	1,596
Dr. Vincent Giardina	1,709
Justin Goodman	1,780
Ashley Raywood	1,669
Write-in	840

Three (3) Board of Education members were elected to fill two (3) expired three (3) year terms as follows:

Dr. Vincent Giardina	1,709
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Justin Goodman	1,780
Ashley Raywood	1,669

B. Administer the Oath of Office

V. ROLL CALL/REORGANIZATION

Roll Call

Dr. Giardina	Present
Mr. Goodman	Present
Mrs. Kovacs	Present
Mr. Meroney	Absent
Mrs. Morgan	Present
Mrs. Raywood	Present
Mr. Stepnowski	Present

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Ytreboe, Superintendent
 Mr. Gately, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
 Mr. Supsie, Board Attorney

A. Election of President

Mr. Gately called for the nomination of President of the Board of Education.

A motion was made by Mr. Goodman to nominate Dr. Giardina as the Board President.
 Seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

A motion was made by Mrs. Raywood to nominate Mr. Meroney as the Board President.
 Seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

B. Close nominations for the Office of the President of the Board.

A motion was made by Dr. Giardina to close nominations for the election of the Board President.
 Seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

Roll Call

Yes	Dr. Giardina, Mrs. Morgan Mrs. Kovacs, Mrs. Raywood, Mr. Stepnowski, Mr. Goodman
No	None
Absent	Mr. Meroney

The following roll call vote was taken for the motion to nominate Dr. Giardina as Board President.

Roll Call

Yes	Mr. Goodman, Mrs. Morgan
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No	Mrs. Kovacs, Mr. Stepnowski,
Absent	Dr. Giardina
Abstain	None
	Mr. Meroney
	Mrs. Raywood

There was no roll call vote taken for the motion to nominate Mr. Meroney as Board President.

C. Election of the Vice-President

Mr. Gately called for the nomination of Vice President of the Board of Education.

A motion was made by Dr. Giardina to nominate Mr. Goodman as the Board Vice President.
Seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

A motion was made by Mrs. Raywood to nominate Mrs. Morgan as the Board Vice President.
Seconded by Dr. Giardina.

D. Close nominations for the Office of the Vice President of the Board

A motion was made by Dr. Giardina to close the nominations for the election of the Board Vice President.
Seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

Roll Call	
Yes	Dr. Giardina, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Kovacs, Mrs. Raywood, Mr. Stepnowski, Mr. Goodman,
No	None
Absent	Mr. Meroney

The following roll call vote was taken for the motion to nominate Mr. Goodman as Board Vice President.

Roll Call	
Yes	Dr. Giardina, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Kovacs, Mrs. Raywood, Mr. Stepnowski, Mr. Goodman,
No	None
Absent	Mr. Meroney

There was no roll call vote taken for the motion to nominate Mrs. Morgan as Board Vice President.

Dr. Giardina presided over the remainder of the meeting.

VI. REORGANIZATION MOTIONS

A. Code of Ethics

Mrs. Morgan moved with a second by Mrs. Raywood that VI.A.1 be approved:

1. Recommend the Board approve the following item:

The Board of Education Members had the required Board of Ethics Training session as required under N.J.A.C. 6:3-1.3 and N.J.A.C.6A:30.

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey School Boards Association "Code of Ethics" shall be considered the official Code of Ethics of the Plumsted Township Board of Education:

- a. I will uphold and enforce all laws, state board rules and regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should 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 which 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 which 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. But 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 schools.
- 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 such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

Roll Call

Yes

No

Absent

Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Raywood,
Mrs. Kovacs, Mr. Stepnowski,
Mr. Goodman, Dr. Giardina
None
Mr. Meroney

- B. Adoption of Official Newspapers

Mrs. Morgan moved with a second by Mr. Goodman that VI.B.1 be approved:

1. Recommend the Board approve the following item:

To authorize the Asbury Park Press and The Trenton Times be adopted as the official newspapers to be used for the advertisement of meetings and legal ads and all other necessary public notifications for the 2024 - 2025 school year.

Roll Call

Yes

Mrs. Morgan, Mr. Goodman,
Mrs. Kovacs, Mrs. Raywood,
Mr. Stepnowski, Dr. Giardina

No

None

Absent

Mr. Meroney

C. Parliamentary Procedures

Mrs. Raywood moved with a second by Mrs. Morgan that VI.C.1 be approved:

1. Recommend the Board approve the following item:

To adopt Roberts Rules of Order as the official parliamentary procedure manual to be used to conduct meetings and appoint the Board Secretary and Board Attorney to act as the parliamentarians for the 2024 - 2025 school year.

Roll Call

Yes

Mrs. Raywood, Mrs. Morgan,
Mrs. Kovacs, Mr. Stepnowski,
Mr. Goodman, Dr. Giardina

No

None

Absent

Mr. Meroney

D. Board Policies/Regulations

Mr. Goodman moved with a second by Mrs. Raywood that VI.D.1 be approved:

1. Recommend the Board approve the following item:

The adoption of all existing Board Policies and Regulations.

Roll Call

Yes

Mr. Goodman, Mrs. Raywood,
Mrs. Kovacs, Mrs. Morgan
Mr. Stepnowski, Dr. Giardina

No

None

Absent

Mr. Meroney

E. Doctrine of Necessity

Mrs. Morgan moved with a second by Mrs. Raywood that VI.E.1 be approved:

1. Recommend the Board approve the following item:

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A. 18AA:12-21 et seq. was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence in school Board members and school administrators and to provide specific ethical standards to guide their conduct; and

WHEREAS, questions have arisen regarding how a Board should invoke the Doctrine of Necessity when a quorum of a Board of Education has conflicts of interest on a matter required to be voted upon; and

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Commission has provided some guidance in Public Advisory Opinion A03-98 (April 1, 1998) but finds that there is a need to repeat and clarify its opinion; and

WHEREAS, the opinion set forth that, when it is necessary for a Board to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity, the Board should state publicly that it is doing so, the reason that such action is necessary and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

WHEREAS, the opinion further provided that if the Board must invoke the Doctrine of Necessity not just to vote, but also to form a negotiations committee because it is without even three members to serve as a committee, then the Board must determine whether to act as a committee of the whole or to choose a smaller negotiations committee from among its members after stating publicly its reason for doing so as set forth above; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the Legislative purpose as set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:12-22(a) the School Ethics Commission views public disclosure of conflicts of interest to be paramount when it is necessary to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the School Ethics Commission hereby requires Boards of Education and Charter School Boards of Trustees that must invoke the Doctrine of Necessity to adopt a resolution setting forth that they are invoking the Doctrine, the reason for doing so and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Boards of Education and Charter School Boards of Trustees that invoke the Doctrine are directed to read the resolution at a regularly scheduled public meeting, post it where it posts public notices for 30 days and provide the Commission with a copy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall distribute this Resolution to the county superintendents for distribution to the school districts and charter schools, the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials and the New Jersey Education Association.

Roll Call

Yes

Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Raywood,
Mrs. Kovacs, Mr. Stepnowski,
Mr. Goodman, Dr. Giardina

No

None

Absent

Mr. Meroney

VII. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Morgan moved with a second by Mr. Goodman that VII.A. be approved:

- A. Recommend that the Board approve the reorganization meeting agenda for January 7, 2025.

Roll Call

Yes

Mrs. Morgan, Mr. Goodman,
Mrs. Kovacs, Mrs. Raywood,
Mr. Stepnowski, Dr. Giardina

No

None

Absent

Mr. Meroney

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None

IX. DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

- A. Board Meeting dates:

The remaining Board of Education meetings will be held: (pending the vote on motion XI A.1)

- X. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - Opened at 7:10 p.m. and closed at 7:10 p.m.

XI. SUPERINTENDENTS AGENDA

Mrs. Kovacs made a motion, with a second by Mrs. Morgan that A.1 - A.4 be approved:

- A. Other Motions

1. Recommend approval of [resolution 2024-2025 No. 1](#), Open Public Meeting Act.
2. Recommend approval for the Plumsted Township School District to apply for, and possibly obtain a grant from EWEG NJDOE, for the New Jersey Afterschool Program Competitive grant for approximately \$200,000.00 - \$400,000.00.
3. Recommend approval to apply for the EWEG NJDOE Expanding Access to Computer Science High School Courses - Competitive \$40,000.00 Grant.
4. Recommend approval to apply for the EWEG NJDOE Esports Industry Career Exploration - Competitive \$50,000.00 Grant.

Roll Call

Yes

Mrs. Kovacs, Mrs. Morgan
Mrs. Raywood, Mr. Stepnowski,
Mr. Goodman, Dr. Giardina

No

None

Absent

Mr. Meroney

- XII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY SCHOOL RELATED TOPIC - Opened at 7:11 p.m. - Closed at 7:12 p.m.
Mr. Hagelstein, Committeeman - Looks forward to working with the Board of Education.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

XIV. OLD BUSINESS

XV. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Raywood made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 p.m.
Seconded by Mr. Goodman passed unanimously.

Sean Gately
Business Administrator/Board Secretary