

**SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2018-MINUTES**

**HEMPSTEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2018
MINUTES**

The special meeting of the Hempstead Public Schools Board of Education was held in the Superintendent's Office, 185 Peninsula Boulevard, Hempstead, New York 11550. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M. All of the Board Members were present, Trustee Jackson arrived at 7:22 P.M. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the report due to NYSED on February 2, 2018, the possible hiring of a public relations company and other possible board action. The action plan was presented by the Acting Superintendent, Ms. Regina Armstrong.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maribel Touré	President
Gwendolyn Jackson	Vice President
David B. Gates	Trustee
LaMont Johnson	Trustee
Randy Stith	Trustee
Jack Bierwirth	Trustee-Ex-Officio

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Regina Armstrong	Acting Superintendent
Rodney Gilmore, Ed. D.	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
James Clark	Assistant Superintendent for Secondary C & I
Patricia Wright	District Clerk
John Sheahan	General Counsel
Jonathan Scher	Labor Counsel
Monte Chandler	Special Counsel

Trustee Stith moved, seconded by Trustee Jackson to convene to executive session at 8:22 P.M. for legal counsel advice.

MOTION	YES 5	MOTION CARRIED
To convene to executive session		

Trustee Stith moved, seconded by Trustee Touré to reconvene to open session at 10:37 P.M.

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MOTION
To reconvene to
open session

YES 5

MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Stith moved, seconded by Trustee Gates to approve hand carry item # 1 as written.

**1-25-18 HAND CARRY # 1
RESOLUTION TO SUSPEND POLICY #2342**

RESOLVED, the Board of Education waives policy 2342 requiring the agenda, together with supporting background materials to be distributed to Board members seven days in advance of a Board meeting, and the Board shall permit the consideration of the hand-carry resolutions presented at the January 25, 2018 meeting of the Board; and it is further:

RESOLVED, that the emergency basis for waiving such policy is to address issues and concerns raised as a result of the litigation commenced by the District's Superintendent of Schools on January 19, 2018, developments in pending investigations being conducted in the District, and to address urgent needs of the District to respond to the media, and the District's need to respond to the New York State Education Department's and Nassau BOCES's investigation into New American Initiative; and it is further:

RESOLVED, the waiver of policy 2342 is effective only for the hand-carry resolutions considered at the January 25, 2018 meeting.

MOTION
To approve hand
carry item # 1

YES 3
NO 2 (Trustees Touré & Jackson)

MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Gates moved, seconded by Trustee Stith to approve hand carry item # 2 as written.

**1-25-18 HAND CARRY # 2
RESOLUTION TO ENGAGE PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM**

RESOLVED, that the Board suspends policy 6741, to the extent it requires the Board to obtain written proposals via the Request for Proposals (RFP) process, for professional services, to permit the Board to hire a Public Relations Firm, the Commissioner of Education recently ruled (decision #17,188, dated September 17, 2017) that the hiring of consultants, and other professionals such as lawyers, are exempt from bidding requirements and may be hired on the basis of skill and successful prior engagements; and it is further:

RESOLVED, that the Board is engaging a public relations firm, , to permit the Board to respond to media requests and other public relations matters; and it is further:

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RESOLVED, that the Board suspends policy 6741 and policy 2280, to the extent such policies apply and require a recommendation from the Superintendent, for the purpose of permitting the Board to hire Todd Shapiro & Associates, with offices located at 600 Old Country Road, Garden City, as the District's public relations firm in the absence of a recommendation from the Superintendent; and it is further:

RESOLVED, that the Board is applying policy 6741, to the extent such policy applies, to engage and hire Todd Shapiro & Associates, with offices located at 600 Old Country Road, Garden City, as the District's public relations firm; and it is further

RESOLVED, that upon that the Board is engaging the services of Todd Shapiro & Associates, with offices located at 600 Old Country Road, Garden City, as the Board's Public Relations Firm, in the absence of a recommendation from the Superintendent, for a fee not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), which flat fee is said firm's usual and customary monthly retainer fee for such services, but which flat fee shall cover up to sixty (60) days of services under this resolution, to permit the District to secure services during such period, while the District publishes an RFP for such Public Relations Firm services; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Business Office and Purchasing Agent to publish an RFP for Public Relations Firm services, within fifteen days of the date of adoption of this resolution, and for such publication period to last for no less than twenty (20) days, and to establish an Open Date not more than forty five (45) days from the date of date of adoption of this resolution; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the District Clerk is directed to deliver a copy of this Resolution to the Business Office and Purchasing Agent, within two (2) days of the date of adoption of this resolution, to notify them of the Board's direction to publish an RFP for Public Relations Firm services in accordance with the terms of this Resolution.

MOTION
To approve hand
carry item # 1

YES 3
NO 2 (Trustees Touré & Jackson)

MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Touré for the record: "These resolutions have been presented to the Board without any discussion or seven day prior in advance, also the ruling of the commission in the decision 17188 doesn't apply to this company because their term of engagement was not successful and it was not the skills that the district needs. Also I want to say for the record that the this meeting was mainly to discuss the report of the distinguished educator, the board used only maybe 35-40 minutes discussing the report and future plans for the education but we been using more than two hours on how we distribute resources to private vendors."

Trustee Gates for the record: "The posting stated that we would discuss Dr. Bierwirth's report and our response and a PR firm, for the record, that's what the posting stated, and for the record a PR firm has been selected that's previously don work in the district, and it's alleged by one board member of the failure to work up to par to their standards, it is

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not the consensus of or the consideration of the entire board. For the record the actual open session lasted for an hour or little over an hour, I say about an hour and fifteen minutes and so that's the conclusion of that."

Trustee Gates moved, seconded by Trustee Jackson to approve hand carry item # 3 as written.

**1-25-18 HAND CARRY # 3
RESOLUTION PLACING EMPLOYEE #3
ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITH PAY,
PURSUANT TO POLICY #9520.3,
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the District's Acting Superintendent of Schools, employee # 3318, is placed on Administrative Leave of Absence with Pay, for 60 days, pending the conduct of investigations of the operations of the District's Food Service and Cafeteria Department; and it is further:

RESOLVED, that that upon the recommendation of the District's Acting Superintendent of Schools, effective immediately, 3318 is designated, appointed and shall hold the office of Acting Director of Food Service, until a further resolution of Board; and it is further

RESOLVED, employee # 3318, while on such Administrative Leave of Absence with Pay, shall cooperate fully, and full time, with the District's investigation of the operations of the District's Food Service and Cafeteria Department; and it is further

RESOLVED, the District's Technology Office is directed to restrict access to, shut down remote access, and prohibit deletion of any and all email accounts, or the contents thereof, if used, accessed, monitored, or available to employee # 3318, while he is on such Administrative Leave of Absence with Pay; and it is further:

RESOLVED, the District's Acting Superintendent shall have authority to grant or deny access to employee # 3318, to the District's property, real or personal, while he/she is on such Administrative Leave of Absence with Pay, as the District's Acting Superintendent deems fit; and it is further:

RESOLVED, that employee # 3318, shall not enter upon the District's real property, while he/she is on such Administrative Leave of Absence with Pay, without the written permission of the District's Acting Superintendent given in advance; and it is further:

RESOLVED, the District Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution by email and certified return receipt delivery to employee # 3318, within 24 hours of the adoption of this resolution.

MOTION

YES 5

MOTION CARRIED

