

**SPECIAL MEETING-MINUTES
OCTOBER 21, 2020**

**HEMPSTEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2020
MINUTES**

The special meeting of the Hempstead Public Schools Board of Education was in the Interim Superintendent's Office, 185 Peninsula Boulevard, Hempstead, New York 11550. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M., moved by Trustee Spleen and seconded by Trustee Pratt. All of the board Members were present, Trustee Ayala arrived at 7:35 P.M. The Interim Superintendent informed the Board that devices have been received and between one to two week all students in need of devices will have them. The technology department in the process of inventory and imaging. The interim Superintendent also informed the Board of Education the Prospect School will be reopened on Thursday, October 22, 2020.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

LaMont Johnson	President
Patricia Spleen	Vice President
Carmen Ayala	Trustee
Patricia McNeill	Trustee
Victor Pratt	Trustee

SED MONITOR:

William Johnson	SED Monitor –via Zoom
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STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Regina Armstrong	Interim Superintendent
Jamal Scott	Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations
Rodney Gilmore	Associate Superintendent for Human Resources
James Clark	Assistant Superintendent for Special Programs
Djuana Wilson	Assistant Superintendent for Special Education
Patricia Wright	District Clerk
John Sheahan	General Counsel
Jonathan Scher	Labor Counsel

Trustee Spleen moved, seconded by Trustee Pratt to convene to executive session at 7:09 P.M. for advice of legal counsel.

MOTION	YES 4	MOTION CARRIED
To convene to executive session	NO 1 (Trustee McNeill)	

Trustee Pratt moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill to reconvene to open session at 9:30 P.M.

MOTION	YES 5	MOTION CARRIED
To reconvene to open session		

Trustee Spleen moved, seconded by Trustee Pratt to waive policy # 2342.

1. **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves to waive policy # 2342, agenda preparation and dissemination in order to consider the hand carry item being presented at the meeting of October 21, 2020.

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MOTION

YES 4

MOTION CARRIED

To waive policy # 2342 **ABS. 1** (Trustee McNeill)

Trustee Spleen moved, seconded by Trustee Pratt to approve engaging the services of Stewart Besen.

2. **RESOLVED**, the Board of Education hereby engages the services of Stewart Besen of Milber, Makris, Plousadis & Seiden, LLP to perform an internal investigation regarding allegations of official misconduct regarding the individuals named in "Confidential Attachment "A", and to prepare disciplinary charges and/or proceedings if warranted at a rate of \$250.00 per hour plus reimbursement for reasonable expenses, and hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute a retainer letter for same.

MOTION

YES 3

MOTION CARRIED

To engage the **ABS. (Trustees Ayala & McNeill)**
services of Stewart Besen

****Trustee Ayala for the record "I'd like for it to be noted that I've made a request that any Trustee involved in or related to the matter that is being investigated be recused and removed from any vote or action thereof and that was denied by Board Members who are voting affirmatively to go forward with conducting yet another frivolous special investigation and costing the District money where resources and monies could be funneled to educational programs in a fiscally restrained environment where we are under the threat of a 20% state aide reduction which this school district relies heavily on, it is unbelievable that Trustees would opt to spend more resources on frivolous investigations verses working together to create solutions with the resources that we currently have and not divert resources from the students, it disappointing that that is the choice that people are making to continue to take from the students instead of being much more responsible and having the ability to manage issues without costing the district much more money than they already expended, and I want to enter a resolution that was denied into the record as a part of my statement District Clerk".*

Trustee Pratt moved, seconded by Trustee Spleen to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 P.M.

MOTION

YES 5

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia Wright
District Clerk