

PENNSAUKEN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Administration Building
1695 Hylton Road, Pennsauken, New Jersey 08110

BOARD OF EDUCATION REORGANIZATION MEETING

Monday, January 6, 2025

7:00 PM

Pennsauken High School - Room 327

CALL TO ORDER - BOARD SECRETARY PRESIDES

Advanced written notice of this meeting of the Pennsauken Township Board of Education was transmitted to the Courier Post and the Burlington County Times. Notice appeared in the legal notice section of the Courier Post and the Burlington County Times stating the time, date, location and that formal action would be taken at that time. Notice was also posted with the Township Clerk.

John Ogunkanmi, Board Secretary, declares this to be a legal meeting of the Pennsauken Township Board of Education.

FLAG SALUTE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICIAL RESULTS OF ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

<u>Three-year Term</u>	<u># of Votes</u>
<u>Diane Johnson</u>	<u>7,323</u>
<u>Lisa Eckel</u>	<u>6,248</u>
<u>Jerry Bennett</u>	<u>5,386</u>
Dana Surgner	4,966
Yudelka Morillo-Sandoval	4,852
Michael Porch	3,975

<u>Unexpired Term</u>	<u># of Votes</u>
<u>Jeffrey Carey</u>	<u>6,221</u>
John Figueroa Jr.	5,784

INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS – ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE

Board Solicitor, administers the Oath of Office to the following board members:

- Diane Johnson
- Lisa Eckel
- Jerry Bennett
- Jeffrey Carey

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Jerry Bennett	2027
Lisa Eckel	2027
Diane Johnson	2027
Jaclyn Hutton	2026
Ana Matos	2026
Matthew McDevitt	2026
Osvaldo Alves	2025
Jeffrey Carey	2025
JoAnn Young	2025

Roll call showed the following Board Members in attendance:

Board Member	Present	Absent
Mr. Alves	X	
Mr. Bennett	X	
Mr. Carey	X	
Ms. Eckel	X	
Mrs. Hutton	X	
Ms. Johnson	X	
Mrs. Matos	X	
Mr. McDevitt	X	
Mrs. Young	X	

Also in attendance:

	Present	Absent
Acting Superintendent of Schools: Caroline Steer	X	
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary: Mr. Ogunkanmi	X	
Board Solicitor: Mr. Caccese	X	

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Board Secretary Mr. Ogunkanmi will call for nominations for President.

Ms. Eckel and Mr. Alves nominated Mrs. Young for President of the Board of Education.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Bennett	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Ms. Eckel	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X						

NOMINATION OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

MOTION BY: Ms. Eckel

SECOND BY: Mr. Alves

MOTION: Carried

Mrs. Young was elected President of the Board of Education.

The President, will call for nominations for Vice President.

Mr. Carey and Mr. Alves nominated Ms. Johnson for Vice-President of the Board of Education.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Bennett	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Ms. Eckel	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X						

NOMINATION OF THE BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

MOTION BY: Mr. Carey

SECOND BY: Mr. Alves

MOTION: Carried

Ms. Johnson was elected Vice-President of the Board of Education.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Code of Ethics by Board Solicitor**

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board now welcomes the public to comment on any educational issue or school matter of community interest. Each speaker is allotted a maximum of three (3) minutes to make their statement. No one may speak more than once on the same topic. You are required to give your name and address before speaking.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Bennett	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Ms. Eckel	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X						

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION BY: Ms. Johnson

SECOND BY: Mr. McDevitt

MOTION: Carried

- **No public comment.**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Bennett	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Ms. Eckel	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X						

CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION BY: Mr. McDevitt

SECOND BY: Mr. Carey

MOTION: Carried

ITEMS FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL

1. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members.

18A:12-24.1 Code of Ethics for School Board Members

A school board member shall abide by the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members:

- a. I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall 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 that 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 that 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. 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 school.
 - 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 the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.
2. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the 2025 Calendar for the Business Meetings to be held at Pennsauken High School, Room 327, 800 Hylton Road, Pennsauken, NJ, as outlined below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting</u>
July 14, 2025	7:00 PM	Business
August 18, 2025	7:00 PM	Business
September 15, 2025	7:00 PM	Business
October 14, 2025	7:00 PM	Business
November 17, 2025	7:00 PM	Business
December 15, 2025	7:00 PM	Business

3. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the following Committees:

1. District Business and Operations
2. Communications
3. Negotiations
4. Policy
5. Education
6. Superintendent Evaluation
7. Superintendent Search

4. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the Board President to appoint members to Committees.

***The chair (or designee of chair) of each committee should report any updates to the full board at the regular monthly meetings**

5. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the Board President to appoint members as representatives of the Board.

State and Local representation

Municipal Alliance Representative

New Jersey School Boards Association

To represent the Board of Education at the state level – quarterly meetings on three Saturdays per year.

Legislative Representative

Alternate Representative

Camden County School Boards Association

To represent the Board of Education at the local level – monthly dinner meetings.

Representative

Alternate Representative

Camden County Educational Services Representative

Urban School Boards Representative

Note:

- 1.) The Board President is a member of all committees, but is only an alternate when 4 board members are already assigned to that committee.
- 2.) Alternates (where indicated) may also attend even when the representative is attending.

6. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve accepting the grant in the amount of \$25,000.00 for ECPA/ELLI Conversion to Preschool Aid (PEA) Project.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Bennett	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Ms. Eckel	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X						

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS: 1 – 6 AND AMEND ITEM 3

MOTION BY: Mr. McDevitt

SECOND BY: Mrs. Matos

MOTION: Carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE BOARD

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Township of Pennsauken that it adjourn to Executive Session as prescribed under the “Sunshine Law”, if necessary, in order to discuss legal issues, contracts and personnel issues. Any discussion held by the Board of Education that need not remain confidential will be made public. Matters under discussion will not be disclosed to the public until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Pennsauken Board of Education has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of the Pennsauken Board of Education will reconvene at the conclusion of closed session, at approximately _____ p.m. this evening.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pennsauken Board of Education will convene into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

_____A matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public. (Provision relied upon: _____)

_____A matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government.

_____A matter the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as any records, data, reports, recommendations, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including but not limited to information relative to the individual's personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly.

_____A collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in a collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body. (Specify contract: _____)

_____A matter involving the purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed.

_____Tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public whose disclosure could impair such protection.

_____An investigation of violations or possible violations of the law.

_____A pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party, or a matter falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer. (If pending or anticipated litigation, the matter is: _____)

_____A matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting. The nature of discussion is _____ and the employee(s) involved has been provided the required notice and has not requested the discussion be held in open session.

_____Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Board Attorney advises the Board of Education that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the School District or any other entity with respect to said discussion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby declares that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place and hereby directs the Board Secretary to take the appropriate action to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

TOPICS:

- **No Executive Session.**

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- **Mrs. Young, shared information regarding the Superintendent search time line and processes. Requested input from the Board Members regarding committee assignments.**
- **Ms. Johnson, recommended the Board change location to the Media Room in order to convene Executive Sessions.**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Bennett	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Ms. Eckel	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X						

ADJOURN MEETING

MOTION BY: Mr. McDevitt

SECOND BY: Mr. Carey

MOTION: Carried

TIME: 8:10 p.m.