

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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING – PUBLIC HEARING
(SUPERINTENDENT’S CONTRACT)
Monday, April 29, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

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 transmitted in the legal notice section of the Courier Post and the Burlington County Times stating the time, date, location and that formal action may be taken at that time. Notice was also posted with the Township Clerk.

As President, I declare this to be a legal meeting of the Board of Education.

ROLL CALL

Board Member	Present	Absent
President: Mrs. Young	X	
Vice President: Ms. Johnson	X	
Mr. Alves	X	
Mr. Carey	X	
Mrs. Diaz	X	
Mrs. Hutton	X	
Mr. Jarbough-Rafeh		X
Mrs. Matos	X	
Mr. McDevitt	X	

Also in attendance:

	Present	Absent
Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Tarchichi	X	
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary: Mr. Ogunkanmi	X	
Board Solicitor: Mr. Li	X	

FLAG SALUTE

- Moment of Silence

PUBLIC HEARING

- CSA Employment Contract

WHEREAS the Pennsauken Board of Education (hereinafter the "Board") wishes to take action to amend, extend, renegotiate and/or alter the terms and conditions of the employment contract of the Superintendent of Schools for the effective period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2029 and

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-11, the Board is required to provide public notice, at 30 days and 10 days prior, of its intent to hold this public hearing and to take action to amend, extend, renegotiate and/or alter contract terms and conditions of the Superintendent's employment contract.

Such notice was provided to the public via publication in the district's official newspaper on March 28, 2024 and publication on the district's public website every day for the period beginning on March 25, 2024.

The employment contract has been reviewed and approved by the Executive County Superintendent of the New Jersey Department of Education, Camden County Office. A copy of the Superintendent's employment contract is on file and available for review by the public at the office of the Board Secretary, located at 1695 Hylton Road, Pennsauken, New Jersey.

At this time, the Board will permit the public to make comments on the proposed contract. The Board has allotted up to 20 minutes for this hearing. Each speaker is allotted a maximum of three (3) minutes to make their comment. You are required to give your name and address before speaking. Please keep any comments respectful and non-defamatory, and maintain the level of decorum appropriate for a public meeting where minors may be in the audience.

Please be advised that the subject of this hearing retains the right of privacy and shall retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey. The Board shall not be held liable for comments made by members of the public.

Please also be advised that the Board, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b), is not permitted to publicly discuss personnel matters. However, the Board will give all comments their appropriate consideration.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mrs. Diaz	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mr. Jarbough-Rafeh							

APPROVAL TO: OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION BY: Mr. Alves

SECOND BY: Mr. Carey

MOTION: Carried

- David Luthman, Resident – Spoke about the previous public hearing process for superintendent's contract and unfavorable student testing statistics.
- Cheryl Duffy, Resident – Spoke on the improvements that have been made in the district since Dr. Tarchichi was hired.
- Elizabeth LaVine, Resident – Spoke on the impressive improvements and accomplishments in the district under Dr. Tarchichi and the importance of maintaining forward momentum.
- Dontay White, Resident – Spoke on the importance of keeping the children paramount when considering decisions for the district.
- Nick Perry, Resident – Spoke on the improvements to the district under the previous Board and credits these accomplishments to the leadership of the district. Expressed complete support for Dr. Tarchichi.
- Jerry Bennett, Resident – Spoke about and thanked Dr. Tarchichi for his support for the special needs basketball camp and the importance of maintaining an apolitical environment.
- Michael Stargell, Resident – Inquired about the objectives and goals of the superintendent and the importance of offering collegiate curriculum for career paths for the students. Objected to previous public comments made regarding the superintendent.
- Clinton Tabb, Resident – Spoke on his personal history growing up attending Pennsauken Schools and the difference between now and then. Expressed the importance of maintaining forward momentum.
- Dr. Tarchichi – Spoke about school rankings and the importance of recognizing the challenge and monumental accomplishment it is to rank #1 as the top school in the state. CTE programs were created in the district based on comprehensive analysis of the future of the workforce in order to offer students a variety of opportunities to compete. Expressed the importance of maintaining forward momentum with the vision of the district and the importance of maintaining an apolitical environment.
- Mrs. Young – Clarified some misconceptions regarding Dr. Tarchichi's contract.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mrs. Diaz	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mr. Jarbough-Rafah							

APPROVAL TO: CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION BY: Ms. Johnson

SECOND BY: Mrs. Hutton

MOTION: Carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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.

 X 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:

1. LEGAL

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mrs. Diaz	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mr. Jarbough-Rafeh							

APPROVAL TO: CLOSE THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING

MOTION BY: Mr. Alves

SECOND BY: Mr. Carey

MOTION: Carried

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mrs. Diaz	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mr. Jarbough-Rafeh							

APPROVAL TO: OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION BY: Mr. Carey

SECOND BY: Mr. Alves

MOTION: Carried

TIME: 7:39 p.m.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mrs. Diaz	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mr. Jarbough-Rafah							

APPROVAL TO: OPEN THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING

MOTION BY: Ms. Johnson

SECOND BY: Mr. Carey

MOTION: Carried

TIME: 7:49 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- **Mrs. Young – Reminder to Board Members to add a disclaimer when posting on social media to indicate they are not speaking on behalf of the Board.**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mrs. Diaz	X			Mr. McDevitt	X		
Mrs. Hutton	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mr. Jarbough-Rafah							

APPROVAL TO: ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION BY: Mr. McDevitt

SECOND BY: Ms. Johnson

MOTION: Carried

TIME: 7:50 p.m.