

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, June 20, 2024
7:30 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 COMMENT

The Board of Education now welcomes the public to comment on the items which are on our agenda tonight and any educational issue or school matter of community interest. Community members should first try to resolve their concerns by speaking directly to school administrators before bringing those concerns to the Board. It may not always be possible or appropriate for the Board to directly answer questions during the public comment period. Each speaker is allotted a maximum of two (2) 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. Please keep your comments respectful and non-defamatory, and maintain the level of decorum appropriate for a public meeting where minors may be in the audience.

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

APPROVAL TO OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION BY: Mr. McDevitt

SECOND BY: Mr. Alves

MOTION: Carried

- **Billy Snyder, Resident – The graduation ceremony at the Liacouras Center was a great success and students enjoy the event. Advocates for continued commitment to hold future graduation ceremonies at the Liacouras Center.**

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

APPROVAL TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION BY: Mr. McDevitt

SECOND BY: Ms. Johnson

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.

• No executive session.

ITEMS FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL

PERSONNEL

1. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the Employment Contract for Caroline Steer as Acting Superintendent of Pennsauken Public Schools for a period commencing on July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The contract was reviewed and approved on June 20, 2024, by the Interim Executive County Superintendent of Camden County, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7-8(j) to determine compliance with the standards adopted by the Commissioner of Education at N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1. (See Attached)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEM: 1

MOTION BY: Ms. Johnson

SECOND BY: Mr. McDevitt

MOTION: Carried

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- **Mr. McDevitt – Expressed confidence in the Board’s agreement on the approval of the acting superintendent. Best of luck to Ms. Steer and Dr. Tarchichi.**
- **Ms. Johnson – Thanked the staff and all involved in the Middle School and High School graduation ceremonies.**
- **Mrs. Young – Graduation ceremonies are very nice at the Liacouras Center. Wished Dr. Tarchichi all the best and thanked him for his contributions to the district.**
- **Dr. Tarchichi – Thanked the Board and all staff for their support in all that was accomplished in the district during his term.**
- **Mrs. Young – Welcomed Ms. Steer as Acting Superintendent. Consider setting Superintendent parameters.**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

APPROVAL TO ADJOURN

MOTION BY: Ms. Johnson

SECOND BY: Mr. McDevitt

MOTION: Carried

TIME: 7:50 p.m.