

PENNSAUKEN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Administration Building
1695 Hylton Road, Pennsauken, New Jersey 008110

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, August 13, 2015

NOTE TO CITIZENS IN ATTENDANCE

The Board of Education conducts Conference, Business and Executive Meetings.

Conference Meetings allow the members of the Board of Education to review and discuss school-related matters. The Board may take action at a Conference meeting but most of its actions take place at Business Meetings. Conference Meetings are open to the public. Individuals with a relevant interest in the function or duties of the Board are invited to speak a maximum of five (5) minutes on any one issue. You are required to give your name and address before speaking.

Business Meetings are those at which the Board of Education acts on the vast majority of items under its jurisdiction. The meetings are open to the public and citizens are allowed to speak. The Board welcomes comments from citizens. It does, however, respectfully suggest that citizens attempt to resolve concerns by speaking directly to school administrators before bringing it to the Board. Individuals with a relevant interest in the function or duties of the Board are invited to speak a maximum of five (5) minutes on any one issue. You are required to give your name and address before speaking.

Executive Meetings are conducted when the Board of Education must review and discuss confidential matters. By illustration, pending legal cases, personnel matters, and collective bargaining proposals are appropriate reasons for the Board to hold an Executive Session. These meetings are not open to the public.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Pennsauken Public School District is to provide a safe, challenging, and enriching learning environment for all students that leads to academic success and the development of personal responsibility and self-directed lifelong learning needed to become contributing members of a diverse, global society.

CALL TO ORDER

Advanced written notice of this meeting of the Pennsauken Township Board of Education was sent to the Courier Post and Philadelphia Inquirer. Notice appeared in the legal notice section of the Courier Post stating the time, date, location and that formal action would 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

Those in attendance and answering roll call were Mr. Hurley, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Moss, Mrs. Snyder, Mrs. Young, Mr. Nguyen and Mr. Perry. Absent were Mr. Diaz and Dr. Meloni. Also in attendance

were Dr. Chapman, Interim Superintendent, Mr. Deserable, Interim Business Administrator and Board Secretary, Mr. Logan, Director of Elementary and Ms. Schneider, Board Solicitor.

FLAG SALUTE

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

The Pennsauken Township Board of Education recognizes that the schools are the concern of all members of the community. With this in mind, the Board of Education welcomes and solicits input from the public. During the regular monthly Business Meeting, members of the community are afforded an opportunity to express their views. It does, however, respectfully suggest that citizens attempt to resolve concerns by speaking directly to school administrators before bringing it to the Board. Individuals with a interest in the functions or duties of the Board are invited to speak a maximum of five (5) minutes on any one issue. You are required to give your name and address before speaking.

- ***No public comments***

A motion was made by Mr. Nguyen and seconded by Mrs. Snyder to close the Public Comment portion of the meeting. The motion was approved by a voice vote with all Board Members present voting yes. 7-0-0

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.

TOPIC: Resolution Approval

A motion was made by Mrs. Snyder and seconded by Mr. Nguyen to adopt the Resolution. The motion was approved by a roll call vote with all Board Members present voting yes. 7-0-0

AUGUST 13, 2015

PENNSAUKEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

AFFIRMING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION’S COMMITMENT TO FOSTERING A SAFE AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY EDUCATIONAL AND WORKPLACE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY AND ALL PENNSAUKEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMUNITY MEMBERS

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Pennsauken Township Board of Education (“Board”) to treat all individuals, including but not limited to students, employees, prospective employees, appointees, volunteers, contractors and parents/guardians in a manner consistent with all applicable civil rights laws and regulations including, but not limited to the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 as subsequently

amended, the New Jersey Law against Discrimination, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Conscientious Employee Protection Act; and

WHEREAS, the Board has adopted policies, regulations and educational programs that continue to ensure an open, welcoming and safe educational and workplace environment that is free from bullying, harassment, intimidation and discrimination, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, disability or any other protected class.

WHEREAS, in recent weeks there have been questions about the Board's commitment to the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Questioning ("LGBTQ") Community;

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to publically affirm its commitment *specifically to the LGBTQ community* but also to *all* Pennsauken Township Board of Education community members to continue to foster an equal, diverse, inclusive and non-discriminatory environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Pennsauken Township Board of Education that:

1. No official, employee, appointee or volunteer of the Board by whatever title known, or any entity that contracts with the Board shall engage, either directly or indirectly in any act including the failure to act that constitutes discrimination, harassment, intimidation or a violation of any person's constitutional rights as part of a protected class while such official, employee, appointee volunteer, or entity is engaged in or acting on behalf of the Board's business or using the facilities or property of the Board. The prohibitions and requirements of this resolution shall extend to any person or entity, including but not limited to any volunteer organization or inter-local organization, whether structured as a governmental entity or a private entity, that receives authorization or support in any way from the Board to provide services that otherwise could be performed by the Board.

2. The Board specifically rejects and publically states that it does not condone any statements that are or may be construed as being offensive to, harassing, bullying, intimidating or otherwise discriminating against any protected class, specifically including but not limited to the LGBTQ community.

3. The Board, by and through the Administration of the Pennsauken Township School District, will continue to ensure that procedures exist and are utilized so that any person can report alleged discrimination, bullying, harassment, intimidation and violations of civil rights.

4. This resolution is the Board's reaffirmation of its commitment to fostering a welcoming, inclusive, diverse and safe environment for all community members. This resolution is not intended to replace or supersede any policy, regulation, procedure or program of the Board as it relates to harassment, intimidation, bullying or anti-discrimination. Further, it should be construed as consistent with applicable anti-discrimination and civil rights laws.

5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

6. A copy of this resolution shall be posted in the Board offices in order for the public to be made aware of this resolution and the Board's commitment to the LGBTQ community and all Pennsauken Township Board of Education community members.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Pennsauken Township Board of Education at a meeting held on the 13th day of August, 2015.

JOHN J. DESERABLE
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mr. Nguyen and seconded by Mr. Hurley to adjourn the Special Meeting. The motion was approved by a voice vote with all Board Members present voting yes. 7-0-0 The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.