

# **E**ducational **S**ervices **C**ommission of **N**ew **J**ersey

**Nadia Romano**  
*Superintendent*

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**Timothy Havlusch**  
*Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary*

**Gary E. Molenaar**  
*Assistant Superintendent for  
Learning/Educational Services*



**Matthew J. Scanlon Ed.D**  
*Assistant Superintendent of  
Operations & Security*

**DATE: March 21, 2025**

**TIME: 9:30 A.M.**

**PLACE: ESCNJ Professional Conference Center  
1690 Stelton Road  
Piscataway, NJ 08854**

## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Carteret, Cranbury, Dunellen, East Brunswick, Edison, Highland Park, Jamesburg, Metuchen, Middlesex, Milltown, Monroe, North Brunswick, Piscataway, Plainfield, Old Bridge (arrived after roll call) Sayreville, Somerset Hills Regional, South Amboy, South Brunswick, South Plainfield, Woodbridge, Middlesex County Magnet Schools and Perth Amboy.

Executive County Superintendent Anderson and Kean University Liaison Zychowski.

Superintendent Romano, Asst. Superintendent Molenaar, Business Administrator Havlusch, Asst. Business Administrator Pao, Asst. Business Administrator Nicholson, Human Resources Director Hudson and Security Director Ullman.

Jonathan Busch, Board Counsel

### **1. Opening Statement/Notice of Meeting**

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Board Secretary has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on the bulletin board of the County Superintendent's office on August 1, 2024 and notice as provided to the Home News & Tribune on August 1, 2024.

### **2. Roll Call**

### **3. Pledge of Allegiance**

### **4. Presentation from Turning Point Academy:**

“A New Vision for Education and Specialized Therapeutic Programming in Carceral Settings”

Phyllis Lewis, Supervisor

Alexis Dixon, Educational Program Development Specialist

Rachael Padovano, Social Worker

Supervisor Lewis discussed the vision of the Turning Point Academy, noting that it is from a different light and different point of view. Ms. Lewis explained the dynamics of the student population for a carceral setting school district.

Supervisor Lewis discussed the Mission and the Vision of the Turning Point Academy and the different people and organizations that want to help and serve the student population and noted that the population can vary in numbers and length of time of attendance and that helping the students obtain a high school diploma is the primary goal.

Supervisor Lewis discussed the student population that is composed of adolescents from five counties in New Jersey along with overflow from other counties. She explained how utilizing the academic services of project based learning, break free education, cross-curriculum construction and establishing a community of care work in order to meet the varying needs of the population in order to successfully educate them.

Supervisor Lewis explained that at Turning Point Academy the students are very interested in trades and how the academy displays their artwork at places like Middlesex County College and the upcoming ESCNJ EXPO and other internal events that the staff hold during the year for the students, including barbecues and cultivating gardens while giving the message to the students that their education will change things for them.

Ms. Dixon, an Educational Program Specialist with the Juvenile Justice System, discussed the partnerships and collaboration between Middlesex County College, Robert Wood Johnson School and the Chris Wilson Foundation. Ms. Dixon discussed the challenges for the students in creating long term goals and the students own depreciated self worth coming into the facility. Ms. Dixon discussed providing the students with college education and the impact on the general education students. Ms. Dixon discussed the Chris Wilson Foundation and how it was developed and utilized by Turning Point Academy to give incarcerated students hope and education.

Superintendent Romano shared a letter to the Board of Directors from a Turning Point Academy student and the impact the Chris Wilson Foundation has had on him.

Board President Roman pledged the support of the Board of Directors to the master plan of Turning Point Academy.

## **5. Superintendent's Report:**

Superintendent Romano introduced recommended employees Kaitlin Jones, for the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum position, Edward Kushpa for the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds and Paul DeAngelo for the Assistant Business Administrator for Cooperative Purchasing to the Board of Directors.

Business Administrator Havlush provided an update for the upcoming ESCNJ Expo that will take place on May 21, 2025 at the New Jersey Convention Center in Edison. Mr. Havlush thanked staff members Erynn Dakin, Vijay Sindha and Jennifer Nicholson for their hard work on the event.

Superintendent Romano discussed the ongoing talks with the Northeast Carpenters Union, the NJLAS Gala, Bright Beginnings Learning Center's \$7,500 grant for gardening, including professional development, supplies and planning assistance; the outcome will be a wheelchair accessible garden at Bright Beginnings. The renovations at the Aquatics and Fitness Center are on schedule. The upcoming Grand Re-Opening on April 4, 2025 will be held from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at noon. Guest of honor Sayreville Varsity Bombers Swim Team and Superintendent and Administration. Future Foundations Academy has been selected to pilot a bicycle program for students, All Kids Bike. The students will be provided with adaptive bicycles and lessons. Eight students will receive a bicycle at the conclusion of the program. A meeting with the District's Cybersecurity Team was held earlier this month, showing good progress with Cybersecurity Plan implementation. Thanked the Central Office Leadership Team (COLT) for their hard work on the facilities needs and how it has produced positive results and feedback from school staff.

Superintendent Romano discussed an upcoming parent workshop and provided enrollments.

Board President Roman thanked Superintendent Romano for the hard work and acknowledged the work being done at Turning Point Academy. Mr. Roman provided the dates for the upcoming Superintendent Evaluation.

Board Vice President Valeski discussed the outreach with legislation and the possibility of inviting legislators to the Board of Directors meeting to have a non-adversarial environment where they can invite multiple legislators to provide a collaborative environment to discuss the needs and goals of the ESCNJ.

## **6. Committee Reports:**

### **a. Personnel**

Dr. Labbe provided a report from the March 19, 2025 Personnel Committee meeting addressing the topics of staffing and open positions and had the privilege of meeting the upcoming new hires.

### **b. Finance**

Dr. Brotschul provided a report from the March 18, 2025 Finance Committee meeting. Topics discussed at the meeting included a review of financial reports, cooperative transportation adjustments, a discussion of positions and salaries, approval of grants, gifts and donations, thanking Holiday Express for their donations, extension of bids, Itinerant Services for Children with Hearing Loss, classroom assistive listening supports, the award of Psychiatric services for the district and Professional Certification Grant Program. Superintendent Romano provided a further description of the grant program.

Dr. Brotschul also provided an update on the discussion for the CAP policies, support of various organizations and the Food Services Bid and facility use calendar.

**c. Curriculum**

Dr. Williams provided a report from the March 19, 2025 Curriculum Committee meeting. Topics discussed at the meeting included meeting the prospective employees, the Professional Certification Grant, a presentation by Mr. Molenaar for restraint and seclusion data, an update on mathematics curriculum, the revised calendar for the 2024-25 school year and upcoming 2025-26 calendar which will be on the May 1, 2025 agenda.

**d. Facilities**

Dr. Massiminio provided a report from the March 12, 2025 Facilities Committee meeting. Topics discussed at the meeting included the Long Range Facility Plan, Aquatics project in phases one and two, HVAC building management system, a potential property purchase and planning options to move services internally and commended the Facilities Committee for their transparency.

**e. Policy**

Mr. Ross provided a report from the March 12, 2025 Policy Committee meeting. Topics discussed at the meeting included the by-laws update and discussed policies and regulations for second reading and abolishment.

**f. Negotiations**

Superintendent Romano noted that the Negotiations Committee would be meeting on March 27, 2025.

**7. Approve the February 21, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes ([Enclosure A](#))**

**8. Commission Business:**

**A. Personnel ([Enclosure B](#))**

**B. Approval of the 2024-2025 Revised School Calendars ([Enclosure C1](#))**

**C. Finance**

1. Board Secretary's Monthly Certification ([Enclosure C](#))
2. Bill List ([Enclosure D](#))
3. Secretary's Report ([Enclosure E](#))
4. Cooperative Transportation Adjustments for FY 25 ([Enclosure F](#))
5. Approval of Professional Day Expenses ([Enclosure G](#))
6. Approval of Grants, Gifts and Donations ([Enclosure H](#))
7. Approval of Field Trips for ESCNJ Programs ([Enclosure I](#))
8. Approve the Extension of Bids ([Enclosure J](#))
9. Approve the Rates for the FY26 Itinerant Services for Children with Hearing Loss ([Enclosure K](#))

10. BE IT RESOLVED, by the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey, to approve the submission of the Roofing Replacement at the Center for Lifelong Learning to the New Jersey Department of Education, for review and Department approval of an “other capital project” with no state funding.

Further, the Board authorizes Spiezle Architectural Group Inc, to make the submission to the Department of Education on behalf of the district.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey, to approve the submission of the Parking Improvements at the Center for Lifelong Learning to the New Jersey Department of Education, for review and Department approval of an “other capital project” with no state funding.

Further, the Board authorizes Spiezle Architectural Group Inc, to make the submission to the Department of Education on behalf of the district.

11. Resolution authorizing the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC).

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11 (5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the MOESC, hereinafter referred to as the “Lead Agency); has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows; the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the MOESC, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) and N.J.A.C 5:34-7.6 (a), the ESCNJ is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with MOESC, the Lead Agency.

The Lead Agency shall comply with the Public School Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey. ([Enclosure L](#))

12. Approve the award of the Classroom Assistive Listening and Wireless Hearing Loop Induction Systems Bid #ESCNJ 24/25-31 to Coskey Electronic Systems, LLC, 656 Georges Road, North Brunswick, NJ 08902 for the bid term 3/21/25 through 3/20/27, with extensions as permitted by NJ law. ([Enclosure M](#))

13. Approve the award of the Psychiatric and Mental Health Services RFP #ESCNJ 25/26-05 for ESCNJ to InSite Health Inc., 5 Greentree Center, Marlton, NJ 08053 for the RFP term 7/1/25 through 6/20/26. ([Enclosure N](#))

14. Approve a Professional Certification Grant Program ([Enclosure O](#))

**D. Student Services**

Accept the enrollment or termination of pupils for FY25 at:


- . Academy Learning Center ([Enclosure P](#))
- . Bright Beginnings Learning Center ([Enclosure Q](#))
- . Future Foundations Academy ([Enclosure R](#))
- . Center for Lifelong Learning ([Enclosure S](#))
- . NuView Academy ([Enclosure T](#))

**E. Policies:**

Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying

 Revised Policy 5512 Second Reading 3.21.25.pdf

Use of Electronic Communication

 Revised Policy 5516 Second Reading 3.21.25.pdf


Academic Integrity

 Revised Policy 5701 Second Reading 3.21.25.pdf


Student Grievance

 Revised Policy 5710 Second Reading 3.21.25.pdf


General Fund Balance

 New Policy 6680 Second Reading 3.21.25.pdf


Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings & on School Grounds

 Revised Policy 7441 Second Reading 3.21.25.pdf

Food Services


 Revised Policy 8500 Second Reading 3.21.25.pdf

Cooperation w/ Law Enforcement Agencies


 Revised Policy 9320 Second Reading 3.21.25.pdf

**Regulations:**

Use of Electronic Communication

 Revised Regulation 5516 Second Reading 3.21.25.pdf

Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings & on School Grounds

 Revised Regulation 7441 Second Reading 3.21.25.pdf

Cooperation w/ Law Enforcement Agencies

 Revised Regulation 9320 Second Reading 3.21.25.pdf

**Bylaws:**

Board Committees

 Revised Policy 0155 Bylaw First Reading 3.21.25.pdf

Organization Meeting

 Revised Policy 0151 Bylaw First Reading 3.21.25.pdf

Board Officers

 Revised Policy 0152 Bylaw First Reading 3.21.25.pdf

On motion by Woodbridge seconded by Middlesex County Magnets Schools Items #7-8 were approved by the following roll call vote:

“Ayes” - Carteret, Cranbury, Dunellen, East Brunswick, Edison, Highland Park, Jamesburg, Metuchen, Middlesex, Milltown, Monroe, North Brunswick, Piscataway, Plainfield, Old Bridge, Sayreville, Somerset Hills Regional, South Amboy, South Brunswick, South Plainfield, Woodbridge, Middlesex County Magnet Schools and Perth Amboy.

“Noes” - None

“Abstain”- None

**9. Public Comment**

No comments from the public.

**10. Next Board of Directors Meeting:**

Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 9:30am  
Eastern Atlantic States Technical Center  
75 Fieldcrest Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837

**11. Motion to Adjourn**

On motion by Middlesex County Magnet Schools, seconded by Plainfield, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy Havlusch  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Information Items:

Abolished Policies/Regulations

- Board Member Travel Expenses - 0147
- Remote Public Board Meetings - 0164.6