

Oakland Public Schools
Work Session Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 18, 2025
5:30 PM

A Work Session of the Board of Education was held at the Oakland Board of Education Administrative Offices in person on March 18, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 5:39 PM by Mr. Scerbo.

Mr. Scerbo led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Open Public Meeting announcement as follows: The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the 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 Oakland Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on January 12, 2025 and March 11, 2025 in the Municipal Building, the Board Offices, all school offices and copies sent to newspapers serving Oakland: The Record News. The Board reserves the right to limit public discussion of personnel items, so as to preserve individual privacy.

The Board appreciates the concerns and comments expressed by the public and will take them into consideration. However, please remain advised that, neither the Board nor the administration may comment on or respond to public inquiries or statements regarding any internal personnel matters involving a District employee.

Please be further advised that there is no privilege or qualified privilege with regard to any statements that you make before the Board of Education. Furthermore, in addition to their respective rights to privacy, employees of this school district retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey.

Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise, sign in, and state their names and addresses. Each speaker shall be limited to three minutes. A speaker who has not finished in the allotted time will be directed by the presiding officer to summarize quickly and relinquish the floor within 30 seconds.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Ms. Cooper, Ms. Kilday, Mr. Mazzilli (arrived at 5:48 PM), Ms. Shelkin, and Mr. Scerbo

Also present: Dr. Gina M. Coffaro, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Annette M. Wells, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. Desiderio, Mr. Sean Bowe and 0 members of the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Kilday to enter executive session at 5:39 PM.

WHEREAS, The Board of Education must discuss subjects concerning personnel matters, legal issues, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying, and/or contract negotiations concerning the District, and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid subjects are not appropriate subjects to be discussed in a public meeting; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid subjects to be discussed are within the exemptions which are permitted to be discussed and acted upon in closed executive session pursuant to P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, it is therefore

RESOLVED, that the aforesaid subjects shall be discussed in a closed executive session by this Board and administrative staff and information pertaining thereto will be made available to the public as soon thereafter as possible and once the reasons for nondisclosure no longer exist.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION-

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:35 PM.

Ms. Wells reviewed the budget. Mr. Scerbo and Mr. Mazzilli discussed their thorough review of the proposed line-item budget and were satisfied with the answers provided by the administration. Ms. Wells discussed the need for the health benefit waiver due to the increase in health care costs.

Ms. Wells discussed the situation surrounding the addendum which had been previously presented to the board when the project was approved.

Ms. Wells also discussed the new agenda format aimed at saving paper and costs.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Shelkin to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 PM.

Upon call of the question, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette M. Wells
School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary