

Palisades Park Board of Education
Special Business Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 11, 2025 – at 7:00 p.m., Early Childhood Center

A. CALL TO ORDER: Board President

B. FLAG SALUTE

C. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Ms. Soo Chung	☒	☐
Mr. William Kim	☒	☐
Mr. Anthony Kim	☐	☒
Ms. Rebekah Lee	☐	☒
Ms. Sookyung Park	☒	☐
Ms. Boyoung Yu	☒	☐
Mr. Aaron Pak	☒	☐
Mr. Jun Yim	☒	☐
Mr. Sergio Calle	☐	☒
Dr. Joseph Cirillo	☐	☒
Busch Law Group	☒	☐
Tyler Jung-Student Rep	☐	☒

D. STATEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), I hereby state that notice of this **Special Meeting** has been provided to the public by a written notice dated April 3, 2025 (date of published notice)

The Meeting Notice has been:

1. Emailed to all staff members at the district's 3 school locations.
2. Communicated to The Record.
3. Filed with the Borough Clerk of Palisades Park.

The Board President stated we will be going into Executive Session at 7:04 p.m.
Aron Mandel stated we will discuss legal matters and actions to be taken afterwards.

CLOSED SESSION

- Legal Settlement
- Personnel Matters
- OPRA Matters

REDACTED

Returned to open session: 7:42 p.m.

E. REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Soo Chung responded to the PPEA regarding their vote of no confidence with a statement to the public. The statement read by President Chung was issued in response to the recent vote of no confidence against the board by the Palisades Park Education Association (PPEA). In the statement, she stated items such as negotiating in good faith, the board's stance regarding negotiations and the status of the pending contract with the PPEA. Ms. Chung continued the speech with providing to the public details of past events with regards to negotiations with the PPEA.

Soo Chung has requested that the Palisades Park Board of Education take a formal vote of no confidence in the leadership of the Palisades Park Education Association.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Palisades Park Board of Education, authorize and direct a posting and/or dissemination of the notice through all appropriate channels, including, but not limited to, media outlets, the district website, and official communication platforms serving the school district and local community. If necessary, the board may also hold a press conference to ensure accurate public communication. Furthermore, the board reserves the right to designate special counsel to oversee this matter in order to uphold the public's right to transparency and information.

Moved by: Soo Chung

Seconded By: Sookyung Park

VOTE

Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	N/P	Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	N/P
Soo Chung	☒	☐	☐	☐	Boyoung Yu	☒	☐	☐	☐
Sergio Calle	☐	☐	☐	☒	Sookyung Park	☒	☐	☐	☐
Rebekah Lee	☐	☐	☐	☒	William Kim	☒	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Kim	☐	☐	☐	☒	Aaron Pak	☐	☐	☒	☐
Jun Yim	☐	☐	☒	☐					

COMMITTEE REPORTS

F. POLICY

Consent agenda for Items 1-5 – Boyoung Yu

1. POLICY REVISION – 3571.4 AUDIT – 2nd READING

BE IT RESOLVED, the Palisades Park Board of Education amends Policy 3571.4 – “Audit” to add the following **additional language**:

“The Board of Education shall not select an auditing firm that is simultaneously employed by the Borough of Palisades Park to perform the Borough’s annual audit.”

2. POLICY REVISION – 3571.4 AUDIT – 2ND READING

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education approves the following updated Policy #3571.4 “Audit”. The Policy update adds content requiring the submission of a corrective action plan for repeat audit findings from a prior year.

3. POLICY #9140 – STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD – 2ND READING

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palisades Park Board of Education amends the following updated Policy #9140 “Student Representatives to The Board”. The Policy update will reflect a change in the appointment of the student representative and the term of the appointment.

Existing language: Student representatives to the board shall serve a term of one year and may be reappointed. The term shall begin with the organizational meeting of the board and extend to the meeting prior to the next organizational meeting. The selected representatives shall be appointed by the Junio/Senior High School principal. Appointment shall occur at least four weeks prior to the organizational meeting of the board.

Revised: Interested students shall submit a letter of intent to be considered for election. An election will be held to elect a student representative to the board of education. The elected student shall begin their term on July 1 through June 30 of the new school year. Students may run for re-election when their term expires.

4. BYLAW #9121 – ELECTION AND DUTIES OF PRESIDENT – 1ST READING

BE IT RESOLVED, to ensure the independence of the Board of Education from the external pressures and to ensure the best choices for its members, the Palisades Park Board of Education amends Bylaw #9121 “Election and Duties of President” to **remove** the following language:

No officer may serve more than two consecutive terms.

5. POLICY REVISION – 3327 RELATIONS WITH VENDORS – 2nd READING

BE IT RESOLVED, the Palisades Park Board of Education amends Policy 3327 – Relations with Vendors, section “Strategies to Avoid Excessive Professional Services Expenditures” to **add** paragraph D –

All professional services firms must execute and adhere to the Palisades Park Board of Education's **Terms and Conditions for Professional Services (BOE T&C)** prior to commencing services. Any agreements entered without the execution of these terms and conditions shall be deemed unauthorized and unenforceable unless explicitly waived by formal Board resolution.

Moved by: Sookyung Park

Seconded By: Aaron Pak

Jun – Yes except #5 - No
 Boyoung Yes except #4 - No

VOTE

Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	N/P	Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	N/P
Soo Chung	☒	☐	☐	☐	Boyoung Yu	☒	☐	☐	☐
Sergio Calle	☐	☐	☐	☒	Sookyung Park	☒	☐	☐	☐
Rebekah Lee	☐	☐	☐	☒	William Kim	☒	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Kim	☐	☐	☐	☒	Aaron Pak	☒	☐	☐	☐
Jun Yim	☒	☐	☐	☐					

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Personnel Matters

The Board of Education discussed the Board Secretary Position. Board President Soo Chung stated she has closely worked with employees in the board office.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Palisades Park Board of Education post the Board Secretary position for the 2025-2026 school year.

Moved by: Soo Chung

Seconded By: Sookyung Park

VOTE

Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	N/P	Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	N/P
Soo Chung	☒	☐	☐	☐	Boyoung Yu	☒	☐	☐	☐
Sergio Calle	☐	☐	☐	☒	Sookyung Park	☒	☐	☐	☐
Rebekah Lee	☐	☐	☐	☒	William Kim	☐	☐	☒	☐
Anthony Kim	☐	☐	☐	☒	Aaron Pak	☒	☐	☐	☐
Jun Yim	☐	☐	☒	☐					

- BY LAW #9322 – PUBLIC AND EXECUTIVE SESSIONS
- POLICY #6142.10 – INTERNET SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY

H. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Motion to open audience participation

Moved by Aaron Pak

Seconded: Soo Chung

All in favor – aye – 8:23 p.m.

Diane Montemurro – Is the posting of the position considered a personnel motion? When is the position available? Mr. Kondovski is currently the Board Secretary until June 30th. Soo Chung and Boyoung Yu responded, stating Mr. Kondovski's contract states he is currently the interim board secretary.

Neomi Rivera – We were waiting for an update We heard the teachers get dragged over 20 minutes. Regarding By Law 9121, how does allowing a board officer to serve for more than two consecutive terms promote the independence of the Board of Education from external pressures? How does a board officer allow the officer. Lastly, why do we need a board secretary and a business administrator?

Soo Chung – Regarding the policy, I researched other districts and checked NJSBA rules. There are no such rules. Soo Chung stated the board needs a separate business administrator and board secretary to better serve the board.

Olga Tatta – Lindbergh School Teacher – I thought to my understanding, the board's only employee is the Superintendent. Can you clarify that?

Soo Chung responded that the board secretary is the sole discretion of the board.

Nicole Turro – Where is the post regarding this meeting? Also, please clarify the technology piece regarding the employees deleting district emails.

Soo Chung – This was passed with a second reading. This is standard compared to other district policy.

Aron Mandel – the portion about not deleting is only in relation to the logs. The policy prohibits the deletion of email logs, not emails. You can delete emails.

Patty Park – I'm here to support the teachers that I love. There seems to be much confusion.

William Kim – The policy regarding the email logs has more to do with the IT Department rather than individual teachers.

Joanna Hali – Director of Special Services – I have been in this district for 14 years. In that time I've worked with 10 different Principals and 4 different business administrators. I tell you this so that you understand that the staff in this district work here because they care about our community, have ties to this community. And because they care about this community. Our leadership, our teachers, our staff, our business administrator, get paid tens of thousands of dollars less to work here because they care about the children of Palisades Park.

Anthony Rotundo – I've been in this town my entire life. I've worked in every aspect of this town. I can't hold any of you responsible other than the person who read that statement. As a father of a six year old, I don't want to leave this district. I am proud to remain here. I am not proud of this board. There is a reason why unfortunately I had to leave this district to work elsewhere. We teach, not to make money, but to make a difference. Everyone in this room cares about the students that are there. I am sickened by what I heard today. That was a terrible statement.

Soo Chung – I don't know if you misunderstood, but in my statement, I did not say "illegal contract".

Korinne Sterni – Negotiations Chair – To have a special meeting on a Friday night at 7 p.m. before vacation is very shady. The Board spent over \$10,000 on legal fees this month alone. You cannot tell me that we don't love our students. I rescheduled our town's recreational committees opening days so I can make sure I'm here.

Mrs. Dellosa – Retired Teacher – I always either came to the board meetings or watched the board meetings. I know how the staff and teachers work day, nights, and weekends. Never have I seen disrespect at these teachers, secretaries, and leaders. How can you speak the way you did to hard working people?

Boyoung Yu stated it was a well written speech and does not feel it was disrespectful.

Nevin Wasud – I've been coming to the board meetings recently. Your comment about the mockery is done on your side when the parents speak up. If you don't like it done, don't do it back to the parents.

Soo Chung – Can I ask you when I made any disrespectful remarks?

Nevin Wassud responded, one board meeting when a parent was speaking, you made faces.

Soo Chung – I take time to communicate to parents and spend five hours a day on board business.

Karen Hallack – You sat here wasting this time bashing these teachers. Even though you say it wasn't, it was. You are choosing to be up there to do this.

Peter Longo – I'm very upset and aggravated. That was a disgrace what was said to my former colleagues. I don't care what anybody says. We are underpaid in Palisades Park. The salary guide is still not where it should be. I understand you want to pay coaches based on wins and losses. Coaches put a lot of time whether they win or lose. Teachers spend more time with your children than with their parents.

William Kim – I want to respond to one comment, there was never a proposal made to coaches based on wins and losses.

Lisa Panchi – She read an email from the NJDOE. They have successfully met all targets, exceeding expectations in ELA and meeting expectations in Math. On top of this, we are not just educators to the students, we are school psychologists, we are mentors.

Amy Pierce – You made a statement that our students are suffering because of our teachers. I think the students are suffering because the board is putting the teachers through this. I think it's disrespectful and appalling.

Boyoung Yu – I don't know what is so disrespectful what she said.

Mrs. Tansey – Are you speaking on behalf of all the board members when you made your speech?

Aron Mandel – the statement was made on behalf of the board and the board took a vote to ratify it and adopt it and post it.

Christine Orlowski – The board only has one employee, the Superintendent. Can you make a Personnel motion without the Superintendent present at this meeting?

Aron Mandel – Board Secretary is one of the several positions that needs no Superintendent recommendation by statute.

Motion to close audience participation:

Moved by: Boyoung Yu

Seconded by: Aaron Pak

All in favor – aye 9:15 p.m.

I. ADJOURNMENT

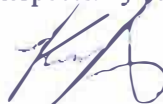
Motion to adjourn meeting

Moved by: Aaron Pak

Seconded by: Soo Chung

All in favor aye – 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Aleksandar Kondovski

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary