Perth Amboy Board of Education
ORGANIZATION MEETING
January 6, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.
Perth Amboy High School
931 Convery Boulevard

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Michael LoBrace, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Notice of Meeting
"The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure 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 the Act, the Perth Amboy Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted at the bulletin board in the Administrative Headquarters Building, mailing notices to The Home News Tribune, El Diario/La Prensa, City Clerk Kupsch, as well as all other persons requiring notification pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law."

4. Report on Election – Michael LoBrace, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Election Results

3 Year Term	
Jasmin MELENDEZ	4,784
Isaiah GOMEZ	4,454
Joas QUILES	4,146
Unexpired Term - 1 Year	
Yestin SURIEL	4,689

5. Oath of Office – Administration of Oath of Office to newly elected member

- Isaiah Gomez
- Jasmin Melendez
- Joas Quiles
- Yestin Suriel

6. Roll Call – Michael LoBrace, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mr. Anderson	P	Ms. Crawford	A
Mr. George	P	Mr. Gomez	P
Mr. Suriel	P	Mr. Quiles	P
Ms. Velez	P	Ms. Melendez	P
Ms. González	P		

Administration:

Dr. Roman	P
Dr. Medina	P
Mr. Rodriguez	P
Ms. Machado	P
Mr. LoBrace	P

7. Election of Board President:

A. Nominations

Ms. Gonzalez	George	Gomez
	Moved	Seconded

B. Motion to Close Nominations

Anderson	Velez
Moved	Seconded

C. Roll Call

Mr. Anderson	*A*	*Mr. Quiles*	*Y*
Mr. George	*Y*	*Mr. Gomez*	*Y*
Mr. Suriel	*Y*	*Ms. Velez*	*Y*
Ms. Melendez	*Y*	*Ms. González*	*Y*

8. Election of Board Vice President:

A. Nominations

Melendez	Quiles	Velez
	Moved	Seconded

B. Motion to Close Nominations

Anderson	Gomez
Moved	Seconded

C. Roll Call

Mr. Anderson	*A*	*Mr. Quiles*	*Y*
Mr. George	*Y*	*Mr. Gomez*	*Y*
Mr. Suriel	*Y*	*Ms. Velez*	*Y*
Ms. Melendez	*Y*	*President. González*	*Y*

9. **WHEREAS** the following Code of Ethics (Bylaws Nos. 9270 and 9271) for Board Members is set forth as a guide to conflict-of-interest situations and unethical activity for Board Members:

- I will uphold and enforce all laws, State Board Rules and Regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.
- I will confine my Board action to policymaking, planning and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the Board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow Board Members, to see that they are well run.
- I will recognize that authority rests with the Board of Education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the Board.
- I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or the gain of friends.
- I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. But in all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow Board Members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.
- I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the Chief Administrative Officer.
- I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties.
- I will refer all complaints to the Chief Administrative Officer and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution (Authority: BD2/71, DA 5/75-CR Ethics, BD 6/85, DA 5/97-7, 11/98-SR);

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that each Board Member shall abide by the Code of Ethics and has signed an Acknowledgment of Receipt to confirm that they have received a copy of the Code of Ethics for School Board Members contained within the School Ethics Act, C.178, P.L. 2001. Failure to sign this Acknowledgment does not relieve a Board Member of the responsibility to understand and adhere to the Code of Ethics.

The Superintendent thanked the Mayor and City Council members present for their support and the board President thanked Administration, staff and the community for all the work put into moving the District forward.

The Superintendent stated the Board of Education looks forward to begin negotiations, now that a full Board has been sworn in.

10. Meeting open to the public for discussion of agenda items and non-agenda items. There will be only one public participation session at this meeting.

At this time, comments are invited on any matter. Public participation shall be governed by Policy No. 0167. Anyone wishing to address the Board, please state your name, municipality of residence and group affiliation. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer. No member of the public may address or question board members individually. Although the Board encourages public participation, it reserves the right, through its presiding officer, to terminate remarks to and/or by any individual not keeping with the conduct of a proper and efficient meeting. The Board discourages the public from speaking negatively about any employee, administrator, or student. Individuals can be held personally liable for defamatory or libelous statements made at public meetings. The Board bears no responsibility for comments made by members of the public. Comments regarding employees, administrators or students cannot be legally responded to by any member of the Board or administration.

Public Speaker 1 discussed the recent Legislative audit, pointed out her concerns and discussed the passing of laws regarding ethics questions and Board members.

Public Speaker 2 continued the comments by Public Speaker 1 and described the intention of the ethics laws which were passed and their intentions. He also discussed the Legislative audit.

Public Speaker 3 came to inform the Board both as a community member and grandparent of a student that the Governor passed recent legislation to teach Hispanic history to students and would like the Board to investigate this Legislation, along with the newly passed Cell Phone Bill Law also passed by the New Jersey Governor.

There were no remote callers indicating a willingness to make comments.

<u>Quiles</u>	<u>Velez</u>	
Motion	Seconded	(To close following discussion)

No discussion. All in favor

11. **WHEREAS,** pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b), the Board of Education may exclude the public from that portion of a public meeting wherein the board discusses any of the matters set forth at N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b) (1) -(9);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act ("Act"), the Board of Education shall conduct a closed session pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) for the purpose of discussing the following matter(s):

_____ Matters rendered confidential by state or federal law
_____ Personnel
_____ Student(s) – Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying
_____ Termination of employee
__*X*__ Appointment of a public official
__*X*__ Matters covered by the attorney-client privilege
_____ Pending or anticipated litigation
_____ Pending or anticipated contract negotiations
_____ Protection of the safety or property of the public
_____ Matters involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds
_____ Matters which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy
_____ Matters in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the United States Government
_____ Matters concerning collective negotiations and/or the negotiations of terms and conditions of employment of employees of the Board of Education
_____ Possible imposition of a civil penalty or suspension
_____ Any matter which could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of the matters were disclosed

There is no need for an Executive Session this evening.

12. Motions

Adoption of regular meeting schedule of the Board.

Thursday, January 22, 2026	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, March 12, 2026	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, April 16, 2026	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, May 7, 2026	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, June 11, 2026	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, August 27, 2026	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, September 17, 2026	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, October 15, 2026	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd
Thursday, November 19, 2026	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 931 Convery Blvd

Gomez	George
Moved	Seconded

No discussion. All in favor

13. Motions

A. Designation of the following banks as depositories for school funds upon evidence of eligibility from the State of New Jersey, and the signatures required for withdrawals on the various bank accounts maintained at the aforementioned banks be designated as indicated in Attachment A:

- Wells Fargo
- TD Bank
- The Provident Bank
- Central Jersey Federal Credit Union
- Lakeland Savings Bank
- Popular Bank

B. Designation of the Home News Tribune as the newspaper of general circulation published in New Jersey circulating within the Perth Amboy area to be utilized for advertisements concerning public bids and other notices in accordance with Title 18A:14-10, 22-11 and 39-3 of the New Jersey State Statutes, and for El Diario/La Prensa to receive all Board meeting announcements and are hereby to receive a schedule of same.

C. Re-adoption of the existing By-Laws and Policies in full force for the operation of the Board and school system.

D. Resolved, that the Perth Amboy Board of Education, in the County of Middlesex, does hereby adopt and/or reaffirm the adoption of all curricula for courses of study listed for the Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 school curriculum and be it further Resolved that an official record of all courses be maintained on file in the Board of Education Office and be available for review.

E. Resolved, all warrants shall be signed by the Board President, Board Secretary, and/or Treasurer of School Moneys, as appropriate to the district. The Board must approve all claims for payment.

Be it further Resolved, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary or his designee, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:19-4.1, is authorized to approve payment of claims, interest on bonds as it becomes due, payments to redeem bonds as they become due, progress payments to contractors in accordance with a contract approved by the Board and is directed to execute warrants without further action on the part of the Board for payment, when due, of the salaries and health benefits of all Board of Education personnel heretofore, as well as other payments necessary to the payroll operation prior to presentation to the Board. Any such approval of payment must be presented to the board for ratification at the next regular Board meeting.

George	Melendez
Motion	Seconded

Mr. Anderson requested copies of all the Board policies and was informed they are online, and if possible a copy would be placed on a disk.

No further discussion. All in favor.

Old Business

Motion to close Old Business

Anderson	Gomez
Motion	Seconded

No discussion. All in favor

New Business

Mr. Anderson announced the passing of two staff member's father/father in law.

Motion to close New Business

Quiles	Velez
Motion	Seconded

No discussion. All in favor

Motion to Adjourn

Gomez	Quiles
Motion	Seconded

No discussion. All in favor

6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LoBrace
Board Secretary