PROSPECT PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

A Special Meeting of the Prospect Park Board of Education, Prospect Park, New Jersey, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on **Thursday, May 18, 2023,** at the Prospect Park Municipal Building at 106 Brown Avenue, Prospect Park, New Jersey 07508.

1. Call to Order: Board President

Reading of the Open Public Meeting Act Notice

"In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act, the Prospect Park Board of Education has issued a notice of this meeting to be publicized by having the date, time, and place posted at the Prospect Park School, Prospect Park Municipal Building and the District's website. This notice complies with N.J.S.A. 10:4-9.1, The meeting notice has been mailed to The Record and Herald News (Gannett News Service) and TAPinto Hawthorne for publication

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call: Board Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT W/ NOTIFICATION
Ms. Ensour	X		
Mr. Lopez	X		
Mr. Nadim			X
Mr. Rodriguez	X		
Ms. Valerio	X		
Vice-president Colcloughly	X		
President Gonzalez	X		

Mr. Shoop announced there was a quorum to conduct the meeting.

Also in attendance were:

- Dr. Tyeshia Reels, Superintendent
- Christine Kahwaty, Assistant School Business Administrator
- Albert Buglione, School Board Attorney
- James Shoop, Board Secretary
- Fahim Abedrabbo, Assistant to the School Business Administrator

4. Mission Statement

The mission of the Prospect Park School District is to develop healthy, alert, informed, responsible, and well-balanced human beings who believe in our America Heritage, and are imbued with a true desire and willingness to participate in and actively contribute to our democratic way of life. We also believe that the public school should be a place where the principal, teacher, and parent work in unison to ensure the successful progress and goal attainment of the child.

5. Acknowledging and Reaffirming the School Board Member Code of Ethics

The Prospect Park Board of Education, individually and as a group, acknowledges and reaffirms that as members of the Board of Education, they recognize they hold authority not as individuals but as members of the full Board. The Board members will comply with the Code of Ethics for School Board members pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1 as follows and re-produced below:

A school board member shall abide by the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members:

a. I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules, and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.

b. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.

c. I will confine my board action to policy making, 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.

d. 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.

e. I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.

f. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.

g. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. 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 school.

h. I will vote to appoint the best-qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.

i. I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties.

j. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after the failure of an administrative solution.

6. Conduct at Public Meetings

It is the goal of the Prospect Park Board of Education that all Board of Education Members and members of the public, act in a respectful manner toward one another, and do not disparage, nor interfere with school functions, operations, or Board of Education proceedings.

Any verbal, written, or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion shall not be tolerated and anyone violating this prohibited conduct may be subject to removal from the meeting and may be subject to other penalties that are appropriate under the law.

All Board of Education members and members of the general public are requested to take personal responsibility for their actions and to treat everyone that they have contact, in a fair and respectful manner.

7. Public Hearing: Statement to the Public—Agenda Items Only

At this portion of the meeting, time has been allotted for public comment by members of the public. Each speaker may be allotted up to three (3) minutes and one (1) opportunity, during each public session, to address the Board when recognized by the Board President. Individuals wishing to address the Board shall be recognized by the Board President and shall give their names, addresses, and the group if any, that they represent. Students of the Prospect Park school system who choose to speak are not required to give their home addresses.

Although the Board encourages public participation, it reserves the right, through its Board President, to terminate remarks to and/or by any individual, not in keeping with the conduct of a proper and efficient meeting. With the exception of those individuals whose names are on the agenda, the Board will not respond to questions during the public participation portion of this meeting involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, negotiations, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any specific, prospective or current employee.

All comments and questions are to be directed through the Board President.

Motion to Open Public Hearing:

Motion by: Vice-president Colcloughly
Second: Mr. Rodriguez

The Board voted unanimously to open the public hearing.

Speakers

Tom Magura
He questioned the need for an Assistant Superintendent

Jhona Laboy
She questioned the need for an Assistant Superintendent
She noted the lack of an 8th-grade field trip and no 8th-grade yearbook.

Motion to Close Public Hearing:
Motion by: President Gonzalez
Second: Ms. Valerio

The Board voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

AGENDA ITEM

8. Approval of Job Description
Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of School, the Board of Education approves the attached job description for the following position:

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Motion to Approve Agenda Item
Motion by: President Gonzalez
Second: Ms. Valerio

BOARD MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Ms. Ensour	X		
Mr. Lopez	X		
Mr. Rodriguez	X		
Ms. Valerio	X		
Vice-president Colcloughly	X		
President Gonzalez	X		

9. Public Hearing: Statement to the Public
At this portion of the meeting, time has been allotted for public comment by members of the public. Each speaker may be allotted up to three (3) minutes and one (1) opportunity, during each public session, to address the Board when

recognized by the Board President. Individuals wishing to address the Board shall be recognized by the Board President and shall give their names, addresses, and the group if any, that they represent. Students of the Prospect Park school system who choose to speak are not required to give their home addresses.

All comments and questions are to be directed through the Board President.

Motion to Open Public Hearing:
Motion by: President Gonzalez
Second: Ms. Valerio

The Board voted unanimously to open the public hearing.

Speaker
Esther Sumter
She questioned why there was a new 6th-grade teacher so late in the school year.

Motion to Close Public Hearing:
Motion by: President Gonzalez
Second: Ms. Valerio

The Board voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

Dr. Reels responded to the public with the need for an Assistant Superintendent.

Resolution to Meet in Executive (Closed Session)
Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Board Attorney and in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et

seq.,) the Board of Education hereby adopts a resolution to meet in Executive (Closed) Session.

The Board of Education will meet in an Executive (Closed) Session on or about

Date Tuesday, May 18, 2023
Time On or about 6:14 p.m.

The Board of Education plans to discuss the following:

- Negotiations
- Possible Litigation

It is anticipated that the closed session will last no more than ten minutes.

The Board President recessed the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Roll Call to Reconvene
At 6:26 p.m. there was a roll call to reconvene the meeting. All members were present except for Mr. Nadim.

10. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting
Motion by: Vice-president Colcloughly
Second: Mr. Rodriguez

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m.