

PROSPECT PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, May 11, 2023, AT 5:39 PM

The Regular Meeting of the Prospect Park Board of Education, Prospect Park, New Jersey, was called to convene at 5:39 p.m. on Thursday, May 11, 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 (Arrived at 5:56 p.m.)		X	
Vice-president Colcloughly	X		
President Gonzalez	X		

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

Also in attendance were:

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

At 5:41 p.m. the Board President suspended the normal sequence of the agenda items to permit a presentation on the Superintendent evaluation process.

Mr. Abedrabbo introduced Michelle Kennedy of the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) to give the presentation.

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 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 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: Mr. Rodriguez
Second: Vice-president Colcloughly
The Board voted unanimously to open the public hearing.

There were no speakers.

Motion to Close Public Hearing:

Motion by: President Gonzalez
Second: Mr. Lopez
The Board voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

8. Communications

9. Reports Section

A. President's Report

B. Superintendent/Principal's Report

Dr. Reels highlighted the various activities in the District for Teacher and Nurses Appreciation Week.

C. Committee Reports

D. Board Attorney Report

Mr. Buglione notified the board of possible dates for negotiations with TAPP

Motion to Accept All Reports

Motion by: President Gonzalez
Second: Mr. Lopez
The Board voted unanimously to accept all reports.

10. Presentations

NJSBA Training to Board Members—Superintendent's Contract

NJSLA Presentation—Dr. Reels made a presentation to the Board about the NJSLA Summary Results.

11. Board of Education Items

A. Motion to Approve Minutes

Be it resolved, the Board approves of minutes of the following Board Meetings

- April 20, 2023
- April 25, 2023

Motion by: President Gonzalez

Second: Mr. Rodriguez

The Board voted unanimously to approve all minutes.

12. Agenda/Action Items

A. PERSONNEL SECTION

P1. Approval of Contract—Substitute Teachers

Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the March list from Northern Region Educational Services Commission to provide substitute teacher services for the 2022-2023 school year.

P2. Approval of Resignation

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves accepting the resignation of ID #2370, paraprofessional, effective April 27, 2023.

P3. Approval of Appointment: Certified Staff

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves to award of full-time employment for the 2023-2024 school year at a step and track yet to be determined pending the outcome and completion of negotiations between the Teachers Association of Prospect Park and the Prospect Park Board of Education, as per the attached document.

P4. Approval of Appointment: Certified Staff

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves to award of full-time employment for the 2023-2024 school year at a step and track yet to be determined pending the outcome and completion of negotiations between the Teachers Association of Prospect Park and the Prospect Park Board of Education, as per the attached document.

P5. Approval of Appointment: Non-Certified Staff

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves to award of full-time employment for the 2023-2024 school year at a step and track yet to be determined pending the outcome and completion of negotiations between the Teachers Association of Prospect Park and the Prospect Park Board of Education, as per the attached document.

Motion to Approve Personnel Section

Motion by: Vice-president Colcloughly

Second: Mr. Rodriguez

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

B. EDUCATION SECTION

E1. Approval of Therapy Dogs

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the board approves the Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs to visit the school on May 12, 2023, in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month for Children's Mental Health Awareness Day.

E2. Approval of HIB Report

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the determination in the 2022-2023 HIB cases as submitted below:

- 246537 – founded
- 247052 – founded
- 247722 – founded

- 246556 – unfounded
- 246873 – unfounded

E3. Approval of District Calendar Revision

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the board approves revising the District Calendar as follows:

- June 6, 2023 – Early Dismissal - emergency day make-up
- June 20, 2023 – Early Dismissal – TAPP contract make-up

E4. Approval of STEAM Fair

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the board approves the District to participate in a STEAM Fair on June 7, 2023.

E5. Approval of SEL Day

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the board approves the District to participate in an SEL Day for Second Graders on June 13, 2023.

E6. Approval of the Library Book Disposal

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the disposal of 600 library books, workbooks, thesauruses, and dictionaries that are in poor condition and is proper to environmentally dispose of them; books in good condition will be donated.

E7. Approval of Job Descriptions

Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and the School Business Administrator, the Board of Education hereby approves the following job descriptions

- Supervisor of Instruction

Motion to Approve Education Section

Motion by: Vice-president Colcloughly

Second: President Gonzalez

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

C. BUSINESS/FINANCE/OPERATIONS

- Buildings and Grounds
- Food Services

BFO1 Approval of Board Secretary's Report

Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and the School Business Administrator the Board of Education approves the Board Secretary's Report for the month of

- April 2023

BFO2 Approval of Board Treasurer's Report

Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and the School Business Administrator, the Board of Education approves the Board Treasurer’s Report for the months of

- April 2023

BFO3 Approval of District Claims—Bills List—April 2023

Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the School Business Administrator, and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:19-4.1, the Board of Education approves the District claims and payments that were made during the month of April 2023. The total payment amount is \$1,441,288.43 including payroll

BFO4 Approval of Payroll --April 2023

Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent the Board and the School Business Administrator, approves the following gross payrolls, which are included in approved district claims, all having been duly audited by the business administrator and previously paid:

April 6, 2023	\$402,572.13
April 28, 2023	\$364,596.94

BFO5 Approval of Capital Needs Funds

Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the School Business Administrator, the Board of Education formally accepts the New Jersey School Development Authority (NJSDA) and New Jersey Department of Education Emergent and Capital Maintenance Needs in the amounts of:

- \$17,293 FY22
- \$18,913 FY23

BFO6 Budget Transfer of Funds—2022-2023 School Year

Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and the School Business Administrator, the Board of Education hereby approves the attached budget transfer of funds for the 2022-2023 School Year for the month of April 2023.

BFO7 Resolution Authorizing The Prospect Park Board Of Education to Participate in The Comprehensive School Mental Health Technical Assistance Project.

Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the District to apply to participate in the Comprehensive School Mental Health Technical Assistance Project. This three-year project is designed to build internal capacity and expertise within a school to support the implementation and sustainability of comprehensive school mental health as described in the New Jersey Comprehensive School Mental Health Resource Guide.

The resolution authorizes the District to apply no later than May 31, 2023.

BFO8 Approval of Tuition Contract Benway School

Be it resolved based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education hereby approves the following tuition contract:

Name of School	Benway School
Address	620 Valley Road
City, State Zip	Wayne, New Jersey 07470
Student ID	#6118
Contract Amount	\$47,876.64
Term of Contract	January 3, 2023, June 30, 2023
Account Number	11-000-100-566

BFO9 Approval of Contract—ACES

Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and the School Business Administrator the Board of Education approves a contract with Aces of Parsippany, New Jersey in the amount of \$2,500.00 for neuropsychological evaluation services student #6143.

BFO10 Approval of Contract—Amanda Harrison

Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and the School Business Administrator the Board of Education approves a contract with Amanda Harrison of Wayne, New Jersey in the amount of \$1,050.00 for educational evaluation services.

BFO11 Approval of Student Transportation Route—NRESC

Be it resolved based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education hereby approves the following student transportation route;

Route Q2815
Destination New Alliance School, Paramus, New Jersey
Contractor R & May Transportation
Total Cost \$11,700.00
Surcharge \$468.00

Transportation From February 13, 2023, through March 31, 2023

BFO12 Approval of Student Transportation Route—NRESC

Be it resolved based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education hereby approves the following student transportation route;

Route 2815
Destination New Alliance School, Paramus, New Jersey
Contractor Move Me Transport
Total Cost \$\$20,242.00
Surcharge \$809.67

Transportation From April 3, 2023, through June 30, 2023.

BFO13 Approval of a Facilities Request Prospect Park Police Department

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the facilities request for the Prospect Park Police Department to use the school gymnasium and bathrooms for the LEAD Graduation, Friday, June 9, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. through 7:00 p.m.

BFO14 Approval of a Facilities Request Prospect Park Police Department

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the facilities request for the Prospect Park Police Department to use the playground, school gymnasium, and bathrooms for the Junior Police Academy, from August 21, 2023, through August 25, 2023.

August 21, through August 25, 2023. 9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m.
Friday, August 25, 2023. 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.

BFO15 Approval of a Facilities Request Prospect Park American Legion Post #240

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the facilities request for the Prospect Park American Legion Post #240 to use the playground and cafeteria for Annual Memorial Day Services on May 26, 2023, 6:00 p.m. through 9:00 p.m.

Motion to Approve Business/Finance/Operations Section

Motion by: Ms. Ensour

Second: Vice-president Colcloughly

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

13. 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: Mr. Lopez

Second: Ms. Ensour

The Board voted unanimously to open the public hearing.

Mrs. Kalajian

She noted there were no attachments for the Personnel Items

L. Perez

She discussed with the Board the possible bullying with her child.

Motion to Close Public Hearing:

Motion by: Mr. Lopez

Second: Ms. Ensour

The Board voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

14. New Business Section

Ms. Ensour introduced the following item for the Board to address in the near future:

- Board Docs (software used to publish, review, search, archive, and store all public meeting materials, including agenda items, minutes, policies, and supporting paperwork like contracts, bills, and so on). Each member of the BOE will have a separate account.

- PTA Council, which serves as a conduit between the BOE and the school to convey needs and preferences for the overall education of the students.
- The North 8th Street location of the Board of Education's office (proposed changes in the near future).
- The suggestion of a Committee on Technology
Redesign the school district's website to make it more user-friendly

15. Closing Remarks/Announcements

Ms. Ensour and Mr. Lopez expressed their gratitude of the Board by thanking the teachers and nurses of the District for their great work.

16. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Motion by: Vice-president Colcloughly

Second: President Gonzalez

The Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m.