

ATLANTIC CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting

August 10, 2020 – 6:00pm

Call To Order The special meeting of the Atlantic City Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Devlin at 6:05pm.

Roll Call At the call of the roll, members present included Mrs. Bailey, Ms. Bassford, Mr. Chowdhury, Mr. Devlin, Mr. Herbert, Mr. Hossain, Mr. Steele and Mr. Thomas.

Also present Monitor Mr. Fisher, Superintendent Mr. Caldwell, Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Yahn, Business Administrator Mrs. Ricketts, General Counsel Mrs. Riley, Director Ms. Saunders (via Zoom) and Board Secretary Mrs. Brown.

Statement of Notice

A notice of the special meeting was published in the Press of Atlantic City, mailed to the City Clerk and posted on the bulletin board of the CitiCenter Building at 1300 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401 on June 22, 2020.

Flag Salute: Mrs. Brown led those assembled in the flag salute.

Vision: The Atlantic City District recognizes the urgency to provide resources to improve instruction through exemplary and diverse practices which are monitored and analyzed through student achievement data. The District has the expectation that all students will achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards at all grade levels.

Mission: In order to meet the needs of all students, the District is committed to increasing student learning and improving teaching in the core academic subjects by using instructional strategies aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and based on Scientifically Based Research. Parents will be active partners and key stakeholders with the Atlantic City School District to support their student's intellectual, emotional, physical and social growth.

Vision: The Atlantic City District recognizes the urgency to provide resources to improve instruction through exemplary and diverse practices which are monitored and analyzed through student achievement data. The District has the expectation that all students will achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at all grade levels.

Mission: In order to meet the needs of all students, the District is committed to increasing student learning and improving teaching in the core academic subjects by using instructional strategies aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and based on Scientifically Based Research. Parents will be active partners and key stakeholders with the Atlantic City School District to support their student's intellectual, emotional, physical and social growth.

Superintendent Report – Mr. Caldwell thanked the administrative team, Board, PJ Dollard and union representatives for the daunting task of the “Return to Learn Plan”. Mr. Caldwell advised he understands the anxiety experienced by staff and students and advised the document is an evolving document.

Board Member Comments – Mr. Hossain advised he is a parent and board member is expressed his concerns if school opens, the difficulty in adhering to state mandates, monitoring students and educating the students. Mr. Caldwell advised the plan addresses PPE, hand sanitizing stations, pre-packed food, the following of the Governors guidelines, 10 students in a classroom and the installation of plexi-glass. Mr. Herbert inquired about the 104 page report, the sharing of the plan with staff and employees, asked if the District is 100% capable of going virtual if necessary, busing of students if necessary and the importance of wearing masks. Mr. Steele asked if the Health Department would be involved. Mr. Caldwell advised

ATLANTIC CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting

August 10, 2020 – 500pm

Mrs. Pam Hennelly has met with the Health Department and staff members will be tested, a building will be shut down if two or three staff members test positive. Mr. Rose and Mrs. Hennelly will be handling the tracing of same. Mrs. Bailey inquired about the busing of out-of-district students. Mr. Caldwell advised the District is working with bus companies and aides will be on the bus with special education students. Mr. Thomas discussed remote learning, temperature checks, information disseminated to parents, another level of precautions and the necessity of board approval of the plan. Mrs. Riley advised the Plan must be approved by the Board to be sent to the County Superintendent. Mr. Caldwell advised all information will be posted on the Districts website, Twitter, Facebook and at parent workshops. The plan must be approved by the County Superintendent to assure the District is following the Governor's guidelines. Mrs. Bailey requested the Board do its due diligence whether the students return to the classroom or not in September. Mr. Devlin asked if the Board is doing electronic static cleaning. Mr. Caldwell advised information has been requested.

Public Comments – Ms. Joyce Mollineaux discussed the trying times, the wearing of masks, the reopening plan, the number of maintenance and nursing staff, PPE supplies for students and staff, who will be tracking and keeping the data of who gets COVID-19 and students having computers. Mr. Caldwell advised a full staff will be at each school, students will be provided with masks and staff will receive reusable masks, two pandemics coordinators will work with Pat Diamond and her staff will act accordingly to those who contract COVID-19, all students have computers, the plans available for staff who may not want to return to work – FMLA, 504 Plan and the Family First Corona Virus Act. Ventilation, chillers and air flow is extremely important and the Plan is fluid and changing as necessary. Mr. Alphonso Harrell, ACEA 1st VP, expressed his concern with the re-opening, the lack of communication, and the willingness for ACEA to be a part of the process, the need for hand sanitizing stations, air quality at the Brighton Avenue School and the process for students who get sick. Mr. Caldwell advised of this very unique situation, a quarantine room for sick students at every school, PJ Dollard invited to participate in the process late, PPE for all staff, Texas Avenue and Brighton Avenue cannot get air conditioning in every room due the room capacity will be cut in half. Ms. Elizabeth Toland asked when the teachers can prepare and get into their classrooms. Ms. Christina Salceido asked about students who are under the age of eleven and cannot walk home alone. Mr. Caldwell advised temperatures will be taken for all students, staff members must stay home if they have a fever for a period of 72 hours without a fever, students who are sick will go into a quarantine room and Friday's will be some form of hybrid learning with extreme aggressive cleaning in the buildings. Mr. Steve Nagiewicz, Senior Building Rep at ACHS, discussed the lack of information shared regarding the reopening of schools, possible low inventory of PPE supplies, the cleaning of work stations and the lack of progress made with the ACEA contract, the time to sit down and negotiate the contract. Mr. Caldwell advised the District will not run out of masks and hand sanitizer and his open communication policy. Further Mr. Caldwell discussed the guidelines made and sent by the Governor for schools to deal with. Mrs. Kelsey discussed her son who attends ACHS, his compromised health issues and asthma attacks. Mr. Caldwell advised each case would be evaluated individually and will be worked out with the student/parent. We must keep students and staff safe and the District will not tolerate someone jeopardizing safety. Parents have the ability to opt-out of Session A or B and have total remote instruction. Ms. Susan Cohen asked if 60% of the education will be remote and video conferencing. Ms. Yahn advised 4 days a week students will receive different lessons. Instruction is still being worked on. Mr. Matthew Freund advised he is anxious and experiencing difficult times, baffled that the Union was not involved from the beginning with the reopening plan and the importance of moving forward that the Union is involved. Ms. Lynette Myland discussed windows being opened, air quality, students eating three times per day and alternate plans.

ATLANTIC CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting

August 10, 2020 – 500pm

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Mr. Chowdhury - Chairperson

On a motion made by Mrs. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Hossain, the Atlantic City Board of Education voted to approve Curriculum & Instruction resolution #1 to approve the Atlantic City Public School District Reopening Plan, September 2020, **per Exhibit B**. At the call of the roll the vote was as follows: Mrs. Bailey-yes; Ms. Bassford-yes; Mr. Chowdhury-yes; Mr. Devlin-yes; Mr. Herbert-abstain; Mr. Hossain-abstain; Mr. Steele-yes; Mr. Thomas-yes. Of eight members present, six voted in the affirmative and two abstained. The motion carried.

GOODS & SERVICES

Mr. Herbert – Chairperson

On a motion made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mrs. Bailey, the Atlantic City Board of Education voted to approve Goods & Services resolution #1 to approve the revised 2020/2021 school year budget, **per Exhibit C**. At the call of the roll the vote was as follows: Mrs. Bailey-yes; Ms. Bassford-yes; Mr. Chowdhury-yes; Mr. Devlin-no; Mr. Herbert-no; Mr. Hossain-no; Mr. Steele-yes; Mr. Thomas-yes. Of eight members present, five voted in the affirmative and three abstained. The motion carried.

Adjourn

On a motion made by Mrs. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Devlin, the Atlantic City Board of Education voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Brown
Board Secretary