

**CLIFTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CLIFTON, NJ 07013  
MINUTES – ORGANIZATION MEETING**

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** 745 CLIFTON AVENUE, CLIFTON, NJ 07013

The meeting was opened by the Board Secretary.

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

- A. ADMINISTERING OATH TO ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS – Judith A. Bassford, Lucy Danny,  
Frank W. Kasper

Lucy Danny was sworn in by Mayor James Anzaldi  
Frank W. Kasper was sworn in by Mayor James Anzaldi  
Judith A Bassford was sworn in by Catherine M. Kazan, Notary Public

- B. ROLL CALL BY THE SECRETARY

Mr. Fahim Abedrabbo  
Mr. Tafari Anderson  
Ms. Judith A. Bassford  
Mr. James Daley  
Ms. Lucy Danny  
Mr. Lawrence Grasso  
Mr. Frank W. Kasper  
Mr. Gary Passenti  
Ms. Rosemary L. Pino

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Richard Tardalo, Superintendent of Schools  
Mark Tietjen, Asst. Superintendent of Schools  
Edward J. Appleton, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Michael Ucci, Asst. Business Administrator/Asst. Board Secretary  
Frances Febres, Board Attorney

**READING OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT:**

“THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW WAS ENACTED TO INSURE THE RIGHT TO THE PUBLIC TO HAVE ADVANCE NOTICE OF AND TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS OF PUBLIC BODIES AT WHICH ANY BUSINESS AFFECTING THEIR INTEREST IS DISCUSSED OR ACTED UPON.”

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, THE CLIFTON BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS CAUSED NOTICE OF THIS MEETING TO BE PUBLICIZED BY HAVING THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE THEREOF POSTED AT THE CITY CLERK’S OFFICE, CLIFTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, SENIOR CITIZEN NUTRITION CENTER, ON CABLE TV, IN THE LOCAL PRESS, ON THE DISTRICT’S WEB SITE, AND MAILED TO PRESIDENTS OF PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS.

THIS MEETING WILL BE TAPE RECORDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY – 0168 ...

**B-1. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT**

A. Nomination for President of the Board of Education from January 3, 2018 until the next Organization Meeting.

MOTION TO ELECT Gary Passenti FOR PRESIDENT BY James Daley

MOTION TO ELECT Lawrence Grasso FOR PRESIDENT BY Judith Bassford

Seeing no other nominations, the Board Secretary closed this portion of the meeting.

VOTE FOR Gary Passenti AS PRESIDENT VOTE: 8-1

YES: Abedrabbo, Anderson, Daley, Danny, Grasso, Kasper, Passenti, Pino

NO: Bassford

B. Nominations for Vice President of the Board of Education from January 3, 2018 until the next Organization Meeting.

MOTION TO ELECT Lucy Danny FOR VICE PRESIDENT BY Judith Bassford

MOTION TO ELECT Rosemary Pino FOR VICE PRESIDENT BY Lawrence Grasso

Seeing no other nominations, the Board Secretary closed this portion of the meeting.

VOTE FOR Lucy Danny AS VICE PRESIDENT VOTE: 2-1-6

YES: Bassford, Danny

NO: Abedrabbo

ABSTAIN: Anderson, Daley, Grasso, Kasper, Passenti, Pino

VOTE FOR Rosemary Pino FOR VICE PRESIDENT Lawrence Grasso VOTE: 7-2

YES: Anderson, Daley, Danny, Grasso, Kasper, Passenti, Pino

NO: Abedrabbo, Bassford

The meeting will be conducted by the newly elected Board President at this time.

**C. READING OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS, POLICY NO. 0142 (Attached)**

The Code of Ethics was read by members of the Board.

**D. DESIGNATION OF MEETINGS**

MOTION BY Tafari Anderson SECOND Fahim Abedrabbo VOTE 9-0

YES: Abedrabbo, Anderson, Bassford, Daley, Danny, Grasso, Kasper, Passenti, Pino

RESOLVED, that the regular meetings of the Board of Education shall be as follows in the meeting room of the Administration Building with a starting time of 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise specified.

- January 17, 2018
- February 14, 2018
- March 7, 2018
- March 21, 2018
- April 18, 2018
- May 9, 2018
- May 23, 2018
- June 6, 2018
- June 20, 2018
- August 1, 2018
- August 22, 2018
- September 12, 2018
- September 26, 2018
- October 17, 2018
- November 28, 2018
- December 12, 2018

January 3, 2019 – Re-Organization Mtg. – 6:00 pm

It was noted that there is no July meeting scheduled as required in the by-laws.

At this time a motion was made to suspend the rules of the meeting to provide for no meeting in July.

MOTION BY James Daley SECOND Tafari Anderson VOTE 9-0  
YES: Abedrabbo, Anderson, Bassford, Daley, Danny, Grasso, Kasper, Passenti, Pino

Motion to approve the designation of meetings as listed.

MOTION BY Tafari Anderson SECOND Fahim Abedrabbo VOTE 9-0  
YES: Abedrabbo, Anderson, Bassford, Daley, Danny, Grasso, Kasper, Passenti, Pino

**E. SELECTION OF DELEGATES AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Motion to move the selection of delegates and committee appointments to the January 17, 2018 Board meeting.

MOTION BY Frank Kasper SECOND Tafari Anderson VOTE 9-0  
YES: Abedrabbo, Anderson, Bassford, Daley, Danny, Grasso, Kasper, Passenti, Pino

There was a request for any new committees to be shared with the Board.

Delegate and Alternate of N.J. School Boards Association

Delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate and Alternate of Passaic County School Boards Association

Delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate \_\_\_\_\_

Member Board of Directors to the Northern Region Educational Services Commission

Member \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\*Delegate may be either a Board Member or the Superintendent of Schools. Currently, the Superintendent of Schools is the Board Delegate.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

**PUBLIC RECOGNITION:**

Cathy Kazan congratulated Ms. Bassford and commented about her service throughout the state of New Jersey.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Mr. Abedrabbo** – congratulated the three members sworn in today and commented about the Board working the best way they can for the children.

**Mr. Anderson** – congratulated everyone sworn in tonight and commented that a lot of work needs to be done. He looks forward to working together.

**Ms. Bassford** – thanked her family and commented that she takes the job very seriously. She also commented about negative comments spewed over the last six months. She remarked about a lack of transparency and feeling discriminated against. She believes in the process and congratulated the newly sworn in members of the Board.

**Mr. Daley** – congratulated the newly elected members and congratulated Ms. Pino as vice president. He is looking forward to a productive year.

**Ms. Danny** – thanked the voters and her family and friends. She congratulated the newly elected members and the officers.

**Mr. Grasso** – congratulated the officers and newly elected Board members. He commented that being a Board member is a daunting task. He sees transparency within the Board, and remarked that the Board works for the taxpayers and staff also, not just the students.

**Mr. Kasper** – congratulated Ms. Danny and Ms. Bassford and thanked his family, friends and the voters.

**Ms. Pino** – congratulated the newly elected Board members and thanked the Board for their confidence relative to the vote for vice president.

**Mr. Tardalo** – spoke about goal setting and student progress. He congratulated the officers and congratulated Mr. Kasper as the newest Board member.

**Mr. Passenti** – congratulated Ms. Bassford and Ms. Danny and looks forward to working with Mr. Kasper. He thanked the Board for his re-election as president and commented about having a retreat again. He also congratulated Ms. Pino.

F. ADJOURNMENT: 6:45 PM

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY Frank Kasper SECOND Rosemary Pino VOTE all verbally agreed

**[NOTE: This document is subject to additions, withdrawals, and modifications without notice.]**

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Appleton  
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

EJA/ld