

**CLIFTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CLIFTON, NJ 07013  
MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING:** Monday, January 29, 2018 at 7:00 PM

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

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MEET IN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL, NEGOTIATIONS AND/OR LITIGATIONS.

The meeting was opened by the Board President.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

**ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:**

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

Mr. Passenti noted that Ms. Bassford had a prior work commitment and Ms. Danny had a death in the family.

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Richard Tardalo, Superintendent of Schools  
Mark Tietjen, Asst. Superintendent of Schools  
Edward Appleton, Interim Business Administrator  
Michael Ucci, Assistant Business Administrator /Board Secretary  
Derlys Gutierrez, 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...

Mr. Appleton explained the process by which the lowest bidder for the air conditioning project was determined. The second low bidder filed a protest with the Business Office stating that the low bidder was not qualified. Upon review, the Board attorney agreed with the second low bidder but stated that there were exceptions to be taken with the second low bidder. The low bidder said the items cited by our attorney were incorrect. The Board attorney reviewed the bids and determined that the low bidder was in fact the bonafide bidder.

**PUBLIC RECOGNITION: Agenda Items Only**

Joe Canova commented about choosing the lowest bidder for the project and asked about a breakdown of service. He commented that the lowest bidder is not necessarily the best bidder and asked about a plan for air conditioning throughout the district.

**C. FINANCE/FACILITIES:**

Item F-1/29/18-01

MOTION BY Tafari Anderson SECOND BY Rosemary Pino VOTE 7-0

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

ABSENT: Bassford, Danny

Prior to action on this motion, Mr. Daley commented about a prior bid for this same project. The bids were much higher at that time. The committee at that time recommended the bid go out at a different time of year to obtain a better price. Administration noted that the project will begin May 1, 2018 and the projected completion date is August 27, 2018. Administration answered questions relative to the definition of "interior renovations". The Board attorney noted that, by law, the bid has to be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

Mr. Passenti noted that Ms. Bassford is very supportive of this resolution and would have voted "yes", however, there is no policy for remote voting.

**F-1/29/18-01 – Award for Air Conditioning and Interior Renovations (HVAC) in the Auditorium at Clifton High School**

RESOLVED, pursuant to Bid #178-24 (Di Cara/Rubino Project #3286 ), air conditioning and interior renovations (HVAC), at Clifton High School, that the contract be awarded to Falak Construction, Inc., North Brunswick, NJ, the lowest qualified bidder, in the amount of \$1,798,800 (Base Bid \$1,798,900, Alternate No. 1 - \$100.00). List of all bids received is attached.

**PUBLIC RECOGNITION: Any Items**

Mr. Passenti commented that at the next Board meeting on February 14, 2018, to be held at CHS, the architects will give a report on electrical and air conditioning upgrades in the district.

Keith Bassford thanked the Board for doing the project and thanked former Board member, Mike Paitchell, for bringing up the project some years ago. He also commented about a new sound system and cameras for the Board room. Raymond Robertello commented he is supportive of the air conditioning project and asked about capital reserve monies. Andrea Gaza thanked the Board and commented that she is supportive of the project, however, in the past students with a doctor's note did not get an air conditioner due to lack of funds. She asked Mr. Passenti to put air conditioning in all the classrooms to help students with medical conditions.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: None**

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Mr. Daley** – commented that the funds for the air conditioning project are coming from the capital reserve. The funds have already been transferred into the regular budget.

**Mr. Grasso** – reminded everyone that the next Board meeting will be at CHS. There will be a presentation on electrical and air conditioning upgrades throughout the district from DiCara and Rubino.

**Mr. Kasper** – thanked everyone for coming out this evening and thanked the facilities committee for all their hard work. He commented about the softball tricky tray on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Abedrabbo** – none

**Mr. Anderson** – spoke about the capital reserve funds, fiscal responsibility and the number of projects that have been completed recently. He also commented about technology needs.

**Ms. Pino** – is supportive of this project and thanked the speakers.

**Mr. Tardalo** – spoke about all the maintenance problems in the past and about all the repairs that have been completed. He thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

**Mr. Passenti** – commented about air conditioning and electrical upgrades. He thanked the Board for coming out tonight and commented that the Board is fiscally responsible and he looks forward to the start of the project. He congratulated Mr. Ucci on his first meeting, thanked Mr. Appleton for his explanation of the bids and welcomed Ms. Gutierrez as Board attorney.

**ADJOURNED: 7:34 PM**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Ucci  
Board Secretary

MU/ld