

Minutes of a regular public meeting of the East Orange Board of Education held on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 6:00p.m. via Zoom.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Tucker read the following notice:

Please take notice that this is a Regular Public Meeting of the East Orange Board of Education. The purpose of this meeting is for the Board of Education to take action on the resolutions as indicated on the agenda. Notice of this meeting has been posted and announced in accordance with the law. Said notice was published in the newspapers and a copy of this notice has also been filed with the Office of the City Clerk of East Orange.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- III. ROLL CALL:** Ms. Darlene Clovis - Present
- Mr. Cameron B. Jones, Sr. - Absent
- Mrs. Tashia Owens Muhammad - Present
- Ms. Andrea McPhatter- Absent
- Mr. Wayne R. Stackhouse, Jr. - Absent
- Mrs. Marsha B. Wilkerson - Present
- Ms. Terry S. Tucker - Present

- Also Present:
- Mr. AbdulSaleem Hasan, Superintendent of Schools
 - Dr. Deborah Harvest, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
 - Ms. Anita Champagne, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Services
 - Ms. Beth Brooks, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator
 - Mrs. Christina Hunt, Assistant School Business Administrator
 - Ms. Marissa McKenzie, Director of Labor Relations & Employment Services
 - Ms. Khalifah L. Shabazz-Charles, General Counsel (Souder, Shabazz & Woolridge)

IV. BOARD OF EDUCATION

V. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

jeffriesv@aol.com

Supt Hasan;

It seems that the Agenda for the August 11, 2020 Board of Education Meeting has been removed from the East Orange School District website.

Thank you,

ashley brooks <134palm@gmail.com>

Good afternoon,

My name is Kim Jordan. My daughter is going to 3rd grade at Benjamin Banneker in September.

She will need a laptop for this school year.

Will the online instruction be conducted via zoom, so that the child has an interactive day of learning?

Is it possible to keep the camera on the teacher and smart board during the school day?

Then the child will see and hear instruction and will be able to be seen by the teacher and heard for questions, as well as be guided through daily instruction and assignments.

During her one day a week or her 2 day a week schedule, will bereavement group and physical education be available on those days?

Lastly, the amount of assignments last quarter was overwhelming. The assignments given by the main instructor as well as given by the special instructors (music, technology, art etc...) would take us until 5, 6, or 7pm to complete.

Is it possible to decrease the quantity of assignments?

What is the contingency plan if an outbreak would occur?

Lastly, when will we be informed if our child is in group A or B?

Thank you for taking the time to address my concerns.

Radia Tejan-Kella <rtejankella@gmail.com>

Will the students be provided laptops if they don't have one?

Emilie G <meme1984@icloud.com>

Can we get more update on Sheila Oliver school it was just built and no one told us neighborhood home owners anything in regards to the school? Thank you

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Leah White <leahwhite13@verizon.net>

NAME: LEAH L. WHITE, TEACHER ASSISTANT, BENJAMIN BANNEKER ACADEMY

To Superintendent Hasan and the East Orange Board of Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to present these questions to you. As always, I look forward to your answering:

- 1) If the State of New Jersey has an Executive Order banning indoor activities, such as going to the movies, gym, and indoor dining, what data does the Board have to ensure that "indoor teaching" will be safe for the teachers and staff by September 8th?
 - 2) The Governor has presented that COVID 19 was started in an indoor dining establishment in China, through the ventilation system. Are the District's schools' ventilation systems at a safe level to ensure that the virus will not have a chance to spread while the teachers and staff are working in the buildings? Please provide details on how the District's quality and controls were performed and the results of those processes.
 - 3) What health protocols will the District provide on a daily basis when the teachers and staff are reporting to the building (other than the daily self-assessment survey that is being sent? (i.e., Daily Temperature checks, weekly COVID testing ONSITE for our convenience, PPE, etc.)
 - 4) With 14 days until the official start of the school year and with all the District's changes in curriculum and school management software, when (and who) will be informing the support staff (Teacher Assistants) about the District's job expectations for the 2020-2021 school year? Teacher Assistants are an essential part of the learning environment, and we are expected to know the curriculum thoroughly in order to effectively assist teaching our students. Teacher Assistants should not be relying on the teachers they support to train them on new curriculum and school management software, while preparing for the incoming students. Teacher Assistants, or any other employees of the District, should be getting "second hand" or "word of mouth" information. Where is the direct communication from the Board?
 - 5) Does the District foresee that the 2020-2021 school year will be pushed back a week to properly prepare? To date, teachers or teacher assistants have not received grade/class assignments, and district schools have not been adequately and/or completely prepared.
 - 6) Will a schedule be created so that families of our students and the students can come pick up their "starter packets" (i.e., pens, pencils, erasers, paper, class work, etc.) and have a COVID-Safe "Meet and Greet" before they start their virtual learning?
 - 7) New Jersey received \$9 million by the CARES Act for Connectivity, which will provide internet and computers for ALL New Jersey students. How much of the \$9 million did East Orange receive? When will the families of our students be able to receive those computers? Will those supplies be available by September 8th?
 - 8) Has a plan been created to provide housecleaning on the existing Chromebooks that were provided to the District's students in March and were allowed to keep throughout the summer months?
- Respectfully submitted,

Beatrice David <beatrice.david@gmail.com>

There are some students who do not have access to a computer and/or internet. What are we doing to help?

Missy Brockington <missybrockington3771@gmail.com>

Tue 8/25/2020 5:26 PM

Good Afternoon I am Tanyah Edwards mother Charise Brockington. I would like to know how can I go about getting the chrome book for the remote learning. My contact information is 8623671355 my address is 278 s Orange Ave apt #133 Newark NJ 07103. I will be joining the public meeting this afternoon at 6pm.

Melissa Hodge <melissah510@gmail.com>

When will additional information be provided with regards to remote learning? I have in writing that detailed information would be shared Friday, August 21 and then it was announced at the last meeting that this information would be shared on Monday, August 24. I am still waiting. The district needs to do a better job of getting information out in a timely manner and having a solid plan. At this point the "situation remains fluid" is an excuse. Please keep in mind that parents will be taking on the role of teacher and student while maintaining their job. You cannot sit a child in front of a computer and expect them to succeed, it requires being hands on. I am going to do my part because it takes a village and my child only knows how to succeed, but the district needs to get information out in a timely manner so parents can plan accordingly.

X. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

A. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

1. DIVISION OF BUSINESS SERVICES

On the motion of Ms. Darlene Clovis, duly seconded by Mrs. Marsha B. Wilkerson, the members of the Board voted to approve items “a” under Division of Business Services:

ROLL CALL: Ms. Darlene Clovis - Yes
 Mr. Cameron B. Jones, Sr. - Absent
 Ms. Tashia Owens Muhammad - Yes
 Ms. Andrea McPhatter - Absent
 Mr. Wayne R. Stackhouse, Jr. - Absent
 Ms. Marsha B. Wilkerson - Yes
 Ms. Terry S. Tucker - Yes

a. Approval of Revised District Organizational Chart

BE IT RESOLVED: “that the East Orange Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the revised organizational chart for the East Orange School District effective September 1, 2020.

On the motion of Mrs. Marsha B. Wilkerson, duly seconded by Ms. Darlene Clovis, the members of the Board voted to approve items “b” under Division of Business Services:

ROLL CALL: Ms. Darlene Clovis - Yes
 Mr. Cameron B. Jones, Sr. - Absent
 Ms. Tashia Owens Muhammad - Yes
 Ms. Andrea McPhatter - Absent
 Mr. Wayne R. Stackhouse, Jr. - Absent
 Ms. Marsha B. Wilkerson - Yes
 Ms. Terry S. Tucker - Yes

b. Recommendation for Approval of Emergency Purchases – Boiler Replacement at the George Carver Institute 2020-2021 SY and Related Services through Ed-Data Services

WHEREAS, emergency contract awards are pursuant to the Public School Contract Law and New Jersey Statutes, Title 18A: 18A-7, pending County Approval pursuant to NJAC 6A:26-3.14, and;

WHEREAS, emergency purchases for a boiler replacement and related services through Ed-Data are necessary as they affect the health and safety of the occupants at the George Carver Institute, located at 135 Glenwood Avenue, and;

WHEREAS, on prior occasion the East Orange Board of Education has authorized a resolution for participation in the Educational Services Commission of Morris County for the sponsoring Lead Educational Agency (“LEA”) responsible for the management of Educational Data Pricing Cooperative pursuant to NJSA 18A:18A-11 et seq. and NJAC 5:34-7.1 et seq, and;

WHEREAS, The Dept. of Facilities & Maintenance has obtained the appropriate quotes through the Ed-Data pricing cooperative for the following specified items listed;

VENDOR	SOURCE	COST \$	PROJECT
Academy Construction Inc. 205 Route 46 West, Suite 14 Totowa, NJ 07512	Educational-Data Services, Inc. (Ed-Data Co-op Bid #8521)	\$124,900.00	Boiler Room Abatement
United Welding & Plumbing 25 Central Avenue, Caldwell, NJ 07006	Educational-Data Services, Inc. (Ed-Data Co-op Bid #9751) and Emergency Purchase	\$109,750.00	Weil McLain Boiler Replacement
TTI Environmental, Inc. 1253 North Church Street Moorestown, NJ 08057	Open-Market Quote	\$6,700	Asbestos Abatement Air Monitoring Services

WHEREAS, funds will be made available from the District’s Capital Reserve as approved in original budget certified for taxes for SY 2021.

X. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

A. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

1. DIVISION OF BUSINESS SERVICES

- b. Recommendation for Approval of Emergency Purchases – Boiler Replacement at the George Carver Institute 2020-2021 SY and Related Services through Ed-Data Services – Cont’d

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the East Orange Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, awards emergency contracts to Academy Construction Inc., United Welding & Plumbing, and TTI Environmental, Inc., in connection with the boiler replacement project at the George Carver Institute, in accordance with LPSC New Jersey Statute 18A: 18A-7.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Tucker read the following notice:

The East Orange Board of Education will hold its next REGULARLY SCHEDULED PUBLIC MEETING Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. The Board of Education will retire to Executive Session after “Comments from the Public” in which they will discuss matters pertaining to negotiations, personnel and/or litigation. The Board will resume the regular public meeting at or about 8:00 p.m.; immediately following the Executive Session.

On the motion of Ms. Tashia Owens Muhammad, duly seconded by Ms. Darlene Clovis, the members of the Board voted to approve to adjourn the meeting:

- ROLL CALL:
- Ms. Darlene Clovis - Yes
 - Mr. Cameron B. Jones, Sr. - Absent
 - Ms. Tashia Owens Muhammad - Yes
 - Ms. Andrea McPhatter - Absent
 - Mr. Wayne R. Stackhouse, Jr. - Absent
 - Ms. Marsha B. Wilkerson - Yes
 - Ms. Terry S. Tucker - Yes

The meeting adjourned at or about 6:30 p.m.

Beth Brooks, Board Secretary

BOARD APPROVED _____