

THE ENGLEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING (ZOOM)
March 9, 2021
5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. and the NJ Open Public Meeting Statement was read by Cheryl Balletto, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

ROLL CALL Molly Craig-Berry (present for Closed Session and Second Public Session), Angela Midgette-David, Steven Berrios (present for Closed Session and Second Public Session), Donovan Rodriques, Suzanne Mullings, William Feinstein, Eric Montano, David Matthews, Samuel E. Trusty

ALSO PRESENT Cheryl Balletto, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Scott Eveland, Board Attorney

CLOSED SESSION AS NECESSARY *(Use this resolution to identify the qualified matters to be discussed)*

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-12, permits the Board of Education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss: (select one or more)

- 1) *a matter rendered confidential by federal or state law*
 - 2) *a matter in which release of information would impair the right to receive government funds*
 - 3) *material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy*
 - 4) *a collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiations related to it*
 - 5) *a matter involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds*
 - 6) *protection of public safety and property and/or investigations of possible violations or violations of law*
 - 7) *pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation and/or matters of attorney-client privilege*
 - 8) *specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session*
 - 9) *deliberation after a public hearing that could result in a civil penalty or other loss;*
- and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Motion to reconvene to public session by Mr. Feinstein; seconded by Mr. Montano.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

- Ms. Barnes requested a comprehensive plan for the reopening of schools.
- Ms. Ramos stated that the children and parents are struggling with remote learning.
- Ms. Gonzalez asked if the District has a plan to make sure the teachers and staff get vaccinated.
- Mr. Voorhis requested the recording of lessons become a standard policy.
- Mr. Ramos asked how the Board will address the rumors about Mr. Kravitz and who will be leading the schools. He also asked what the plans are for the summer and September school year.
- Ms. Toban asked if the children have the option to stay on line?
- Ms. Watson stated that teachers should be allowed to receive two vaccines before returning to school.
- Ms. Boggs stated there is a lack of information regarding the plan to reopen.
- Mr. Chrichlow stated there is a lack of socializations for students. Mr. Prislo asked how the district will manage aftercare.
- Ms. Lynch thanked the Board for making sure the reopening is safe for the children.
- Ms. Penelope requested that the information that goes out to parents should be meaningful and communicates what the next steps are.
- Mr. Trusty agrees with the parents and their concerns. The original plan to reopen was not adequate. The roll out plan will be a safe environment for children, teachers and staff. Mr. Trusty informed the community that the Business administrator is coordinating with the health department and Englewood Hospital to provide vaccinations for the staff. Mr. Trusty stated that the Board will make sure that recording of lessons is consistent. We are aggressively pursuing an interim superintendent that can come in and lead.

Motion to go to closed session by Mr. Feinstein; seconded by Dr. Mullings for the purpose of personnel items.

Motion to return to Public Session by Mr. Rodriques; seconded by Dr. Mullings.

Ms. Balletto read aloud the resolution appointing Dr. Ronald Bolandi as Interim Superintendent.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Englewood Board of Education appoints Dr. Ronald Bonaldi, as Interim Superintendent effective March 10, 2021 through June 30, 2021 at a rate of \$750 per diem. A copy of the contract is on file in the Board Secretary's office, Pending County Superintendent approval.

BOARD DISCUSSION

- Mr. Trusty stated that the Board is excited about Dr. Bolandi's illustrious career in education, in leadership, and, specifically, in his experience as a Superintendent and Interim Superintendent.
- Ms. Craig-Berry stated the Board made a very good decisions based on Dr. Bolandi's vast experience.
- Ms. Midgette-David is looking forward to Dr. Bolandi bringing the district forward.
- Mr. Berrios stated Dr. Bolandi's take on Dual Language made him feel secure with having Dr. Bolandi at the helm.
- Mr. Rodriques stated Dr. Bolandi comes with 30 years of experience in urban settings. Mr. Rodriques is impressed with Dr. Bolandi's philosophy.
- Dr. Mullings stated that Dr. Bolandi shared his diverse experience and articulated the needs of the children. Dr. Mullings stated that Dr. Bolandi would be a great asset to the Englewood Public School District.
- Mr. Feinstein feels he is the right person to put us on the right path. Mr. Feinstein stated that Dr. Bolandi is honest and direct.
- Mr. Montano stated that Dr. Bolandi's main focus was the achievement for all children. I am hopeful and excited.
- Mr. Matthews was very impressed with Dr. Bolandi. Mr. Matthews stated that Dr. Bolandi spoke strongly about the low scores in math and reading test scores and how we can right it.

Vote:

Yes: Ms. Craig-Berry, Ms. Midgette-David, Mr. Berrios, Mr. Rodriques, Dr. Mullings, Mr. Feinstein,
Mr. Montano, Mr. Matthews, Mr. Trusty

No: None

Resolution to approve Dr. Bolandi as Interim Superintendent passed by a unanimous vote.

Motion to adjourn at 9:47 p.m. by Mr. Matthews; seconded by Mr. Rodriques.