

**THE ENGLEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES – SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING**  
**June 3, 2019**  
**6:30 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. and the NJ Open Public Meeting Statement was read by Mr. Kravitz, Superintendent of Schools.

Present: Donovan Rodriques (arrived at 6:47 p.m.), Michelle Marom, Brent Watson (arrived at 6:55 p.m.), Angela Midgette-David (arrived 6:46 p.m.), Elisabeth Schwartz, Dalia Lerner, Kim Donaldson

Absent: Steven Berrios, Molly Craig-Berry

Also Present: Robert Kravitz, Superintendent of Schools, Cheryl Balletto, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Scott Zucker, Board Attorney

Motion by Ms. Marom; seconded by Ms. Lerner to enter closed session.

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.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

*Ms. Bullock* - The suspended students have been out of school since May 1, 2019. Their home schooling was delayed. Superintendent Kravitz has recommended that the children remain suspended until the end of the school year. May 28, 2019 the Board held disciplinary hearings for these children. Three of the nine Board members were not present at the hearings. We call on the following Board members to abstain from participating in the vote to suspend the students until the end of the school year: Molly Craig-Berry, Dalia Lerner and Elisabeth Schwartz; Juan Steven Berrios has pending charges for attempting to engage a physical altercation and using inappropriate language towards a parent. I have over 550 signatures on a petition (copies of the petition were distributed to the Board members). We are demanding that the suspended children be reinstated to school and any pending charges be it school or criminal charges be dismissed immediately.

*Dr. Kelly* – What is the expected or tentative date for a community forum so that parents and community members have an opportunity to hear from the top five candidates and provide feedback to those that are part of the hiring process? In light of the recent events, what is the Board's position of the hiring of a resource officer? Is there an update on the Apple Computer Initiative that was started two years ago?

*Mr. Trusty* – Is there a contact person to talk to understand the charges against the students and possibly dropping the charges prior to the court appearance?

*Mr. Wilby* – Read a letter from Dr. Debbie Manning regarding the hiring process of a high school principal.

*Ms. Gregg* – I feel that all the suspended students should return to school as soon as possible. I hope you take that into consideration. Can you tell us how many people applied for the high school principal position?

*Mr. Matthews* – We need stability in the high school. We need a superstar Principal – someone that has an education mindset and knows the importance of SAT scores. The Principal needs an experienced team – one person can't do it. If a Board member is really not dedicated to be on the Board, you should simply resign. You have to be here for the hearings...it's like hearing a testimony in court. There should have been nine Board members at the hearings.

*Ms. Matos* - I resonate what the community is saying – I hope the charges will be dropped.

*Ms. Palmer* – My son was one of the students involved in the fight – these are kids. Hopefully this is a learning lesson.

*Ms. Garcia* – Criminal records – that's extreme. This will effect them getting into college or getting a job.

*Ms. Ford* – The afterschool program – when will we get information? ESS – they are physically abusive to students in this district. The criminalization of the suspended students is disgusting.

*Ms. Thompson* – The middle school has no resources. My daughter has had a substitute teacher since November. She facetimes me from class. The kids that were suspended – back in the 80's I was that child. Someone gave me a second chance – they deserve that. What is the status regarding Lamarr Thomas? Please bring back The Zone. We're not giving up until you do what's right for the kids.

*Ms. Anderson* – Drop the charges and let the kids back in school. My daughter got maced in school and not one person was suspended.

*Ms. Dawson* – My son is a senior – he does not have an English teacher. He has a substitute but she is not there everyday. All those suspended students deserve a second chance.

*Dr. Mullings* – I asked at a previous meeting what measures would be in place surrounding disciplinary action that was proactive rather than reactive. I'm asking that all criminal charges be dropped. There was no public involvement for the new Principal. Can you give us some feedback where we are with the teachers' contract.

*Ms. Harris* – I'm tired of hearing people saying that they do not want their kids attending the schools. It comes down to you Mr. Kravitz. If you are concerned about the kids, why are you criminalizing them.

*Mr. Erwin* – Dwight Morrow High School has a beautiful campus but it's probably one of the schools that is most unsafe. You have to get a double door entry. You also need a resource officer. The District needs black men in the schools teaching the kids.

*Ms. Donaldson* – The Board has directed the Administration to drop the criminal charges. Based on the consensus of the Board, we will decide on a resource officer.

*Mr. Kravitz* – The distinction between a School Resource Officer and a Class III Officer is a School Resource Officer is one that instructs kids. They are employees of the Police Department. Class III Officer is also an employee but is more of a guard. Apple update – 95% of the teachers have passed the Apple Certified test. The after school program – from my understanding there won't be any changes. High School Principal – we've started round one. So far, there are 27 applicants. We would like to have participation from the school as well as parents. One of the problems we have is long-term substitutes. ESS has not been able to deliver on that. ESS contract will be amended. I cannot comment about investigations and student matters. We are looking to add more cameras and security resources to our buildings.

**REVIEW OF CONSENT AGENDA**

(The following resolutions are presented for your consideration pursuant to Board of Education Bylaw 164.)

Roll Call Vote on the Consent Agenda – **yes to all except:**

Resolution #	Topic	Rodriques	Marom	Watson	Midgette-David	Schwartz	Lerner	Donaldson
19-A-73	Approval – Student Suspension 145327 (1DL/2DR)				No	Abstain	Abstain	
19-A-74	Approval – Student Suspension 148365 (1DL/2ES)	No	No	No	No	Abstain	Abstain	
19-A-75	Approval – Student Suspension 144678 (1DL/2MM)	No			No	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain
19-A-76	Approval – Student Suspension 145199 (1MM/2AMD)	No	No	No	No	Abstain	Abstain	
19-A-77	Approval – Student Suspension 146082 (1ES/2DL)	No	No	No	No	Abstain	Abstain	
19-A-78	Approval – Student Suspension 144383 (1AMD/2DL)	No	No	No	No	Abstain	Abstain	
19-A-79	Approval – Student Suspension 150513 (1DL/2ES)	No	No	No	No	Abstain	Abstain	
19-A-80	Approval – Student Suspension 146022 (1DL/2ES)					Abstain	Abstain	Abstain
19-A-81	Approval – Student Suspension 145282 (1DL/2ES)	No	No	No	No	Abstain	Abstain	
19-A-82	Approval – Student Suspension 144588 (1ES/2DL)	No	No	No	No	Abstain	Abstain	
19-A-83	Approval – Student Suspension 145777 (1ES/2DL)	No	No	No	No	Abstain	Abstain	

**APPROVED: 19-A-73, 19-A-80**

**NOT APPROVED: 19-A-74, 19-A-75, 19-A-76, 19-A-77, 19-A-78, 19-A-79, 19-A-81, 19-A-82, 19-A-83**

**NEW/OLD BUSINESS:**

None

Motion to adjourn at 9:21 p.m. by Ms. Schwartz; seconded by Ms. Lerner.

**ADMINISTRATION**

**19-A-73 APPROVAL – STUDENT SUSPENSION**

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board conducted a disciplinary hearing for Student Number 145327; and

WHEREAS, the hearing was conducted in accordance with New Jersey regulations and Board Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Board heard testimony from representatives of the school District and from the student/parent(s); now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby suspends Student Number 145327 from May 1, 2019 through June 20, 2019; now

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, student number 145327 will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony, contingent upon eligibility.

**19-A-74 APPROVAL – STUDENT SUSPENSION**

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board conducted a disciplinary hearing for Student Number 148365; and

WHEREAS, the hearing was conducted in accordance with New Jersey regulations and Board Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Board heard testimony from representatives of the school District and from the student/parent(s); now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby suspends Student Number 148365 from May 1, 2019 through June 4, 2019.

**19-A-75 APPROVAL – STUDENT SUSPENSION**

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board conducted a disciplinary hearing for Student Number 144678; and

WHEREAS, the hearing was conducted in accordance with New Jersey regulations and Board Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Board heard testimony from representatives of the school District and from the student/parent(s); now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby suspends Student Number 144678 from May 1, 2019 through June 20, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, student number 144678 will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony, contingent upon eligibility

**19-A-76            APPROVAL – STUDENT SUSPENSION**

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board conducted a disciplinary hearing for Student Number 145199; and

WHEREAS, the hearing was conducted in accordance with New Jersey regulations and Board Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Board heard testimony from representatives of the school District and from the student/parent(s); now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby suspends Student Number 145199 from May 1, 2019 through June 4, 2019.

**19-A-77            APPROVAL – STUDENT SUSPENSION**

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board conducted a disciplinary hearing for Student Number 146082; and

WHEREAS, the hearing was conducted in accordance with New Jersey regulations and Board Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Board heard testimony from representatives of the school District and from the student/parent(s); now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby suspends Student Number 146082 from May 1, 2019 through June 4, 2019.

**19-A-78            APPROVAL – STUDENT SUSPENSION**

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board conducted a disciplinary hearing for Student Number 144383; and

WHEREAS, the hearing was conducted in accordance with New Jersey regulations and Board Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Board heard testimony from representatives of the school District and from the student/parent(s); now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby suspends Student Number 144383 from May 1, 2019 through June 4, 2019.

**19-A-79            APPROVAL – STUDENT SUSPENSION**

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board conducted a disciplinary hearing for Student Number 150513; and

WHEREAS, the hearing was conducted in accordance with New Jersey regulations and Board Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Board heard testimony from representatives of the school District and from the student/parent(s); now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby suspends Student Number 150513 from May 1, 2019 through June 4, 2019.

**19-A-80            APPROVAL – STUDENT SUSPENSION**

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board conducted a disciplinary hearing for Student Number 146022; and

WHEREAS, the hearing was conducted in accordance with New Jersey regulations and Board Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Board heard testimony from representatives of the school District and from the student/parent(s); now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby suspends Student Number 146022 from May 1, 2019 through June 20, 2019; now

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, student number 146022 will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony, contingent upon eligibility

**19-A-81            APPROVAL – STUDENT SUSPENSION**

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board conducted a disciplinary hearing for Student Number 145282; and

WHEREAS, the hearing was conducted in accordance with New Jersey regulations and Board Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Board heard testimony from representatives of the school District and from the student/parent(s); now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby suspends Student Number 145282 from May 1, 2019 through June 4, 2019.

**19-A-82            APPROVAL – STUDENT SUSPENSION**

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board conducted a disciplinary hearing for Student Number 144588; and

WHEREAS, the hearing was conducted in accordance with New Jersey regulations and Board Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Board heard testimony from representatives of the school District and from the student/parent(s); now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby suspends Student Number 144588 from May 1, 2019 through June 4, 2019.

**19-A-83            APPROVAL – STUDENT SUSPENSION**

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board conducted a disciplinary hearing for Student Number 145777; and

WHEREAS, the hearing was conducted in accordance with New Jersey regulations and Board Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Board heard testimony from representatives of the school District and from the student/parent(s); now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby suspends Student Number 145777 from May 1, 2019 through June 4, 2019.