

THE ENGLEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
May 21, 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: Steven Berrios, Molly Craig-Berry, Donovan Rodriques (arrived at 6:47 p.m.), Michelle Marom, Brent Watson, Angela Midgette-David (arrived 7:06 p.m.), Elisabeth Schwartz, Dalia Lerner, Kim Donaldson

Absent: Steven Berrios, Dalia Lerner

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

Motion by Ms. Craig-Berry; seconded by Ms. Marom 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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- After School Program Presentations
 - Kinder Care
 - Right at School
 - Bergen Family Center

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Ms. Trusty – I've tried to get in touch with Mr. Kravitz on several occasions. Both you and Dr. Bowie have never called me. I believe the situation was mishandled. My primary concern is the extreme discipline. I feel there was a breach in security. My son should be able to return to school immediately

Dr. Carter – We need to be proactive not reactive. We are not considering a remedy but instead extended punitive action that does not benefit children. They need to learn from it; not be punished. Secondly, why don't the teachers have a contract?

Mr. Whilby – It's a shame that these teachers haven't had a contract for a whole year. You're talking about dedicated professionals that care about our kids. Do the right thing. We have a good system with the Bergen Family Center and you want to give it to the highest bidder.

Ms. Ramos – After School Care – Why wasn't Bergen Family given more time to present? Are you going to give back the revenue to parents who can't afford it?

Ms. Bulluck – As elected officials you take an oath to abide by a code of ethics which is dictated by New Jersey law. I am very disturbed by the actions initiated by Board memberS over the course of the past year. I feel the Board members don't know, don't understand or don't care about following the code of ethics or the best interest of the school district. There is never a justifiable reason for an elected official to shout profanities or threaten community members.

Mr. Bunch – What good is bringing a program into Englewood, if you don't have teachers with a contract? As I've told you before, I plan on going to the FBI to get some justice done. I'm going to hold everyone on this Board accountable.

Ms. Finnegan – Are you renting the facilities to the After School companies? How much are you getting from them? Bergen Family provides us with no extra costs – why are we looking to make changes? ESS is another problem. We have openings that ESS cannot fill. The teachers are what keep us in this school district. Give them a contract.

Mr. Ramos – I came here to lobby for Bergen Family. We have a sound and stable product here already. I you're not going to appreciate our teachers then you will lose the fabric of what makes us great and our children move forward.

Mr. Carter – For 110 years the NAACP has supported education for everyone, especially minorities. The suspended kids have had no home schooling. The policy of having them come back has not happened. You cannot make up the rules as you go along. We need to educate our kids.

Ms. Wisotsky – I work very closely with the Bergen Family Center After School Program to provide ice skating programs. The parents and kids are happy with this program. Bergen Family Center is a proven success.

Ms. Patterson – What are the long term goals for the school district. We are thinking of leaving the district. I'm concerned with all the chaos.

Ms. McCargo – I am equally repulsed by Mr. Berrios' behavior. He caused the most strife at the April meeting. You must as a body of elected individuals seek to repair the honor of your own Board positions. What are your findings of the investigation of the fight? Was there a shelter in place during the fight? No child should not feel safe. Why so many suspensions? There should be a way for the suspended students to get their assignments.

Ms. Schoen - Mr. Bowie came to a Rotary Meeting. I am shocked to hear that he is leaving. Please don't turn your back on Bergen Family Center.

Mr. Caviness - I have never seen a Board this dysfunctional. I have not heard anything about graduation. What is the graduation rate? The word on the street is we're going to have a lot of empty seats. We outsource paraprofessionals – we had 33 paraprofessionals that had Master Degrees. Almost everything in this District is outsourced. Have we saved money from outsourcing? Lastly, give the teachers a contract.

Ms. Barnes – Parents demand respect. Our community needs an after school provider and it should be Bergen Family Center. Give the teachers a contract. The students need a safe learning environment.

Ms. Ford – Everything falls apart when our teachers are not receiving what they need. The ESS renewal – why was this approved when there is known and properly documented incidence of verbal and physical abuse? It's not too late to revisit that decision. The students are not criminals, despite the opinion of some.

Ms. Matos - I want to thank all the teachers for your support. We appreciate you. People want to be heard – we don't feel that.

Ms. Donaldson – Because the Board did not second the motion that Mr. Rodriques put on the floor to discipline Mr. Berrios - that is not true. No one agrees with what happened. We don't condone those actions.

Mr. Kravitz – I cannot discuss personnel or student matters. The After School Programs – we wanted to see what were our options. Purchased Services – Apptegy will do our website. There will be a savings of \$10,000. We are following the recommendation of the Englewood Police Department regarding the Showoff. We expect the graduation rate to be about 83-85%. We have a security plan that we are putting in place next year. Obviously, we are not happy with the brawl. There is a process that we follow when it comes to discipline. We want to make sure that every student is safe.

Motion by Ms. Schwartz, seconded by Ms. Marom to approve consent agenda as amended and the addenda.

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	Craig-Berry	Rodriques	Marom	Watson	Midgette-David	Schwartz	Donaldson
19-A-71	Approval – Purchased Services							
19-A-72	Approval – 2019 Dwight Morrow High School Show Off Expenditures							

NEW/OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Schwartz – I would like to address the allegation about trolling Mr. Whilby on Facebook. I was forwarded a meme that Mr. Whilby posted. It said the answer to the Jewish problem is simple – keep them out of banking, out of education and out of government. I want to ask you how would you feel if you were targeted?

Ms. Morgese - We are not going to have a dialogue between the Board and the public. This is for Board business only.

Mr. Rodriques – What is the procedure to invite Bergen Family Center to make a presentation at the next meeting?

Ms. Midgette-David – I don't think Bergen Family Center wasn't given fair notice. I think they should come back.

Motion to adjourn at 10:01 p.m. by Ms. Craig-Berry; seconded by Ms. Marom.

ADMINISTRATION

19-A-71 APPROVAL – PURCHASED SERVICES

TAB-01

WHEREAS, the district requires specialized services to satisfy educational and business requirements,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Englewood Board of Education authorizes the president and secretary to enter into agreement with the listed individuals and/or organizations, subject to attorney review of any applicable agreement both as to content and form:

Name	Service / Dates	Budget	Max. Fees
Apptegy	Apptegy is a custom apps, websites, and tools to build your school's digital marketing strategy. Parent Notification System used as informational and communication tool. May 2019-July 2020	11-000-222-500-68-000-000	\$25,500.00

19-A-72 APPROVAL – 2019 DWIGHT MORROW HIGH SCHOOL SHOW OFF EXPENDITURES

WHEREAS, the Board received a recommendation from the Englewood Police Department (“Recommendation”) regarding the safety and security of students at the “Show-Off” event that is held on the campus of Dwight Morrow High School prior to the Dwight Morrow Senior Prom scheduled for May 29, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Recommendation indicated that in the wake of the recent events of violence at the High School, the police department felt that it was necessary for the Board to employ the services of fifteen (15) uniformed officers to preserve the safety and security of all students for the Show Off event; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that the Show-Off tradition should continue as it is an important part of the student culture at Dwight Morrow High School; and now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves a total amount, not to exceed \$3,900, for fifteen(15) Englewood Police Officers to be present for the 2019 Show Off scheduled for May 29, 2019 at Dwight Morrow High School.

