

**THE ENGLEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
SPECIAL PUBLIC WORK SESSION MEETING
March 3, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and the NJ Open Public Meeting Statement was read by Ms. Cheryl Balletto, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Present: Donovan Rodriques, Dalia Lerner, Brent Watson, Suzanne Mullings, Samuel E. Trusty, Steven Berrios, Molly Craig-Berry

Absent: Brent Watson

Also Present: Peter Spaeth, Attorney

The following individuals were asked to join the meeting at 7:50 p.m.: Robert Kravitz, Superintendent of Schools, Cheryl Balletto, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Paul Griggs, Board Attorney

Motion by Ms. Lerner; seconded by Dr. Mullings 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

- Ms. Balletto presented the 2020-2021 Budget to the Board.

Items Discussed:

- PreK-K Enrollment at Bergen Family Center
- Preschool Aid
- School Choice Aid
- Emergency Reserve and Capital Reserve
- Enrollment at A@E
- Professional Development
- Legal Settlements
- Copiers – Buying vs. Leasing
- School Counselors
- Reading Specialists

Mr. Berrios welcomed Army recruits and Coach Dion who came to speak on having a Jr. ROTC Program at the high school.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT AGENDA ONLY

Mr. Matthews – Are there any anticipated retirement savings? Can you explain what Title II is? The hiring of the attorney – I think you can find a better firm. There are other firms that are better at school law. One way you can cut legal fees – does an attorney need to be here tonight? We need to be smart.
Mr. Caviness – Let’s talk about the elephant in the room. You are being sued – you are giving the person that’s suing you direction to lead the budget. Some of the things that are in the budget comes from the person that is suing you. We have some problems that we need to solve before we even start talking about the budget. We cannot remain status quo.

Motion to approve consent agenda by Mr. Rodriques; seconded by Mr. Berrios.

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

Resolution #	Topic	Rodriques	Lerner	Marom	Midgette-David	Mullings	Trusty	Berrios	Craig-Berry
20-B-33	Approval to Appoint Florio Perrucci Steinhardt & Cappelli, LLC as Special Counsel to Englewood Public Schools								

Resolution 20-B-33 passed by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM OTHER THAN CONSENT AGENDA

Ms Bulluck – I appreciate the dialogue tonight. What is the status of the Director of Pupil Personnel Services position? How many applicants have you received? Fees associated with Graduation – This is a district with a high rate of free and reduced lunch children. How can you expect people who can't afford lunch to pay \$50 for a cap & gown, \$50 for a year book at the Middle School, and high school students pay \$200 for graduation fees. Are the PTO's helping to offset these costs? Is there money in the budget to offset these costs?

Mr. Matthews – Do we anticipate any savings from retirement? We need to hire a lawyer to teach the Law Academy. How do we have an IT Program and we don't teach Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint? I would like the Superintendent to make a presentation on the IVY Program. That was an excellent program. It prepares students for middle school and high school. It all comes down to not how much money we have. The problem we have is leadership. We don't have leadership at the Principal level, Administrative level and we need greater improvement at the Superintendent level. You need a person running these schools and holding people accountable. The Math Program has been bandied about. Mr. Kravitz has been here four years and things are not that great. Let's bring this District at least to the Bergen County level. It all starts with leadership.

Ms. McCargo – My primary focus is the needs of the students. Our state test scores fall far below. We have to provide some basic skills training for our children.

Mr. Kravitz –

- Director of Pupil Personnel service – We have between 15-18 applicants. Not all of them are certified. We are setting up dates and times for interviews. The goal is for April/May to make an appointment for that position.
- Fees for graduation – *Ms. Balletto* stated that graduation fees typically run through the Student Activity account. The prom and year book run through this account. We have club advisors that arrange fund raisers. We should look at all the proactive measures to raise money.
- Retirements – Right now we have one person retiring.
- IVY Program – It's still here. I will do a presentation.

Ms. Craig-Berry – Asked Mr. Rodriques to be Delegate Assembly Designee. Mr. Rodriques accepted. Mr. Berrios agreed to be the Alternate Delegate. Dr. Mullings was asked if she would like to be the liason to the Englewood Recreation Department. Ms Craig-Berry explained what the position entailed.

Ms. Midgette-David – Senior fund raising – I worked closely with the teachers

Motion to adjourn at 11.48 p.m. by Ms. Ms. Midgette-David; seconded by Ms. Lerner.