

**THE ENGLEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES  
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING (ZOOM)  
April 30, 2020  
2:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. and the NJ Open Public Meeting Statement was read by Ms. Cheryl Balletto, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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

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

*Ms. Craig-Berry* – We are following all the guidelines that is provided by the Governor, the State and the County. I want to thank our security guards and the Pomptonian’s staff. We have partnered with Pomptonian and Coach Dion. They prepared 300 hot dinners for the employees at Englewood Hospital. Bergen Family have also stepped up to provide food.

*Mr. Berrios* – I would like to add that many of the teachers are doing a good job. Thank you for the extra effort in educating the students.

*Mr. Kravitz* – Thank you all for participating in today’s meeting. Tomorrow will mark the end of the seventh week of virtual learning. While there are kinks in the system we strive each day to solve problems. Many problems we may think are only happening here are also happening in other districts. I will use the example of my own children as I listen to them to complain about filing out gym logs, or assignments due on days off. I say this as a parent that the best thing one can do is reach out to the teacher and ask. Someone will respond, but I cannot stress enough that a chain has to be followed. If you are unhappy with a science project, reach out to the science teacher, or if elementary student to the classroom teacher, related arts (music, art, physical education, etc) reach out to them respectively. If a teacher is requiring something to be printed, ask the teacher to confirm, if it is a yes, than reach out to the principal. This is best way to solve our problems.

On Monday night the principals and I will be hosting another meeting in which we will be able to answer questions with your specific concerns. That program will begin at 6pm

*Ms. Craig-Berry* - CSA evaluation – We came up with our district goals in January. We had an update during that time. It is on our share drive. Mr. Kravitz has another update. Mr. Kravitz is going to submit it to the School Boards tomorrow. The platform will be open for the CSA evaluation.

*Mr. Kravitz* – All of the links will be in the School Board’s attachment.

**Privilege of the Floor**

*Mr. Dalton* – A parent of students in the Englewood Public School District. I sent a profound e-mail to everyone who needs to lay eyes on it. I have yet to receive a response. It is concerning considering that nothing is solution based – everything is retroactive or reactive when it comes to anything regarding EPSD. There are no protocols in place that give a reasonable amount of expectations for the teacher to do their part as well as what is expected of the parent. Is there anything in line having the teachers accountable because I hear a lot of thinking going on. It’s literally parents get it done or else. Everyone’s household is not set up the same. There are a host of issues going on. It’s problematic.

*Mr. Kravitz* – Everyone did receive your e-mail. Some of the teachers will reach out to you. We react according to the situation. There is a protocol for anyone having problems. This is a learning experience for K-12 education in New Jersey. I apologize if it is not meeting all expectations.

Dr. Mullings - As a parent myself, with two children in two different buildings in the district, I think overall we acknowledge that we could do better. There are many improvements that need to be made. As we compare ourselves to other districts, because that's the measuring stick that we use, we can all do better. When this pandemic hit, everybody hit the switch to online – that's K-12 and high education. In retrospect, we see there are a lot of flaws that need to be managed and improved upon. It is good to know that the teachers received protocols. I agree that the parents are not clear what their part is in home education through virtual learning. There is a full gamut of a learning curve not only for teachers, parents and students. Communication is very difficult to manage at this point. It means different things to different people. Some people e-mail, some text, some like phone calls – all those different ways make it difficult. Some parents are fed up and don't want to be bothered. There are a host of barriers that collectively need to be addressed. Some Board members have verbalized that there is a need for a task force that involves administrators, teachers, parents and students so that we can move forward. If we have to continue with virtual learning, there definitely needs to be change. Each building has a different platform; each building has a different protocol. The younger children are having more difficulty than some of the older children. As far as the packets – I know some of the teachers do not want to touch those packets in fear of contamination. I think there should be a constant update in what the changes are because a lot of things are getting missed and lost in translation.

Mr. Rodriques – Attendance through Genesis - Have you put it into protocol that parents can contact teachers? Are they supervisors of technology aware of this? How does a teacher mark a student present if a parent cannot do it on Genesis.

Mr. Kravitz – That information was communicated to parents last week. If a parent doesn't mark a student present, the teacher can.

Motion by Mr. Rodriques; seconded by Ms. Lerner to enter closed session for the purposes of legal services and personnel. The Board will return back to open session only to adjourn the meeting. No action will be taken.

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 open session by Dr. Mullings; seconded by Mr. Berrios

Motion to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. by Mr. Rodriques; seconded by Mr. Berrios.