The meeting was called to order by the Board Secretary at 7:00 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Chari Chanley, Acting Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Adam Layman, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Michael C. Gorski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – 30

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Secretary read the following statement:

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the Monroe Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published and electronic notice provided by having the date, time, and place thereof posted December 23, 2021:

- 1. At all schools,
- 2. On the District website at https://www.monroe.k12.nj.us/,
- 3. Home News Tribune,
- 4. Cranbury Press, and
- 5. Filed with the Clerk of the Municipality.

Mr. Gorski announced that this is an unique board of education meeting where it begins without a board president as chair and as board secretary, it is his role to chair the meeting until such time as a successful nomination process for a president.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ELECTION RESULTS

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Gorski stated that the Election Results have been certified by the County Clerk of Elections. Mr. Gorski announced that the Board was previously provided a copy of the election results; a copy has been placed in BoardDocs; and a copy is available for the public this evening. A copy of the election results will be attached to the official set of minutes.

STATUTORY OATH

Mr. Michael C. Gorski, Board Secretary/Business Administrator administered the statutory oath to the following elected Board of Education Members:

Ms. Gazala Bohra

Ms. Katie Fabiano

Ms. Kate Rattner

Mr. Paul Rutsky - Jamesburg Representative

Mr. Gorski requested that the oaths be signed and returned to him this evening. A copy of the executed statutory oaths will be maintained with the official minutes.

ROLL CALL BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Michele Arminio

Ms. Kathleen Belko

Ms. Karen Bierman

Ms. Gazala Bohra

Mr. Ken Chiarella

Ms. Katie Fabiano

Mr. Adi Nikitinsky

Ms. Kate Rattner

Mr. Paul Rutsky, Jamesburg Representative

Ms. Chrissy Skurbe

ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT

Mr. Gorski announced that nominations were in order for the election of Board President.

Mr. Chiarella nominated Ms. Skurbe for the position of Board President.

Mr. Rutsky nominated Ms. Arminio for the position of Board President.

Ms. Arminio declined the nomination. Mr. Rutsky respectfully withdrew his nomination.

Ms. Rattner nominated Mr. Chiarella for the position of Board President.

Mr. Chiarella declined the nomination. Ms. Rattner respectfully withdrew her nomination.

Mr. Gorski announced that since there were no other nominations, the nominations for the position of Board President were closed. Mr. Gorski announced that he would proceed with a roll call vote. Ms. Belko stated that according to Robert's Rules of Order if there is only one nominee the secretary can cast the yay vote for the seat to be taken. Mr. Gorski responded that he feels it would be prudent to take a vote stating that a roll call has always been taken, it will only take a minute, and it will be recorded in the official minutes indicating who voted or abstained. Ms. Arminio provided Ms. Belko with a copy of Robert's Rule of Order, and she read section B on page 79 which indicated that the chair can declare the nominee elected, which is referred to as an election by acclamation. Mr. Gorski stated that as Board Secretary he is the chair of the meeting at the moment, and it is he desire to proceed with a roll call vote. Ms. Belko objected.

Ms. Skurbe for Board President:

Roll Call:	Vote:
Ms. Michele Arminio	Abstain
Ms. Kathleen Belko	Abstain
Ms. Karen Bierman	Yes
Ms. Gazala Bohra	Yes
Mr. Ken Chiarella	Yes
Ms. Katie Fabiano	Yes
Mr. Adi Nikitinsky	Yes
Ms. Kate Rattner	Yes
Mr. Paul Rutsky	No

Ms. Chrissy Skurbe Yes Roll call 7-1-2-0-0

Mr. Gorski announced that Ms. Skurbe was elected President of the Monroe Township Board of Education. As the elected President, Ms. Skurbe began her role as chair of the meeting.

ELECTION OF BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

Ms. Skurbe announced that nominations were now open for the election of Vice President of the Board of Education.

Mr. Nikitinsky nominated Ms. Bierman for Vice President.

Ms. Skurbe announced that since there were no other nominations, the nominations for the position of Board Vice President were closed. Due to Ms. Belko reminding Ms. Skurbe of her prior objection, Ms. Skurbe, as Chair, stated that a roll call will not be taken. Ms. Skurbe announced that Ms. Bierman is the new Board Vice President of the Monroe Township Board of Education.

Ms. Arminio suggested that perhaps at the next meeting the Board should establish how closely they follow Robert's Rules of Order

CODE OF ETHICS

Ms. Skurbe stated that all board members should have received the New Jersey School Board Association's Code of School Ethics Commission to review. Ms. Skurbe requested that the Acknowledgment of Review be signed and returned to Mr. Gorski at the end of the meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Chiarella and seconded by Mr. Rutsky that the members of the Monroe Township Board of Education acknowledge receipt of and acceptance of the New Jersey School Boards Association Code of Ethics. 10-0-0-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM

Tim Eosso 2 Alison Court – thanked Ms. Arminio for serving as board president last year, congratulated Ms. Skurbe and Ms. Bierman on their elected positions, and welcomed the new board members. Mr. Eosso stated that he is excited to see what this Board has in store for the residents and children in Monroe.

Brian Fabiano 19 Patricia Place – stated that he watched the efforts put in by the newly elected members over the last ten months and he is proud and excited that the board are mostly parents of district students. Mr. Fabiano congratulated Ms. Bierman and Ms. Skurbe on their appointed positions. Mr. Fabiano requested a comment on why the school decided to go remote last night. Mr. Fabiano asked for confirmation from Mr. Gorski that regardless of who was acting superintendent of schools, the call to go remote today would have resulted in the same outcome because the buses would not have been able to operate. Lastly, Mr. Fabiano reiterated that the community needs to come together and stop the divisiveness.

Betty Saborido 2 Barrymore Drive – welcomed the new members and thanked the other members for their continued support. Ms. Saborido thanked Dr. Layman ad Ms. Chanley for

their service to the District during these difficult times. Ms. Saborido also inquired about the details of the last-minute call to remote. Lastly, Ms. Saborido reiterated her statement from prior months, which is that the divisiveness has to stop, and everyone has to work together if the district is going to move forward.

Pradeep Melam 4 Jake Place – congratulated the new members and stated he has faith in this new Board, what he referred to as his dream team. Mr. Melam requested that they have empathy, listen to what is being said and be aware that they will be defined by their actions or lack of them.

Lori Miller 123 Main Street – inquired if the committee making decisions regarding the District's Covid plan included any doctors, scientists or pediatricians and requested an explanation on what determines the decisions made. Next, Ms. Miller inquired if there are funds available to provide masks for students. Ms. Miller inquired if an email can be distributed explaining the current requirements for Covid testing and quarantine procedures as some parents can be confused with all the changes.

Michael Olesky 50 Mayberry Avenue – inquired if there is a guide that administration utilizes to determine the District's decisions regarding Covid procedures that are to be followed.

Rashed Bohra 1 Miko Drive – congratulated the three new members and the newly elected President and Vice President. Regarding the sudden switch to remote, Mr. Bohra inquired if there is a procedure for students that may have left books or other needed items in their lockers. Lastly, Mr. Bohra questioned if the lack of bus drivers was the reason for going remote, why weren't parents given the option to drive the students to school.

David Rattner 2 Kings Court – congratulated the new members and offered his appreciation to the current members and administration for all the work they do in leading the District into a bright future.

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS:

A motion was made by Mr. Chiarella and seconded by Ms. Arminio that the members of the Board of Education accept and approve Organizational Items letters A-D by consent roll call. Regarding the January 2023 Organizational Meeting date, Ms. Skurbe stated that it would be nice for the newly elected members to take their seats the day the district returns from break, therefore she requested that the date be change to January 2, 2023. Roll Call 10-0-0-0-0 Motion carried with the condition that the date of the 2023 organizational meeting is changed to Monday, January 2, 2023.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Skurbe specified that she is very humbled to have been elected board president and wished everyone a healthy and happy new year. Ms. Skurbe welcomed the new members and Mr. Rutsky for returning to the table. Ms. Skurbe stated that for the first time in Monroe's history both the Assistant and Acting Superintendent are truly vested as they both reside in Monroe Township, are taxpayers and are community members and will bring their best to help move the District forward.

Ms. Bierman stated that she is also very humbled to have been selected as Vice President and hopes to provide support to the Board and be a role model/mentor to the new members.

OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

Mr. Chiarella welcomed the new members, congratulated Ms. Skurbe and Ms. Bierman and commended Ms. Arminio for all that she did as past President. Mr. Chiarella stated that it is disheartening to hear past board members bashing Ms. Chanley.

Ms. Arminio inquired about the Committee Preference Sheets. Ms. Skurbe stated that they will be handed out and asked that they be returned as soon as possible.

Ms. Rattner inquired why the District is still utilizing the half day schedule now that this week will be remote instruction. Ms. Chanley responded that it was due to the very last-minute change to go remote. Should the District need to utilize remote instruction next week it will be a full day schedule. Ms. Rattner inquired if there are any other times besides lunch that students are without masks. Ms. Chanley responded no, and due to the return after the holiday, efforts have been made to provide additional distances between students on a temporary basis.

Ms. Fabiano, Ms. Bohra and Ms. Rattner thanked the residents for their trust in electing them to the Board and are hoping the divisiveness can stop. They are all looking forward to serving the District, listening to community concerns, and working together for the greater good of all students.

Considering the staffing shortage in the transportation department, Mr. Rutsky inquired if there would be enough relief in routes if High School students went remote while elementary students attending in person. Ms. Chanley responded that will be a conversation that they can have tomorrow when they meet to discuss potential reconfigurations and options.

Ms. Skurbe stated that she noticed the busses were out on the road today and wondered why. Dr. Layman explained that transportation staff that weren't ill were in and active, so they ran their runs and some other tasks. Mr. Gorski added that the busses sat quite a while over the break, and it was important to get them running as it improves the performance of the fleet.

Ms. Bohra stated that there are some concerns within the community with returning the students to school. Some parents prefer they go in-person while others feel strongly that they attend remotely. Ms. Bohra inquired if teachers could be divided into two groups, those that would teach in-person while others teach remotely. Ms. Chanley responded that currently the hybrid synchronous instruction option is not approved by the Governor.

A motion was made Ms. Belko and seconded by Ms. Bierman that the members of the Monroe Township Board of Education appoint Ms. Bierman as the temporary board secretary for the remainder of the meeting. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION MEETING

Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Township of Monroe hereby moves to go into Closed Session, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 through 10:4-21), to discuss the following subject(s):

• Review of resumes for Superintendent of Schools position

Following closed session, action may be taken. The discussion conducted in closed session can be disclosed to the public at such time as the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

A motion was made by Mr. Chiarella and seconded by Mr. Nikitinsky that the members of the board of education convene into closed session. Motion carried with Ms. Arminio abstaining.

Adjourned to Closed Session at 8:24 p.m.

Returned to Public Meeting at 9:22 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM – None

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Ms. Skurbe stated that the next public meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Education will convene at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 26, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Belko and seconded by Mr. Chiarella that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The public meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. Gorski, CPA

Business Administrator/Board Secretary

The video recording of this meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Education can be found on the district website or https://monroetv.viebit.com/index.php?folder=Board+of+Education



Monday, January 3, 2022 MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES DURING THE MEETING
ALL INDIVIDUALS SITTING AT THE BOARD TABLE SHOULD HAVE THEIR PHONES PUT AWAY

MONROE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL 200 SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD MONROE TOWNSHIP, NJ 08831 7:00 P.M.

Any member of the public may record the proceedings of a public meeting of the Board in a manner that does not interrupt the proceedings, inhibit the conduct of the meeting, or distract Board Members or other observers present at the meeting.

The Board will permit the use of tape recorders, still or movie cameras, or videotape cameras only when notice of such intended use has been given to the Board Secretary one day in advance of the meeting. Any video recording device must be located and operated from inconspicuous locations in the meeting room as determined by the presiding officer of the meeting. The presiding officer may also limit the number of video recording devices if he/she determines the number and position of the video recording devices will be an unnecessary intrusion to the meeting. In this event, preference will be given based on the order in which prior notice requesting to record the meeting was provided to the Board Secretary.

The presiding officer shall determine when any recording device interferes with the conduct of a Board meeting and may order that an interfering device be removed.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. STATEMENT

Subject A. STATEMENT

Meeting Jan 3, 2022 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Category 2. STATEMENT

Access Public

Type Information

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the Monroe Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published and electronic notice provided by having the date, time, and place thereof posted December 23, 2021:

- 1. At all schools,
- 2. On the District website at https://www.monroe.k12.nj.us/,
- 3. Home News Tribune,
- 4. Cranbury Press, and
- 5. Filed with the Clerk of the Municipality.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Subject A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting Jan 3, 2022 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Category 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Access Public

Type

4. ELECTION RESULTS

Subject A. ELECTION RESULTS

Meeting Jan 3, 2022 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Category 4. ELECTION RESULTS

Access Public

Type

File Attachments

Election Certifications.pdf (1,017 KB)

OFFICIAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION RESULTS 11.02.21.pdf (40 KB)

5. STATUTORY OATH

Subject A. STATUTORY OATH

Meeting Jan 3, 2022 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Category 5. STATUTORY OATH

Access Public

Type

STATUTORY OATH

Ms. Gazala Bohra

Ms. Katie Fabiano

Ms. Kate Rattner

Mr. Paul Rutsky - Jamesburg Representative

File Attachments

Blank - Oath.pdf (10 KB)

Executive File Attachments

2022 Oaths.pdf (703 KB)

6. ROLL CALL

Subject A. BOARD MEMBERS

Meeting Jan 3, 2022 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Category 6. ROLL CALL

Access Public

Type Information

Ms. Michele Arminio Ms. Kathleen Belko Ms. Karen Bierman Ms. Gazala Bohra Mr. Ken Chiarella Ms. Katie Fabiano Mr. Adi Nikitinsky Ms. Kate Rattner

Ms. Chrissy Skurbe

JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE (See Note 2)

Mr. Paul Rutsky

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Samaara Jain Mr. Shivank Lattupally

7. ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT

Subject A. ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT

Meeting Jan 3, 2022 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Category 7. ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT

Access Public

Type

8. ELECTION OF BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT

Subject A. ELECTION OF BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT

Meeting Jan 3, 2022 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Category 8. ELECTION OF BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT

Access Public

Type

9. CODE OF ETHICS

Subject A. CODE OF ETHICS

Meeting Jan 3, 2022 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Category 9. CODE OF ETHICS

Access Public

Type

It is recommended that members of the Monroe Township Board of Education acknowledge receipt of and acceptance of the New Jersey School Boards Association Code of Ethics.

File Attachments

1/26/22, 8:13 PM

School Ethics Act Code of Ethics.pdf (621 KB)

10. PUBLIC FORUM

Subject A. PUBLIC FORUM (See Note 3)

Meeting Jan 3, 2022 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Category 10. PUBLIC FORUM

Access Public

Type

See Note 3.

11. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

Subject A. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

Meeting Jan 3, 2022 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Category 11. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

Access Public

Type

It is recommended that the members of the Monroe Township Board of Education approve the Organizational Items A-D by consent roll call.

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

A. MEETING DATES

Be It Resolved that the regular meetings of the Board of Education of the Township of Monroe shall be held as per the previously submitted schedule, at which time formal action may be taken.

B. <u>POLICY</u>

Be It Resolved by the Board of Education of the Township of Monroe that all policies of the previous Board are hereby adopted until such time as the Board decides to revise, or otherwise alter policies.

C. DESIGNATION OF BANKS OR DEPOSITORIES

Be It Resolved that the Board of Education designates the following banks or depositories for school district funds:

The Depository Trust Company State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund Provident Bank* US Bank

Be it Further Resolved that the Business Administrator is authorized to establish accounts, and wire transfer funds among the accounts as needed, and approve the payment of bills between Board Meetings.

D. <u>NEWSPAPERS FOR LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS</u>

Be It Resolved that the Board of Education designates the Cranbury Press or the Home News Tribune, both of which circulate in the school district, as official newspapers for legal advertisement.

File Attachments

Revised Draft 2022 BOE Meeting Dates.pdf (293 KB)

^{*}Provides most of the banking services.

12. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Subject A. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Meeting Jan 3, 2022 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Category 12. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Access Public

Type

13. OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

Subject A. OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

Meeting Jan 3, 2022 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Category 13. OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

Access Public

Type

14. CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

Subject A. CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

Meeting Jan 3, 2022 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Category 14. CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

Access Public

Type

Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Township of Monroe hereby moves to go into Closed Session, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 through 10:4-21), to discuss the following subject(s):

Review of resumes for Superintendent of Schools position.

Following closed session, action may be taken. The discussion conducted in closed session can be disclosed to the public at such time as the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

15. PUBLIC FORUM (CLOSED SESSION ITEMS ONLY)

Subject A. PUBLIC FORUM (See Note 3)

Meeting Jan 3, 2022 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Category 15. PUBLIC FORUM (CLOSED SESSION ITEMS ONLY)

Access Public

Type

16. NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JANUARY 26, 2022

Subject A. NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JANUARY 26, 2022

Meeting Jan 3, 2022 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Category 16. NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JANUARY 26, 2022

Access Public

Type

The next scheduled Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2022 7:00 p.m.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Subject A. NOTES

Meeting Jan 3, 2022 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Category 17. ADJOURNMENT

Access Public

Type Action

NOTES

Note 1: Any member of the public may record the proceedings of a public meeting of the Board in a manner that does not interrupt the proceedings, inhibit the conduct of the meeting, or distract Board Members or other observers present at the meeting.

The Board will permit the use of tape recorders, still or movie cameras, or videotape cameras only when notice of such intended use has been given to the Board Secretary one day in advance of the meeting. Any video recording device must be located and operated from inconspicuous locations in the meeting room as determined by the presiding officer of the meeting. The presiding officer may also limit the number of video recording devices if he/she determines the number and position of the video recording devices will be an unnecessary intrusion to the meeting. In this event, preference will be given based on the order in which prior notice requesting to record the meeting was provided to the Board Secretary.

The presiding officer shall determine when any recording device interferes with the conduct of a Board meeting and may order that an interfering device be removed.

Note 2: The Jamesburg Representative shall be eligible to vote on only those matters specifically designated in <u>N.J.S.A</u> 18A:38-8.1, as follows:

- (1) Tuition to be charged the sending district by the receiving district and the bill lists or contracts for the purchase, operation or maintenance of facilities, equipment and instructional materials to be used in the education of the pupils of the sending district.
- (2) New capital construction to be utilized by sending district pupils.
- (3) Appointment, transfer or removal of teaching staff members providing services to pupils of the sending district, including any teaching staff member who is a member of the receiving district's central administrative staff.
- (4) Addition or deletion of curricular and extracurricular programs involving pupils of the sending district.
- (5) Any matter directly involving sending district students or programs and services used by them.
- (6) The annual receiving district budget.
- (7) Any collectively-negotiated agreement involving employees who provide services used by sending district students.
- (8) Any individual employee contracts not covered by a collectively-negotiated agreement, if those employees provide or oversee programs or services utilized by sending district students.
- (9) Any matter concerning governance of the receiving district board of education, including, but not limited to, the selection of board president and vice-president, approval of board bylaws, and the employment of professionals or consultants such as attorneys, architects, engineers, or others who provide services to the receiving district board of

education.

To the extent the Jamesburg Representative inadvertently votes on any other matter, his vote shall not be counted.

Note 3: Public discussion is confined to this portion of the Agenda unless permission is granted by the Board President prior to the start of the meeting or when the Board is considering a Special Agenda Item that the Board deems appropriate for public participation. Anyone wishing to address the Board is requested to stand and state his/her name and address.