

Minutes of the Special Public Meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Education which was held at the Monroe Township High School on July 29, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Michele Arminio at 7:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Ms. Michele Arminio  
Ms. Kathleen Belko  
Ms. Karen Bierman  
Mr. Ken Chiarella  
Mr. Adi Nikitinsky  
Mr. Andy Paluri  
Ms. Rupa Siegel  
Ms. Chrissy Skurbe  
Mr. Peter Tufano

**JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT**

Mr. Paul Rutsky

**ATTORNEY PRESENT**

Mr. Rich Bauch, Porzio, Bromberg & Newman, P.C. (present for closed session meeting only)

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC** – approximately 6

A motion was made by Ms. Belko and seconded by Mr. Chiarella that the members of the Monroe Township Board of Education appoint Mr. Adi Nikitinsky as temporary Board Secretary for this meeting in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.1. Motion carried.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, and the roll call, Mr. Nikitinsky 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 July 27, 2021:

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Prakash Parab 33 Dayna Drive – Regarding the search process for a superintendent, Mr. Parab requested that the Board be open to community input and appoint an Acting Superintendent immediately to ease with the transition, especially with the upcoming potential referendum. Mr. Parab also requested that the posting be internal as well as external and the interviews be held in public.

Doug Poye 4 Tamarack Road – commended the Board for moving so quickly with the search for a new superintendent. Mr. Poye inquired why the first discussion regarding this process requires

a closed session meeting. Mr. Poye stated that he has contacted the School Ethics Commission and NJ Schools Boards Association regarding the need for a closed session meeting and they suggested that he raised that question to the Board. Next, Mr. Poye cautioned the Board to be particularly careful in the discussions this evening, as they may relate to personnel. Lastly, Mr. Poye inquired if there are members of the Board that are close friends with any internal candidates, should those members participate in the discussions.

Brian Fabiano 19 Patricia Place – suggested that as the Board begins the superintendent search, they don't be guided by conspiracy theories that are raised, but rather they let the board attorney guide them with the process. Mr. Fabiano recommended that before the Board jumps into costly search companies they consider all their options. Mr. Fabiano suggested that the Board be open minded and don't get hooked up on titles when experience in districts like ours can carry more weight.

Gazala Bohra 1 Miko Drive – commended Dr. Alvich for her efforts as an educator in the district over the years and wished her well on her retirement. Ms. Bohra stated that there still isn't a solution to the overcrowding problem and the district needs a superintendent that has experience with addressing those challenges. Ms. Bohra expressed support for hiring a firm that can attract the talent that the district needs in the next superintendent.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S BOARD ACTION**

A motion was made by Ms. Belko and seconded by Mr. Tufano that Board Action Item A be approved by consent roll call. Roll call 10-0-0-0-0. Motion carried. The vote included the Jamesburg Representative. A copy of the Board Action section of the Superintendent's Report is attached to the official set of minutes.

Ms. Arminio reported that prior to the meeting she was advised by the board attorney to have the agenda revised. The closed session resolution was revised to include: Matters concerning Superintendent Search including issues covered by Attorney Client Privilege.

#### **CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION**

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):

- Board discussion on the Superintendent Search - Matters concerning Superintendent Search including issues covered by Attorney Client Privilege.

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. Tufano and seconded by Ms. Belko that the members of the Board of Education go into closed session. Motion carried.

Adjourned to Closed Session at 7:23 p.m.

Returned to Public Meeting at 8:42 p.m.

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Board members returned to public session and had a discussion regarding a plan for a superintendent search.

Mr. Chiarella suggested that the Board immediately post for internal and external candidates for an Acting/Interim Superintendent and an additional posting for the permanent position. Mr. Chiarella suggested that the Board set parameters for what they are looking for.

Mr. Rutsky recommended working off the current job description for that posting.

Ms. Skurbe recommended moving quickly on the posting for an Acting/Interim Superintendent and suggested that the resumes be returned within fourteen days so the Board can deliberate at the next boe meeting. Ms. Bierman concurred with the timeframe Ms. Skurbe suggested.

Mr. Paluri stated that he has been reminded several times that the most important role of a board member is selecting a superintendent. Mr. Paluri stated that the Board needs to be cautious and open during the process.

Ms. Belko agreed with Mr. Chiarella to post immediately to afford the opportunity to do some transition planning and collaboration with the outgoing superintendent.

Considering what school districts may be going through with the restart to full in-person instruction, Ms. Siegel expressed concern that fourteen days may not be long enough to get a good candidate pool and suggested that an extension in time be considered. Mr. Rutsky echoed Ms. Siegel's concerns and suggested that the Board be open to an interim superintendent who has experience with a district this size and added that retired superintendents usually do not need benefits which would be a cost savings to the district.

Ms. Arminio informed the public that the Board is presently seeking to proceed with the superintendent search on their own and not utilize a search firm. Adding that there are options with outside consultants should the Board not receive a good candidate pool on their own.

A motion was made by Ms. Skurbe and seconded by Mr. Chiarella that the members of the board of education post both internally and externally for an Acting/Interim Superintendent. The posting should list that the Board would like resumes returned within two weeks. The Board will deliberate on those resumes received at the August 18, 2021 board of education meeting. The posting should be based on the existing job description of Acting/Interim Superintendent with an attorney review of that job description. Roll call 9-0-0-0-1. Motion carried. Mr. Tufano was not present for the roll call.

A motion was made by Ms. Belko and seconded by Mr. Chiarella that the members of the board of education post for a permanent Superintendent of Schools. The posting should be based on the existing job description of Superintendent of Schools with an attorney review of that job description. Roll call 9-0-0-0-1. Motion carried. Mr. Tufano was not present for the roll call.

**PUBLIC FORUM** – None

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**NEXT PUBLIC MEETING**

Ms. Arminio stated that the next public meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Education will convene at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 18, 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Paluri and seconded by Mr. Rutsky that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The public meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Gorski".

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>



**Thursday, July 29, 2021**  
**MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING 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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **3. ROLL CALL**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>A. BOARD MEMBERS</b>
Meeting	Jul 29, 2021 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
Category	3. ROLL CALL
Access	Public
Type	Information
Ms. Michele Arminio Ms. Kathleen Belko Ms. Karen Bierman Mr. Ken Chiarella Mr. Adi Nikitinsky Mr. Andy Paluri Ms. Rupa Siegel Ms. Chrissy Skurbe Mr. Peter Tufano	

### **JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE (See Note 2)**

Mr. Paul Rutsky

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Samaara Jain

Mr. Shivank Lattupally

**4. STATEMENT**

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**Subject                      A. STATEMENT**

Meeting                      Jul 29, 2021 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Category                      4. STATEMENT

Access                      Public

Type                      Information

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1. At all schools,
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4. Asbury Park Press, and
5. Filed with the Clerk of the Municipality.

**5. PUBLIC FORUM - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

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**Subject                      A. PUBLIC FORUM (See Note 3)**

Meeting                      Jul 29, 2021 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Category                      5. PUBLIC FORUM - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Access                      Public

Type

See Note 3.

**6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATION**

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**Subject                      A. BOARD ACTION**

Meeting                      Jul 29, 2021 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Category                      6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATION

Access                      Public

Type                      Action

**BOARD ACTION (Item A)**

- A. It is recommended that the Board approve the previously submitted list of requests for Staff Professional Development.

[File Attachments](#)[Professional Development Requests 07.29.21.pdf \(284 KB\)](#)

## 7. CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

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**Subject**                      **A. CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION**

Meeting                      Jul 29, 2021 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Category                      7. CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

Access                      Public

Type

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- Board discussion on the Superintendent Search - Matters concerning Superintendent Search including issues covered by Attorney Client Privilege.

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## 8. PUBLIC FORUM

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**Subject**                      **A. PUBLIC FORUM (See Note 3)**

Meeting                      Jul 29, 2021 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Category                      8. PUBLIC FORUM

Access                      Public

Type                      Information

## 9. NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AUGUST 18, 2021

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**Subject**                      **A. NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AUGUST 18, 2021**

Meeting                      Jul 29, 2021 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Category                      9. NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AUGUST 18, 2021

Access                      Public

Type

The next scheduled Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2021 7:00 p.m.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

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**Subject**                      **A. NOTES**

Meeting	Jul 29, 2021 - MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
Category	10. 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 N.J.S.A 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.