

Minutes of the Special Meeting Hamilton Township Board of Education January 12, 2022

The Special meeting of the Hamilton Township Board of Education was called to order at 6:06 p.m. in the William Davies Middle School Cafetorium by Nanci Barr, Board President.

1. Roll Call

The following members answered Roll Call. Mrs. Ankrah, Dr. Lihach, Dr. Nelson (arrived 6:14 p.m.), Ms. Newman, Mrs. Poretto, Mr. Rogers, and Mrs. Barr.

Absent: Mrs. Miller

Others Present: Dr. Jeffery Zito, Superintendent, Mrs. Anne-Marie Fala, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Mrs. Amy Houck-Elco, Solicitor.

Mrs. Barr led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Barr asked for a moment of silence for private reflection.

Notice of Advertisement of Meeting

This meeting is being held in compliance with the Sunshine Law, having been advertised in the Press of Atlantic City and notices posted at the Township Clerk's Office, Mays Landing Post Office, Mizpah Post Office, Atlantic County Library, as well as all the schools of the district. A mechanical device is being used to record this meeting and this meeting is also being video-taped. There are two opportunities to address the members of the Board. The Board values and welcomes comments and opinions from residents as long as remarks are not personal or discourteous. If your remarks are about students and/or personnel, you should follow the chain of command as the Board cannot respond to those comments. The public comment portion of the meeting allows the Board to listen to community members and to hear their opinions on school policy and operations. The first public portion is reserved for persons wishing to speak about agenda items only. The second opportunity, following the action items, is when residents may address the Board on any school-related issue. Each speaker is asked to limit their comments to three minutes and you are not permitted to yield your time to another. The public comments portion of the meeting, during both sessions, will not exceed 30 minutes. Upon being recognized, persons wishing to speak should stand and identify themselves by name and address.

2. Public Comments - None

3. Board Candidate Interviews

Mrs. Fala noted that two applications were received for the Board Candidate position. Unfortunately, one of the candidates was unable to attend the meeting tonight due to a work conflict.

Ms. Houck-Elco explained to the Board that there are two options. The Board could move forward with the interview process, since it was advertised that the meeting would be held tonight for the purpose of interviewing candidates or

choose to wait and advertise again as the position needs to be filled within 65 days and there is still time.

Discussion was held on whether or not to move forward. Dr. Nelson arrived at this time.

Motion by Mrs. Barr, seconded by Dr. Lihach, to move forward with tonight's interviews as advertised.

ROLL CALL: Six in favor: Mrs. Ankrah, Dr. Lihach, Dr. Nelson, Ms. Newman, Mrs. Poretto, and Mrs. Barr. Nay: Mr. Rogers (6-1-0)

The meeting was then turned over to Ms. Houck-Elco to discuss the interview process.

One candidate, Amy Hassa, was then interviewed by the Board.

4. Executive Session

Motion by Mrs. Barr, seconded by Ms. Newman, to convene Into Executive Session.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Ankrah, Dr. Lihach, Dr. Nelson, Ms. Newman, Mrs. Poretto, Mr. Rogers, and Mrs. Barr (7-0-0)

Resolved that pursuant to Sections 7 and 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the public shall be excluded from that portion of the meeting involving discussion of:

- Board Candidates

Be it further resolved that the discussion of such subject matter in executive session can be disclosed to the public when formal action is taken on such subject matter or at any other appropriate time.

Be it further resolved the Board may take action on items discussed in executive session.

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Board will be in executive session for approximately 15 minutes.

The Board entered into Executive session at 6:28 p.m.

5. Reconvene to Regular Session

Motion by Mrs. Barr, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to return to the Regular session of the meeting.

ROLL CALL: All in favor: Mrs. Ankrah, Dr. Lihach, Dr. Nelson, Ms. Newman, Mrs. Poretto, Mr. Rogers, and Mrs. Barr. (7-0-0)

6. Candidate Selection

Motion by Mrs. Barr, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to select Amy Hassa as the candidate to fill a one year term with the understanding she will be sworn in at the completion of her background check.

ROLL CALL: All in favor: Mrs. Ankrah, Dr. Lihach, Dr. Nelson, Ms. Newman, Mrs. Poretto, Mr. Rogers, and Mrs. Barr. (7-0-0)

7. Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. Barr, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to adjourn.

Voice Vote: All in favor: (7-0-0)

The Hamilton Township Board of Education adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Fala
Business Administrator/Board Secretary