

TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
108 North Clinton Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08609
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Friday – March 17, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.

Completed 3/23/17
Convened at 5:32 P.M.

Call to Order

Board President Gene Bouie called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Bouie led the salute to the flag.

Roll Call

Present:

Gene Bouie
Addie Daniels-Lane – arrived 5:58 p.m.
D. A. Graham
Fiah Gussin
Jane Rosenbaum
Gerald Truehart II

Absent:

Lucy Vandenberg
Heather Watson

Acting Superintendent of Schools – Nelson Ribon - Absent

Business Administrator/Board Secretary – Jayne Howard - Present

New Jersey Sunshine Law - Read by Board President Bouie

The New Jersey Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right to the public to have advanced notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted on.

On the rules of this act, the Trenton Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting by publicizing the date, time and place, therefore posted in the Central Services Building, 108 North Clinton Avenue, City Clerk's Office, City Hall and the Times. Anyone whose name is on the mailing list should receive a notice.

Mission Statement - Read by Board President Bouie

All students will graduate with a vision for their future, motivated to learn continually and prepared to succeed in their choice of college of career.

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Adoption Of Agenda

Motion was made and properly seconded to adopt the agenda. Agenda was adopted by all Board Members present.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Addie Daniels-Lane		not present for vote	
D. A. Graham	X		
Fiah Gussin	X		
Jane Rosenbaum	X		
Gerald Truehart	X		
Lucy Vandenberg		absent	
Heather Watson		absent	
Gene Bouie	X		

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Board Attorney Lattiboudere read the following statement:

While public education can be an emotional issue, the Board will strive to maintain a certain level of decorum at the meeting. Students often attend or participate in the meetings; as such, citizens are expected to maintain a tone of courtesy and civility. The Board President is responsible for the orderly conduct of all Board Meetings and is charged with enforcing the Board's Policies relating to the conduct of meetings. Board Policy recognizes the value of public comment, and permits the fair and orderly expression of such comment. District Policy 0167 states that the presiding officer may interrupt, warn or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive, obscene or irrelevant; request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum; request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting; call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action. The Board will use the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to concerns but not to debate issues or enter into a question and answer session or a cross examination between the public and individual members. Be aware that not all issues brought before the Board will be resolved this evening. The Board may respond to public comment by seeking additional information or by delegating the authority to investigate the issue to the Superintendent or his or her designee.

Mr. Billie Hayes, Community Member, felt there is a lack of respect for the community regarding the Superintendent Search process. He took issue with holding some of the meetings at Thomas Edison State University, and he said individuals who are not Board Members should not be privy to information discussed in Executive Session. He stated that policies and procedures are not being followed, and the community will start holding

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individual Board Members accountable. He said the community will be involved in the process, and they may have certain people they believe would be a good fit for the position.

Ms. Naomi Johnson-Lafleur, President of the Trenton Education Association (TEA), took issue with Mr. Lattiboudere's reading of the statement regarding public comment. She felt that the Board President or Vice President should have read the statement. She stated that Mr. Lattiboudere's role as Board Attorney is to provide advice and counsel to the Board, not to address the community. She also expressed concern about the presence of security personnel at the meeting, and she felt there was confusion about the timing and scheduling of tonight's meeting.

Ms. Johnson-Lafleur felt that the Board has not been transparent with the community in the Superintendent Search process. She also stated there is a national push to privatize education, and she expressed concern about the placement of Broad Superintendents to accomplish this task in urban education. She discussed the history of institutional racism in education.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Bouie read the Executive Session Resolution:

WHEREAS, The Open Public Meetings Act, codified as N.J.S.A. § 10:4-6, et seq., permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and,

WHEREAS, the Trenton Board of Education is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist, indicated as follows:

Any matter which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy if disclosed;

DESCRIPTION OF MATTER(S): Privacy of candidates for position of Superintendent of Schools

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Trenton Board of Education, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that an Executive Session will be held on March 17, 2017 for the statutorily permissible purposes indicated in this resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive Session with regard to the above subject matter shall be disclosed to the public at a later date and to the extent that the same is not prejudicial to the interests of the parties involved, no longer adverse to the public interest, or does not endanger any individual's right to privacy.

Motion was made by and properly seconded to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session. All were in favor, 0 opposed 0 abstentions.

ADJOURN 5:52 P.M.

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REOPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Open Public Meeting reconvened at 6:43 p.m.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by D.A. Graham and seconded by Fiah Gussin, approved by voice vote at 6:45 p.m.

ADJOURN 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jayne S. Howard

Jayne S. Howard
Business Administrator/Board Secretary