

PLEASANTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Pleasantville High School/701 Mill Road/Cafeteria
MINUTES for SPECIAL BOARD ACTION MEETING
Tuesday, July 18, 2017
6:00 P.M.
AGENDA

1. Call to Order-6:15pm
2. Reading of the Open Public Meeting Act Notice

Statement –Board President

“This is to advise those present at this July 18, 2017, Special Board Action Meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Pleasantville, in the County of Atlantic, that Notice was given on June 28, 2017, of the 2017 Revised Annual Designation of the Regular Monthly Board Meetings, as required by the provisions of Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975; Notice thereof has been distributed for publication in the Press, the Absecon/Pleasantville Current and the Mainland Journal, posted in the Administration Building and forwarded to the City Clerk of the City of Pleasantville, within the time required by said act.”

3. Roll Call – Board Secretary, Mr. Elisha Thompkins:

Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
James Barclay	√			
Bernice Couch				√
Lawrence Davenport				√
Anny E. Melo	√			
Sharnell Morgan	√			
Elysa Sanchez	√			
Ethel Seymore	√			
Carla Thomas	√			

4. Flag Salute and Moment of Silence- **Carla Thomas**
5. Reading of the Oath to the new Board Member (Was not able to attended)
6. Public Comments: Please limit comments to (3) minutes and all comments should be courteous and respectful.

No Public Comment

7. Approval for Finance Items

MOTION BY: Elysa Sanchez SECOND BY: James Barclay Yea: √ Nay:

ROLL CALL:

Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
James Barclay	√			
Bernice Couch				√
Lawrence Davenport				√
Anny E. Melo	√			
Sharnell Morgan	√			
Elysa Sanchez	√			
Ethel Seymore	√			
Carla Thomas	√			

SIX YEA; MONTION PASS

8. Motion to rescind Superintendent Contract original start date of July 1, 2017

MOTION BY: Ethel Seymore SECOND BY: James Barclay Yea: √ Nay:

ROLL CALL:

Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
James Barclay	√			
Bernice Couch				√
Lawrence Davenport				√
Anny E. Melo	√			
Sharnell Morgan		√		
Elysa Sanchez	√			
Ethel Seymore	√			
Carla Thomas	√			

FIVE YEA; MONTION PASS

9. Motion to approve Superintendent Contract with a start date of July 19, 2017

MOTION BY: Elysa Sanchez SECOND BY: Ethel Seymore Yea: √ Nay:

ROLL CALL:

Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
James Barclay	√			
Bernice Couch				√
Lawrence Davenport				√
Anny E. Melo			√ (family member working for the district)	
Sharnell Morgan		√		
Elysa Sanchez	√			
Ethel Seymore	√			
Carla Thomas			√ (family member working for the district)	

THREE YEA; MONTION DID NOT PASS

10. Board Attorney at this time I would like to Invoke the Doctrine of Necessity so that board members that have recused themselves will be allowed to cast their vote to have the 5 affirmative vote required to by district policy to approve Dr. Alston Contract

RESOLUTION ON INVOKING THE DOCTRINE OF NECESSITY

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Act (N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq.) was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence in school board members and school administrators and to provide specific ethical standards to guide their conduct; and

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Commission has provided guidance in Public Advisory Opinion A03-98, as to when and how the Doctrine would be invoked; and

WHEREAS, the Doctrine of Necessity, allow Board Members who are otherwise prevented from voting due to a conflict of to cast a vote; and

WHEREAS, due to the absence of one of the Board Members and the recent vacancy on the Board, only six (6) members were present at tonight's meeting; and

WHEREAS, two of the remaining Board Members recused themselves from voting due to the fact that they have relatives working as employees in the District; and

WHEREAS, it was necessary to vote on the contract for the Superintendent and approval requires a majority of the full Board, i.e. at least five affirmative votes; and

WHEREAS, the Board Members that were conflicted by have stated on the record the specific reason for their recusal from the vote; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Doctrine of Necessity be invoked; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the resolution be posted where it posts public notices for 30 days and a copy of the resolution be provided the School Ethics Commission.

ROLL CALL:

Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
James Barclay	√			
Bernice Couch				√
Lawrence Davenport				√
Anny E. Melo	√			
Sharnell Morgan		√		
Elysa Sanchez	√			
Ethel Seymore	√			
Carla Thomas	√			

- **Board Attorney at this time I would like to ask the first Board Member that recuse themselves due to the conflict of family members working for the district to please cast their vote Ms. Melo to please cast her at this time. Ms. Melo stated yes to offering Dr. Alston a contract. Mrs. Thomas please cast her vote Mrs. Thomas stated yes to offering Dr. Alston a contract. Board Attorney no further votes is needed we have an affirmative 5 votes. The motion pass.**

11. NO EXECUTIVE SESSION

12. Motion to response to Editorial in the Press of Atlantic City

BOARD STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO EDITORIAL

In response to a recent editorial posted in the Press of Atlantic City, we, as members of the Pleasantville School Board acknowledge that our District has been under the supervision of a State Appointed Fiscal Monitor since 2007; however, the current Board is made up of a majority of new members that have been serving for just the last two years. Since this Board has come together, it has demonstrated substantial progress in overcoming past deficiencies, including overspending, as indicated in the audit reports for school years 2014-15 and 2015-16. In the recent Press Editorial, the Editorial mentioned negative Audit Results that were critical of the Board and Administration; however, the quoted Audit Report was the 2013 Audit, before the present Board was elected, and failed to mention the significant improvements that were reflected in the most recent Audit Reports.

Since that time, the District has maintained stability in its Business Office and other administrative positions. Furthermore, this Board has strengthened the current program of board member training; strengthened the ethics codes for board members; and is fully committed to improving the academic performance and experience of our students. When we were first elected, Board Meetings would run late into the night for hours and hours, and there were times where there was much dissention. However, we, the present Board Members are committed to working together to return the focus of our actions back to helping our students achieve their full potential.

We have believed from the time of our election, Pleasantville needed and deserved a Permanent Superintendent instead of a never-ending series of Interim Appointments. We were unlawfully prevented from hiring the Superintendent of our choice by the efforts of the State Monitor. The Court has so spoken, and the Board will finally be able to make that selection as the law provides. We do want to thank Mr. Anderson for his dedicated service to the students of our community.

As we begin our term with a new Superintendent, we acknowledge that Dr. Alston is our chief executive who is given full authority to hire, promote, discipline, fire, or grant tenure to all other school district employees. We, as a Board, will work in a professional and cooperative manner with our new Superintendent. We believe that these measures will greatly impact our ability to end the turmoil and turnover that has plagued our District, and that Pleasantville Schools are on the right path. Through a combination of a more stable administration, strong and effective fiscal management, efficient and ethical governance, this Board intends to move forward each day at improving the academic performance of our students.

MOTION BY: Elysa Sanchez SECOND BY: Sharnell Morgan Yea: √ Nay:

ROLL CALL:

Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
James Barclay	√			
Bernice Couch				√
Lawrence Davenport				√
Anny E. Melo	√			
Sharnell Morgan	√			
Elysa Sanchez	√			
Ethel Seymore	√			
Carla Thomas	√			

SIX YEA; MONTION PASS

13. Adjourn Meeting

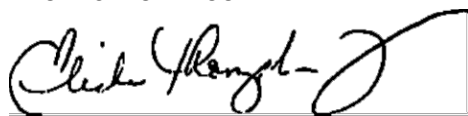
MOTION BY: Elysa Sanchez SECOND BY: Sharnell Morgan Yea: √ Nay:

ROLL CALL:

Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
James Barclay	√			
Bernice Couch				√
Lawrence Davenport				√
Anny E. Melo	√			
Sharnell Morgan	√			
Elysa Sanchez	√			
Ethel Seymore	√			
Carla Thomas	√			

SIX YEA; MONTION PASS

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY



DATE September 19, 2017

