

**ESSEX COUNTY VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REORGANIZATION MEETING AGENDA
NOVEMBER 1, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The Reorganization Meeting of the Essex County Vocational Technical Schools Board of Education will be called to order at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, by the Board Secretary.

OPENING STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act and published in the Star Ledger on November 7, 2022 and in El Coqui on November 3, 2022.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL – Board Secretary, Lori Tanner

Present: Adrienne Davis, Vice President
 Salvatore Carnovale
 Dr. Chris T. Pernell
 Jennifer M. Carrillo-Perez
 Leesandra Medina
 Reginald Bledsoe

Absent: Reverend Edwin D. Leahy, President

Also Present: Dr. James M. Pedersen, Superintendent,
 Lori Tanner, Board Secretary
 Mr. Murphy Durkin, Board Attorney
 Mary Ann Sweeney, Sr. Administrative Assistant to the Board

PUBLIC COMMENT WITH REGARD TO RESOLUTIONS – No

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

AGENDA ITEMS

Resolution #24-234: Election of the President

The Board Secretary will receive, in order, nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education for the period November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Moved By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>
1) Father Edwin D. Leahy, President	Motion by Ms. Davis	seconded by Mr. Carnovale
2) None		
3) None		

Board Secretary will close nominations and conduct a roll call vote for each nominee.

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ROLL CALL VOTE FOR 1):

Roll Call: Yeas: Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Carnovale, Ms. Carrillo-Perez, Ms. Medina, Dr. Pernell,
Ms. Davis
Nays: None
Absent: Father Edwin D. Leahy, President

~~_____ do you accept the appointment to office of President of the Board of Education of the
Essex County Vocational Technical Schools for the period November 1, 2023 through October 31,
2024.~~

On the motion of M. Davis, seconded by Mr. Carnovale, the Board elected Father Edwin D. Leahy, to the office of President of the Essex County Vocational Technical Schools Board of Education for the period November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024.

~~**Additional Information:** _____ assumes the President's chair.~~

Resolution #24-235: Election of the Vice President

The Newly Appointed President will receive, in order, nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Moved By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>
1) Adrienne Davis	Motion by Mr. Bledsoe	seconded by Dr. Pernell
2) None		
3) None		

The Newly Appointed President or Board Secretary will close nominations and the Board Secretary will conduct a roll call vote for each nominee.

ROLL CALL VOTE FOR 2):

Roll Call: Yeas: Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Carnovale, Ms. Carrillo-Perez, Ms. Medina, Dr. Pernell,
Ms. Davis
Nays: None
Absent: Father Edwin D. Leahy, President

Adrienne Davis, do you accept the appointment to office of Vice President of the Board of Education of the Essex County Vocational Technical Schools for the period November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024.

On the motion of Mr. Bledsoe, seconded by Dr. Pernell, the Board elected Adrienne Davis to the office of Vice President of the Essex County Vocational Technical Schools Board of Education for the period November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024.

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Resolution #24-236: Appointment of Lori Tanner, Board Secretary

On the motion of Ms. Medina, seconded by Mr. Bledsoe, BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board approves that Lori Tanner be and is hereby appointed Board Secretary for the period commencing November 1, 2023 through the 2024 Essex County Vocational Schools Reorganizational Board Meeting at the current salary and contractual terms.

Roll Call: Yeas: Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Carnovale, Ms. Carrillo-Perez, Ms. Medina, Dr. Pernell,
Ms. Davis
Nays: None
Absent: Father Edwin D. Leahy, President

Resolution #24-237: Appointment of Bernetta Davis, Assistant Board Secretary

On the motion of Dr. Pernell, seconded by Ms. Carrillo-Perez, BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board approves that Bernetta Davis be and is hereby appointed Assistant Board Secretary for the period commencing November 1, 2023 through the 2024 Essex County Vocational Schools Reorganizational Board Meeting. Mrs. Davis shall receive no additional compensation and/or benefits as a result of this appointment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mrs. Davis shall only act in the capacity of Assistant Board Secretary if in the event the current Board Secretary is unable to perform her duties as secretary for any reason including but not limited to vacation or illness.

Roll Call: Yeas: Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Carnovale, Ms. Carrillo-Perez, Ms. Medina, Dr. Pernell,
Ms. Davis
Nays: None
Absent: Father Edwin D. Leahy, President

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Resolution #24-238: Appoint Board Counsel

WHEREAS, the Board has a need to acquire and engage the services of Board Counsel for the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board is authorized by N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 to award a professional services contract by the adoption of a resolution at a public meeting without having to advertise for competitive bids; and

WHEREAS, the firm that is being appointed has the legal expertise to provide the requested legal services and satisfy the legal definition of “professional services” as the services they it shall perform on the District’s behalf shall be by those persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession; and

WHEREAS, Durkin & Durkin, LLC, with offices located at 1120 Bloomfield Avenue, West Caldwell, NJ 07006 ("Durkin & Durkin") has confirmed that Durkin & Durkin will provide the services as Board Counsel at the rate of \$150.00 per hour subject to a limitation on such fees and costs in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$125,000.00) in the aggregate; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is one (1) year commencing November 1, 2023 and ending October 31, 2024; now

THEREFORE, on the motion of Ms. Medina, seconded by Mr. Carnovale, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby appoints Durkin & Durkin, LLC, M. Murphy Durkin, Esq. designated as Board Counsel, for the term of November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024, at a rate of \$150.00 per hour in an amount to exceed One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$125,000.00), Local Funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Contract is being awarded without competitive bidding, in that said Contract is for Professional Services and is exempt pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(1); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board further hereby directs the Board Secretary to publish notice of the award of the Contract pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)1, if required; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President and/or Superintendent of Schools is hereby authorized to execute the appropriate Agreement as referenced above.

Roll Call: Yeas: Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Carnovale, Ms. Carrillo-Perez, Ms. Medina, Dr. Pernell,
Ms. Davis
Nays: None
Absent: Father Edwin D. Leahy, President

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Resolution #24-239: Appoint Members of the Board of School Estimate

On the motion of Mr. Bledsoe, seconded by Dr. Pernell, BE IT RESOLVED, that Ms. Adrienne Davis and Fr. Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B. be appointed Members of the Board of School Estimate for the period November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024.

Roll Call: Yeas: Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Carnovale, Ms. Carrillo-Perez, Ms. Medina, Dr. Pernell,
Ms. Davis
Nays: None
Absent: Father Edwin D. Leahy, President

Resolution #24-240: Appointment of the Treasurer of School Monies

On the motion of Mr. Bledsoe, seconded by Mr. Carnovale, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board appoints Mrs. Kimberley Browne-Smeraldo as Treasurer of School Monies for the 2023-24 school year, at an annual compensation of \$10,000.00, effective November 1, 2023.

Roll Call: Yeas: Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Carnovale, Ms. Carrillo-Perez, Ms. Medina, Dr. Pernell,
Ms. Davis
Nays: None
Absent: Father Edwin D. Leahy, President

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Resolution #24-241: Calendar of Meetings of the Board of Education

On the motion of Ms. Medina seconded by Dr. Pernell, BE IT RESOLVED, that Essex County Schools of Technology Board of Education Meetings will in the Board Room, Administrative Offices, LeRoy Smith, Jr. Public Safety Building, 60 Nelson Place, 14th floor, Sheila Oliver Conference Center, Newark, New Jersey, at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates, unless otherwise noted:

Regular Meetings

Monday, November 13, 2023	Monday, May 6, 2024
Monday, December 18, 2023	Monday, June 10, 2024
Monday, January 22, 2024	Monday, July 15, 2024
Monday, February 26, 2024	Monday, August 19, 2024
Monday, March 18, 2024	Monday, September 16, 2024
Monday, April 15, 2024	Monday, October 21, 2024

Annual Reorganization Meeting

Friday, November 1, 2024*

*This meeting (November 1, 2024) is scheduled for 3:00 PM

Additional Information: The Board Secretary will have the above schedule of meetings published in The Star Ledger and El Coqui.

Roll Call: Yeas: Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Carnovale, Ms. Carrillo-Perez, Ms. Medina, Dr. Pernell,
Ms. Davis
Nays: None
Absent: Father Edwin D. Leahy, President

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Resolution #24-242: Designate Official District Newspapers

On the motion of Mr. Carnovale, seconded by Ms. Medina , BE IT RESOLVED, that The Star Ledger and El Coqui be designated as the official newspaper(s) for District publications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary be allowed to use one or both of these papers as may be necessary based on the situation.

Roll Call: Yeas: Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Carnovale, Ms. Carrillo-Perez, Ms. Medina, Dr. Pernell,
Ms. Davis
Nays: None
Absent: Father Edwin D. Leahy, President

Resolution #24-243: Adopt Open Public Meetings Act

On the motion of Dr. Pernell, seconded by Mr. Canovale, BE IT RESOLVED, that the board adopts the following in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.:

- 1) All regular meetings of the Essex County Vocational Technical Schools Board of Education as scheduled on the dates indicated in the Calendar of Meetings will be held in the Administrative Offices, LeRoy Smith, Jr. Public Safety Building, 60 Nelson Place, 14th floor, Sheila Oliver Conference Center, Newark, New Jersey, 07102 unless otherwise noted.
- 2) A copy of the Calendar of Meetings will be prominently posted by the Secretary throughout the year on the bulletin board in the lobby of each Essex County Vocational Technical School buildings.
- 3) The Secretary, upon adoption of this resolution, will mail a copy of the Resolution to The Star-Ledger and El Coqui, which are designated as the official newspaper(s) for publication of legal notices; which newspapers are hereby designated to receive notices of meetings pursuant to Section 3(d) of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-8); and cause dates of said meetings to be advertised in the above mentioned newspapers.
- 4) The Secretary will file a copy of this Resolution in the Essex County Clerk's Office and this Resolution shall remain on file throughout the year to November 1, 2024.

A copy of this Resolution, or any revision thereto, or any advance written notice of any regular, special or rescheduled meeting during the above period to November 1, 2024 will be mailed to any person making written application for the same pursuant to Section 14 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-19) upon prepayment of said person of TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS to the Secretary. Notices of meetings requested by news media in writing shall be mailed to said news media without charge. All requests for notices shall terminate on November 1st of each year, but shall be subject to renewal upon written request. Any persons needing special provisions should notify the Board Secretary a minimum of 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Roll Call: Yeas: Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Carnovale, Ms. Carrillo-Perez, Ms. Medina, Dr. Pernell,
Ms. Davis
Nays: None
Absent: Father Edwin D. Leahy, President

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Resolution #24-244: Adopt Policies

On the motion of Mr. Carnovale, seconded by Mr. Bledsoe , BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board approves all existing policies of the Board remain in effect for one year subject to change by rules within these policies.

All policies are available for review in the District Board Office.

Roll Call: Yeas: Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Carnovale, Ms. Carrillo-Perez, Ms. Medina, Dr. Pernell,
Ms. Davis
Nays: None
Absent: Father Edwin D. Leahy, President

FINANCE

FINANCE RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #24-245: Designation of Bank Depositories

On the motion of Dr. Pernell, seconded by Ms. Medina, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board designates the following banks as depositories for the Essex County Vocational Technical Schools funds for the period November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024:

- Investors Bank
101 JFK Parkway, Short Hills, NJ 07078
- New Jersey Cash Management Fund (NJCMF)
- State Street Bank and Trust Company, c/o transfer agency
1 Heritage Drive, Quincy, MA 02171

Roll Call: Yeas: Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Carnovale, Ms. Carrillo-Perez, Ms. Medina, Dr. Pernell,
Ms. Davis
Nays: None
Absent: Father Edwin D. Leahy, President

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Resolution #24-246: Approval of Emergent Payment Requests

On the motion of Mr. Carnovale, seconded by Dr. Pernell, that, for the period November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024, the Board authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to make payments between Board Meetings of those obligations, which will not adversely affect and are critical to the efficient operation of the District, with said payments being ratified at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Roll Call: Yeas: Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Carnovale, Ms. Carrillo-Perez, Ms. Medina, Dr. Pernell,
Ms. Davis
Nays: None
Absent: Father Edwin D. Leahy, President

Resolution #24-247: Appointment of Bernetta Davis, Business Administrator, as Qualified Purchasing Agent on behalf of the District

WHEREAS, Bernetta Davis, Business Administrator for the Essex County Vocational Technical School District, holds a certificate to act as a Qualified Purchasing Agent (“QPA”) by the State of New Jersey; therefore;

On a motion of Mr. Bledsoe, seconded by Mr. Caronvale, BE IT RESOLVED that the Essex County Vocational Technical School District appoints Bernetta Davis as Qualified Purchasing Agent for the school district and duly assigns the authority, responsibility, and accountability for the purchasing of the board as a QPA for the 2023-2024 school year. Mrs. Davis shall receive no additional compensation and/or benefits as a result of this appointment.

Roll Call: Yeas: Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Carnovale, Ms. Carrillo-Perez, Ms. Medina, Dr. Pernell,
Ms. Davis
Nays: None
Absent: Father Edwin D. Leahy, President

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Resolution #24-248 : Approval of the Third Party Administrator and Authorized Tax Shelter Annuity Providers for District's 403B Employee Contribution Plan

On the motion of Ms. Medina, seconded by Dr. Pernell, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the following Third Party Administrator and Tax Shelter Annuity Providers for the District's 403b Employee Contribution Plan for the period November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024.

Third Party Administrator - TSA Consulting Group, Inc., successor in interest to Great American Plan Administrators, Inc.
15 Yacht Club Drive, NE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

403B Plan Providers

- AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company
- Bright House
- Fidelity Investments
- Great American
- MassMutual Ascend Life Insurance Company
- Lincoln Investment Planning, Inc
- Lincoln Investment Planning, Inc (Reliastar Life Insurance Co.)
- Security Benefit Group
- VALIC
- Vanguard

Roll Call: Yeas: Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Carnovale, Ms. Carrillo-Perez, Ms. Medina, Dr. Pernell,
Ms. Davis
Nays: None
Absent: Father Edwin D. Leahy, President

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PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our next **Regular Board Meeting** is scheduled to be held in in the Board Room, Administrative Offices, LeRoy Smith, Jr. Public Safety Building, 60 Nelson Place, 14th floor, Sheila Oliver Conference Center, Newark, New Jersey, at 6:00 p.m., on **Monday, November 13, 2023**.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #24-249: Adjournment

On the motion of Dr. Pernell, seconded by Ms. Medina, the Board adjourns the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Roll Call: Yeas: Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Carnovale, Ms. Carrillo-Perez, Ms. Medina, Dr. Pernell,
Ms. Davis
Nays: None
Absent: Father Edwin D. Leahy, President