



Minutes of **Wednesday, January 3, 2024, Public Meeting** of the Orange Board of Education held at 6:00 pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Shawneque Johnson presided over tonight's Meeting.

- Ms. Shawneque Johnson, President
- Ms. Sueann Gravesande
- Mr. David Armstrong
- Ms. Samantha Crockett - **ABSENT**
- Mr. Derrick Henry - **ABSENT**
- Mr. Siaka Sherif - **LATE**
- Mr. Tyrone Tarver
- Dr. Fatimah Turner
- Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield

ROLL CALL (6) PRESENT (2) ABSENT (1) NOT PRESENT AT ROLL CALL

ALSO PRESENT:

- Mr. Lamont Zachary, Assistant Business Administrator
- Ms. Jessika Kleen, School Board Attorney with the firm of Machado Law Group

2. FLAG SALUTE

A. SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Ballard welcomed members of the public and did the introduction and swearing in of re-elected board members:

- Samantha Crockett - **ABSENT**
- Dr. Fatimah Turner
- Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield

B. BOARD RESOLUTIONS

❖ *RESOLUTION TO ELECT A SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT OF THE ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR*

- A nomination was put forth by Mr. David Armstrong to elect Ms. Shawneque Johnson as Board President with no other members being nominated.
- A formal motion to nominate Ms. Shawneque Johnson as Board President was made by Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield. A second was not needed for this motion.



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- Mr. Tarver is in opposition to nominating Ms. Johnson as Board President.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, David Armstrong, Sueann Gravesande, Fatimah Turner, Siaka Sherif, Jeffrey Wingfield

No: Tyrone Tarver

Not Present at Vote: Samantha Crockett, Derrick Henry

ROLL CALL (6) YEA (1) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (2) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE

❖ **RESOLUTION TO ELECT A SCHOOL BOARD VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR**

- A nomination was put forth by Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield to elect Sueann Gravesande as Board Vice President with no other members being nominated.
- A Formal Motion to nominate Ms. Sueann Gravesande as Board Vice President was made by Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield. A second was not needed for this motion.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, David Armstrong, Sueann Gravesande, Fatimah Turner, Siaka Sherif, Jeffrey Wingfield

Abstain: Tyrone Tarver

Not Present at Vote: Samantha Crockett, Derrick Henry

ROLL CALL (6) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (2) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE

❖ **RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEES OF THE ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR**

- Disciplinary Hearing*
- Human Resources*
- Policy*
- Curriculum & Instruction*
- Finance*
- Legislative*
- Facilities*
- Public Relations*
- Orange Municipal Alliance for the Prevention & Education of Drug/Alcohol Abuse*
- Special Education*

- Ms. Johnson noted that the previous committees will remain the same.



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- Ms. Johnson appointed Mr. David Armstrong as Chairperson, Vice President Sueanne Gravesande and Dr. Fatima Turner for the Special Education Committee. The committee will meet the first Tuesday of every month at 3:30pm.
- With the Special Education Committee being a new committee, Ms. Kleen informed the Board that a formal motion to add the Special Education Committee as a Board Committee was needed.
- A Motion to approve Resolution C3 and the committee components for the 2024 SY, with the addition of the Special Education Committee was made by Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield and Seconded by Mrs. Gravesande.
- Ms. Kleen, Board Attorney stated, "I just wanted to clarify for everyone. Your Board Policy-0155 authorizes the board to stand up committees, which means approve the committees themselves, which is what you just did. But the board president is solely responsible for appointing the chairperson and the committee members. That does not require a board approval for the assignment of the chair, and the committee members, the only thing that requires board approval is the actual creation of the committee itself."

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, David Armstrong, Sueann Gravesande, Tyrone Tarver, Fatimah Turner, Siaka Sherif, Jeffrey Wingfield

Not Present at Vote: Samantha Crockett, Derrick Henry

ROLL CALL (7) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (2) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE

❖ RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING SCHEDULE

Pursuant to Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, the Orange Board of Education approve the following schedule of business meetings for the 2024 calendar year:

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

****No July Board Meetings****

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

****Thursday, January 2, 2025 - Reorganization Meeting****

Motion by Jeffrey Wingfield, second by David Armstrong.



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Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif, Fatimah Turner

Abstain: Tyrone Tarver

Not Present at Vote: Samantha Crockett, Derrick Henry

ROLL CALL (6) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (2) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE

❖ ***RESOLUTION TO APPOINT THE SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR***

The Orange Board of Education appoints the Firm of Machado Law Group, 1 Cleveland Place, Springfield, NJ 07081, as its School Board Attorney during the 2024 school year, at a cost not to exceed \$150.00 per hour.

Motion by Jeffrey Wingfield, second by David Armstrong.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif, Fatimah Turner

Abstain: Tyrone Tarver

Not Present at Vote: Samantha Crockett, Derrick Henry

ROLL CALL (6) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (2) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE

❖ ***RESOLUTION TO APPOINT THE SCHOOL BOARD NEGOTIATING LABOR LAW ATTORNEY FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR***

The Orange Board of Education appoints the Firm of Machado Law Group, 1 Cleveland Place, Springfield, NJ 07081, as its School board Negotiating Labor Law Attorney during the 2024 school year, at a cost not to exceed \$150.00 per hour.

Motion by Jeffrey Wingfield, second by David Armstrong.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif, Fatimah Turner

Abstain: Tyrone Tarver

Not Present at Vote: Samantha Crockett, Derrick Henry

ROLL CALL (6) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (2) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE

❖ ***RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE BOARD REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ESSEX REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION***

A motion was approved noting that a TBD Member of the Board will represent the Orange Board of Education as a member of the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission for SY 23-24.

Motion by Jeffrey Wingfield, second by David Armstrong.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif, Fatimah Turner



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Not Present at Vote: Samantha Crockett, Derrick Henry

ROLL CALL (6) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (2) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE

C. BOARD COMMENTS

Vice President Gravesande announced the upcoming District Meeting dates.

District Meetings - Public

1. Orange Board Education Public Board Meeting - Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., held at Orange Board Of Education, Administrative Building, Board Conference Room, 451 Lincoln Avenue, Orange, NJ, 07050. Will Recess until 6:45pm, but no later than 7:30pm.

District Meetings - Closed

1. Curriculum Committee Virtual Meeting - Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 3:30pm
2. Facilities Committee Virtual Meeting - Monday, January 8, 2024 at 3:30pm
3. Policy Committee Virtual Meeting - Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 4pm
4. Finance Committee Virtual Meeting - Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 5:30pm
5. Human Resource Committee Virtual Meeting - Monday, January 8, 2024, at 5:30pm
6. Special Education Committee Virtual Meeting - First Tuesday of the month at 3:30pm

Ms. Johnson asked the board to make a comment.

- Mr. Sherif stated that he is looking forward to everyone on the Board working together. "We can also succeed in improving the kid's education because that's our goal and objective here. To make sure the kids have quality learning, quality education and things that help them and also make this city proud...Because the public is watching us. They watch our behavior."
- Mr. Armstrong thanked the Board President, Vice President, his colleagues, the Business Administrator and the Board Attorney for creating the Special Education Committee, which is definitely a need in our district for our most vulnerable children, our special needs children. The Orange Board of Education will set a precedent not just throughout the district, but the state of New Jersey.
- Ms. Gravesande recognized Mr. Armstrong, and how passionate he is about the special needs children. She also noted that the board members are all passionate about what they do for the children, and this year will be amazing. She thanked everyone for supporting and voting for her and she will continue to do an amazing job for the community.
- Ms. Johnson thanked her colleagues for voting and believing in her and entrusting her to do what's right for herself, her kids and what's right for the community. She will never, ever put the district in a position



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where I, the board president, have to be filed with ethics charges. Her agenda has always been to be here for these kids. We are gonna do some great things in 2024.

- Mr. Ballard read through the election results. 17 districts out of 17 reported we had a total vote of 4,345. We had Mr. Wingfield with 1,087; Ms. Crockett with 1,175; Dr. Turner with 1,204, and finally Ms. Williams with 879. So as you can hear from what I just read, the three board members that had the highest votes were Mr. Wingfield, Ms. Crockett and Dr. Turner.

Ms. Johnson moves to have the meeting adjourned.

Motion by Siaka Sherif, second by Sueann Gravesande.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif, Fatimah Turner, Tyrone Tarver

Not Present at Vote: Samantha Crockett, Derrick Henry

ROLL CALL (7) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (2) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE