



Orange Board of Education held at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Jason Ballard presided over tonight's Meeting.

Mr. David Armstrong
Ms. Samantha Crockett
Ms. Sueann Gravesande
Ms. Shawneque Johnson
Mr. Siaka Sherif - **LATE**
Mr. Tyrone Tarver
Dr. Fatimah Turner
Ms. India Williams
Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield

ROLL CALL (8) PRESENT (0) ABSENT (1) NOT PRESENT AT ROLL CALL

ALSO PRESENT:

- Mr. Jason Ballard, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Mr. Lamont Zachary, Assistant Business Administrator

FLAG SALUTE

SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS - Mr. Ballard extends a warm welcome to the public and conducts the introduction and swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected members of the board.

- David Armstrong
- India Williams
- Siaka Sherif

BOARD RESOLUTIONS

❖ *RESOLUTION TO ELECT A SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT OF THE ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR YEAR*

- A nomination was submitted by Mr. Jason Ballard to appoint Ms. Shawneque Johnson as the Board President, with no additional nominations from other members.
- A formal motion to nominate Ms. Shawneque Johnson for the position of Board President is proposed by Mr. David Armstrong and supported by Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield.
- Mr. Tyrone Tarver and Ms. India Williams abstain from nominating Ms. Shawneque Johnson for the position of Board President.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Samantha Crockett, Sueann Gravesande, Fatimah Turner,

Abstain: Tyrone Tarver, India Williams

Not Present at Vote: Siaka Sherif

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

❖ ***RESOLUTION TO ELECT A SCHOOL BOARD VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR YEAR***

- A nomination is submitted by Ms. Shawneque Johnson to appoint Dr. Fatimah Turner as Vice President of the Board, with no additional nominations from other members.
- A formal motion to nominate Dr. Fatimah Turber as Board Vice President is made by Ms. Shawneque Johnson and supported by Ms. Sueann Gravesande.
- Mr. Tarver Tyrone Tarver and Ms. India Williams choose not to nominate Dr. Fatimah Turner for the role of Board Vice President.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Samantha Crockett, Sueann Gravesande, Fatimah Turner

Abstain: Tyrone Tarver, India Williams

Not Present at Vote: Siaka Sherif

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

- Mr. Siaka Sherif arrived subsequently, and Ms. Johnson has Mr. Ballard administer the oath of office to him.
- Ms. Johnson extends a warm welcome to India Williams as a new board member, encouraging her to actively interact with fellow members, exercise independent judgment, and make meaningful contributions to the board's activities. She highlights the significance of participating in Governance One training and remaining knowledgeable about 18A materials to guarantee compliance with board policies.
- Ms. Gravesande's transition from her role to Dr. Turner is acknowledged, and her valuable contributions to the board and community are praised.
- Ms. Johnson welcomes Dr. Turner as vice president, expressing confidence in her ability to effectively execute duties and her commitment to community service, while ensuring accountability.

❖ ***RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEES OF THE ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR YEAR***

1. *Disciplinary Hearing*
2. *Human Resources*
3. *Policy*

4. *Curriculum & Instruction*
5. *Finance*
6. *Legislative*
7. *Facilities*
8. *Public Relations*
9. *Orange Municipal Alliance for the Prevention & Education of Drug/Alcohol Abuse*
10. *Special Education*

- Ms. Johnson notes that the previous committees will remain the same.
- Mr. Sherif emphasizes the board's role in making decisions based on students, parents, and the district, not personal interests. He acknowledges complexities and emphasizes the importance of avoiding political influence and supporting the administration's work to improve the educational district, not hindering progress.
- Dr. Turner, a board member, is committed to advocating for the district and collaborating with organizations to provide educational and support programs. She has contributed to the community by promoting literacy, offering student incentives, organizing charity events, and assisting families in need. She chairs the scholarship committee and supports students in affordable housing. Dr. Turner emphasizes the importance of voting in driving change and encourages Ms. Williams to engage fully and build relationships with board members. She welcomes Ms. Williams and reaffirms the board's shared commitment to student success.
- Mr. Ballard indicates that Ms. Johnson will send the committee assignments to the members of the Board of Education via email.
- Ms. Gravesande is inquiring whether a board member's refusal to participate in a committee would result in an unoccupied position or if they have the option to decline their responsibilities.
- Mr. Ballard indicates that the president of the board is responsible for appointing members to various committees. Should a member choose to decline their assignment, it is necessary for them to engage in a discussion with the president regarding a potential reassignment. Each committee is composed of three members, with the president typically serving on all committees. By restricting the size of each committee to four members, a quorum is avoided, thereby necessitating public meetings.
- Mr. Sherif inquires whether members are permitted to deliberate on the option of declining a committee assignment prior to the closed session and to notify the board president during that session before a conclusive decision is reached.
- Mr. Ballard indicates that board members have the option to notify the president promptly if they choose to refuse a committee assignment. It is unnecessary to wait for a meeting, as the allocation of committee assignments is determined at the discretion of the board president.
- Mr. Ballard indicates that the board will conduct a roll call vote to approve the committees, clarifying that this does not pertain to the composition of each individual committee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Samantha Crockett, Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif, Fatimah Turner, India Williams

Abstain: Tyrone Tarver

ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (0) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE

**❖ RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2025 CALENDAR YEAR BOARD OF EDUCATION
BUSINESS MEETINGSCHEDULE**

Pursuant to Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, the Orange Board of Education approve the following schedule of business meetings for the 2025 calendar year:

*Wednesday, January 8, 2025
Wednesday, February 12, 2025
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
Wednesday, April 9, 2025
Wednesday, May 7, 2025
Wednesday, June 11, 2025
No July Board Meetings
Wednesday, August 13, 2025
Wednesday, September 10, 2025
Wednesday, October 8, 2025
Wednesday, November 12, 2025
Wednesday, December 10, 2025
Friday, January 2, 2026 – Reorganization Meeting*

Motion by Jeffrey Wingfield, second by David Armstrong.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Samantha Crockett, Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif, Fatimah Turner, India Williams

Abstain: Tyrone Tarver

ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (0) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE

❖ RESOLUTION TO APPOINT THE SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY FOR THE 2025 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 2025 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, Samantha Crockett, Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif, Fatimah Turner

Nay: Tyrone Tarver

Abstain: India Williams

ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (0) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE

❖ RESOLUTION TO APPOINT THE SCHOOL BOARD NEGOTIATING LABOR LAW ATTORNEY FOR THE 2025 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 2025 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, Samantha Crockett, Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif, Fatimah Turner

Nay: Tyrone Tarver

Abstain: India Williams

ROLL CALL (7) YEA (1) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (0) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE

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

A motion is 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 24-25.

Motion by Jeffrey Wingfield, second by David Armstrong.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Abstain: Tyrone Tarver, India Williams

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

A. BOARD COMMENTS

President Shawneque Johnson announces the upcoming District Meeting dates.

District Meetings - Public

1. Orange Board Education Public Board Meeting - Wednesday, January 8, 2025 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 25, 2025 at 3:30pm
 2. Facilities Committee Virtual Meeting - Monday, January 6, 2025 at 4:00pm
 3. Special Education Committee Virtual Meeting – Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 3:30 pm
 4. Finance Committee Virtual Meeting – Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 5:30 pm
 5. Human Resources Committee Virtual Meeting – Monday, January 6, 2025, at 4:00 pm
- Ms. Johnson emphasizes to the board members the critical importance of their presence for the benefit of the students, given their roles as elected officials. If a member cannot attend a meeting, it is imperative that they inform her, Mr. Ballard, or Dr. Fitzhugh. Timeliness is crucial, as any delays can impact all participants. Meeting schedules are already included in emails and calendars; thus, it is expected that any absences be communicated beforehand. She underscores the necessity of respecting fellow members by notifying the Superintendent, Board Attorney, BA, or herself if attendance is not possible.

Ms. Johnson moves to have the meeting adjourned.

Motion by Siaka Sherif, second by David Armstrong

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Samantha Crockett, Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif, Fatimah Turner, Tyron Tarver, India Williams

ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE