

# Special Public Meeting

## May 20, 2020

		
<p><b>President</b> Arthur G. Soto</p>	<p><b>Vice President</b> Christina Schratz</p>	<p><b>Board Member</b> Maryann Capursi</p>
		
<p><b>Board Member</b> Horacio Ray Carrera</p>	<p><b>Board Member</b> Kenia Flores</p>	<p><b>Board Member</b> Craig B. Miller</p>
		
<p><b>Board Member</b> L. Daniel Rodriguez</p>	<p><b>Board Member</b> Judith Sanchez</p>	<p><b>Board Member</b> Ronald Van Rensalier</p>

**SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING - WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020**

1. Call to Order.....1

2. Invocation .....1

3. Pledge of Allegiance.....1

4. Roll Call .....1

5. Public Participation .....1

6. Agenda Item:

Amendments to the Grading and Reporting Policy and Regulation (File Code 6147.1) and Promotion and Retention Policy and Regulation (File Code 6146.2) during a Public Health-Related School Closure

7. Adjournment .....1

Special Public Meeting Minutes  
Passaic Board of Education  
Passaic, New Jersey 07055

May 20, 2020  
6:04 p.m.  
Via Remote Means

**AGENDA:**

**A. Calling the Meeting to Order**

Ms. Arellano called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. She said that due to the current State of Emergency, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), and guidance from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, this Public Hearing will be held by remote means. Details for how to access and participate in the Public Hearing through remote means were posted on the District Website at [www.passaicschools.org](http://www.passaicschools.org).

The meeting notice was mailed to [The Herald News](#), [The Record](#) and the Presidents of the five employee groups and was posted at City Hall and the Passaic Board of Education Administration Building.

**B. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Roll Call**

Members Present via Remote Means: Ms. Christina Schratz, Ms. Maryann Capursi, Mr. Horacio Ray Carrera (6:36 p.m.), Ms. Kenia Flores, Mr. Craig Miller (6:09 p.m.), Ms. Judith Sanchez, Mr. Ronald VanRensalier and President Arthur G. Soto

Absent: Mr. L. Daniel Rodriguez

Also Present via Remote Means: Mr. Pablo Muñoz, Superintendent of Schools, Erlinda R. Arellano, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. Jeffrey Truppo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Donald Goncalves, Chief of Operations and Mr. Yaacov Brisman, Board Attorney

**Public Participation**

The public has been invited to participate by submitting questions and comments via the weblink on the district website.

Mr. Soto asked the Board Attorney to read all questions and comments submitted by the public.

Mr. Brisman said there were five questions and/or comments as follows:

Areliia Diaz, 47 Quincy Street, submitted the following questions:

- What will happen to the students who apply for PGTA and did not do an audition?
- How can I enroll my child for preschool?

Mr. Muñoz responded that the application process for PGTA and the other two academies started months ago and, due to the pandemic, the policies requiring auditions must now be amended. He hopes the amendments will be ready at the June meeting. Mr. Truppo confirmed that the amendments have been prepared and reviewed with the Directors and Principals of the three schools and will be ready for the June meeting.

Mr. Muñoz said the district is going through the process of implementing new registration procedures in totality, not just for preschool. The district continues to register all students that have moved into the community by working with parents remotely.

The registration procedures for the 2020-2021 school year, with information as to when and how it will take place, will be messaged to the community.

Edwin Garcia, 65 Blaine Street

Mr. Garcia congratulated the re-elected Commissioners. He said he applauds the administration on the handling of the policy amendments on tonight's agenda saying that as a parent and a teacher he is satisfied. He shared that he hopes the district continues to build off of the new and strengthened relationships that have been forged, despite the adversity faced during this epidemic.

Ms. Chaya Murrell, 111 Kensington Terrace, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, submitted the following question:

Is there a way to get classmates to see each other if teachers are not doing Zoom or Google classroom and are just doing packets and attendance through Class Dojo?

Mr. Muñoz deferred to Mr. Truppo who responded that he would have to investigate further as to the grade of student and would get back with a response to the parent via the e-mail she provided.

Jaroslaw Jackiw, 266 Lafayette Avenue submitted the following question:

When will the Board of Education start the full cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting of all schools as per CDC guide within district for 2020-2021?

Mr. Muñoz said that in March, protocols were put in place to keep schools disinfected and safe. Upon schools being closed, steps were taken to sanitize and lock down schools not being used. The district looks at the CDC information and follows the CDC guidelines.

Mr. Goncalves shared that post March 13th, custodial training regarding cleanliness as per CDC guidelines was provided to staff. Materials and supplies which help to combat COVID-19 are being used. The district will continue to provide training for employees within the next couple of weeks in preparation of summertime and other conditions, noting that the district must also abide by the Governor's Executive Orders. All facilities which are being used are receiving a high level of cleaning on a daily basis.

Juana J. Vera, 80 Howe Avenue submitted the following comment: (in Spanish – was translated via Google Translate)

Ms. Vera shared that her child has never been absent but due members of the family getting COVID-19, and the death of her husband, she had to send her child to Pennsylvania. She asks if someone from the district could please contact her. She provided an email address.

Mr. Muñoz said he will follow up with the parent to get the particulars and try to assist the family as best as the district can. He also shared that on the district website there is a “parent help link” which can provide assistance to the parent.

Motion to close public portion: Ms. Sanchez

Seconded: Ms. Schratz

8 Voice Vote

Public Portion closed at 6:21

Mr. Muñoz thanked all the staff, parents and students during this home-based instruction period. He commended the hard work of school staff that provide assistance to the parents and students and thanked the administrators for running their schools from home. He said there are staff members that have gone above and beyond to provide food, security, computers, clean buildings and process payroll during this closure, stating that although schools are closed, the district continues to operate.

Mr. Muñoz said the board would be voting on amendments to two policies tonight, the Grading and Reporting Policy and Regulation, which is how the students receive grades; and the Promotion and Retention Policy and Regulation, which affects how students are promoted or retained in light of the home based instruction.

Mr. Truppo shared that there was a working group which included teachers, President of the teachers’ union, and high school students who reviewed and discussed the amendments. Drafts of the amendments were presented to members of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee during the Webex committee meeting and the Committee recommended the amendments.

Mr. Truppo shared the amendments online, highlighting and explaining some of the changes to the policies and regulations.

## **Approval of Amendments to Policies and Regulations**

The Passaic Board of Education approves the amendments to the Grading and Reporting Policy and Regulation (File Code 6147.1) and Promotion and Retention Policy and Regulation (File Code 6146.2) during a Public Health-Related School Closure.

**Motion to Approve: Ms. Schratz**  
**Seconded: Ms. Capursi**

Ms. Schratz	Yes	Mr. Miller	Yes
Ms. Capursi	Yes	Ms. Sanchez	Yes
Mr. Carrera	Yes	Mr. VanRensalier	Yes
Ms. Flores	Yes	President Soto	Yes

## **Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Passaic Board of Education will be the Organization Meeting which will take place on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., via remote means.

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Miller  
 Second: Ms. Sanchez

8 Voice Vote

**Meeting ended at 6:50 p.m.**

Recorded by:

*Erlinda R. Arellano*

Erlinda R. Arellano  
 School Business Administrator  
 Board Secretary