



## ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES

### PASSAIC BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

6:05 P.M.

**A. Calling the Meeting to Order – Board Secretary**

Ms. Arellano, called the meeting to order at 6:05 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 Meeting will be held by remote means. Details for how to access and participate in this Public Meeting through remote means are posted on the District Website at [www.passaicschools.org](http://www.passaicschools.org).

The notice of this meeting was mailed to The Herald News and The Record, and to the presidents of the five employee groups. A copy of the meeting notice was delivered to the Office of Municipal Clerk and posted on the bulletin board at City Hall. A copy was also posted at the Board of Education Administration Building.

**B. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Board Secretary**

#### INVOCATION

God, guide us in the decisions to be deliberated this evening and help us to work together in the best interest of the children and the parents of the city of Passaic.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Arellano read the results of the election as follows:

**C. Election Results—Tuesday, May 12, 2020**

**ELECTION RESULTS SUMMARY – Results Certified by Board of Elections**

| <b>2020-2021 Tax Levy Question</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Local Tax Levy \$16,818,577        | 2,391      | 352       |

| <b>Candidates (3) for Three Year Seat</b> | <b>Votes</b> |                   |
|---|--------------|-------------------|
| Horacio Ray Carrera                       | 2,186        | <u>Re-Elected</u> |
| Jeffrey Dye                               | 478          |                   |
| Karina Rodriguez                          | 465          |                   |
| Virgilio Rodriguez, Jr.                   | 309          |                   |
| Christina Schratz                         | 2,379        | <u>Re-Elected</u> |
| Arthur Soto                               | 2,267        | <u>Re-Elected</u> |

**D. Oath of Office for Re-Elected Board Members**

City of Passaic Mayor Hector Lora administered the oath of office.

- Horacio Ray Carrera
- Christina Schratz
- Arthur Soto

**E. Roll Call -- Board Secretary**

Members Present via Remote Means: Ms. Maryann Capursi, Mr. Horacio Ray Carrera, Ms. Kenia Flores, Mr. Craig Miller, Mr. L. Daniel Rodriguez, Ms. Judith Sanchez, Ms. Christina Schratz, Mr. Arthur G. Soto and Mr. Ronald VanRensalier

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

**F. Organization Items:**

**1. Election of the Office of President - Presided by the Board Secretary**

Ms. Arellano opened the nomination for President. A motion was made to nominate Christina Schratz to the office of President. There were no other nominations.

Moved: Mr. Soto  
Seconded: Mr. Carrera

Roll Call Vote for Christina Schratz to serve as President:

|               |     |                  |     |
|---------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| Ms. Capursi   | Yes | Ms. Sanchez      | Yes |
| Mr. Carrera   | Yes | Ms. Schratz      | Yes |
| Ms. Flores    | Yes | Mr. Soto         | Yes |
| Mr. Miller    | Yes | Mr. VanRensalier | Yes |
| Mr. Rodriguez | Yes |                  |     |

Vote: 9-0

**2. Election of Vice President - Presided by the Newly-Elected President**

President Schratz asked for nominations for Vice President. A motion was made to nominate Daniel Rodriguez. There were no other nominations.

Moved: Ms. Sanchez  
Seconded: Mr. soto

Roll Call Vote for Mr. Rodriguez to serve as Vice President:

|               |     |                  |     |
|---------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| Ms. Capursi   | Yes | Ms. Sanchez      | Yes |
| Mr. Carrera   | Yes | Ms. Schratz      | Yes |
| Ms. Flores    | Yes | Mr. Soto         | Yes |
| Mr. Miller    | Yes | Mr. VanRensalier | Yes |
| Mr. Rodriguez | Yes |                  |     |

Vote: 9-0

**3. Resolution Setting the Annual Meeting Schedule - Passaic Board of Education — 2020-2021 School Year**

Recommends that the Passaic Board of Education approves the adoption of the Annual Meeting Schedule of the Passaic Board of Education as follows:

**ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE**  
**PASSAIC BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

Pursuant to the “Open Public Meeting Act” N.J.S.A. 10:4-7 et seq., the Passaic Board of Education hereby establishes the Annual Meeting Schedule of the Board for the 2020-2021 School Year:

|                  |                           |  |                  |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------|
| <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>May 27, 2020</i>       | <i>Annual Board<br/>Organization Meeting</i> | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>June 1, 2020</i>       | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>                | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>June 29, 2020</i>      | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>                | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>July 27, 2020</i>      | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>                | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>August 31, 2020</i>    | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>                | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>September 21, 2020</i> | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>                | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>October 26, 2020</i>   | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>                | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>November 23, 2020</i>  | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>                | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>December 21, 2020</i>  | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>                | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>January 25, 2021</i>   | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>                | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>February 22, 2021</i>  | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>                | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>March 22, 2021</i>     | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>                | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |

All meetings will be held in the Board Rooms, 663 Main Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, unless otherwise noted.

Motion was made to accept the above resolution:

Moved: Mr. VanRensalier  
 Seconded: Ms. Sanchez

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| Ms. Capursi   | Yes |
| Mr. Carrera   | Yes |
| Ms. Flores    | Yes |
| Mr. Miller    | Yes |
| Mr. Rodriguez | Yes |

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Ms. Sanchez      | Yes |
| Ms. Schratz      | Yes |
| Mr. Soto         | Yes |
| Mr. VanRensalier | Yes |

**G. Comments from Board Members**

Mr. Soto expressed his thanks to the board members for their support, encouragement and for a fantastic year. He stated that he, as President, together with the Vice President, had set up goals and was pleased to have met most of them. He also thanked the district administration and the Mayor for all their assistance to the Passaic Public Schools during the pandemic. He congratulated the new President and Vice President stating that he is confident they, together with Mr. Muñoz, will continue moving the district in the right direction.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked his fellow commissioners for their confidence in electing him Vice President and looks forward to working with President Schratz and Mr. Muñoz and his staff. He said he looks forward to continue his relationship with the Mayor and members of the City Council, who all have the same goal to ensure vital programs for students and the community. He shared that he will continue to work hard and be an advocate for the parents and students of Passaic.

Mr. Carrera congratulated Ms. Schratz and Mr. Rodriguez and thanked all the stakeholders for giving the incumbents a vote of confidence and re-electing them to the Board.

Ms. Schratz thanked the Lord for the energy and strength to continue as a member of the Board. She thanked her colleagues for their confidence in electing her as President. She also thanked Mayor and the City Council for their confidence and support. She said she looks forward to working with the administration and Superintendent Muñoz, and will continue to put the children first.

Ms. Capursi and Ms. Sanchez congratulated the re-elected Board members and congratulated the newly elected President and Vice President of the board.

Mayor Lora congratulated the new President, Vice President, and the newly re-elected board members on behalf of Assemblyman Schaer and the City Council. He said the City Council is looking forward to working with the Board, Mr. Muñoz, Mr. Brisman, Mr. Goncalves and the administration to continue providing services to all families and youth.

Mayor Lora said Ms. Schratz had suggested that that the City designates a wall to write the names of the graduating students and he is recommending the wall by the stadium. He said he would defer to the Superintendent and the Commissioners and shared that the Governor has provided guidance regarding graduation ceremonies.

Mayor Lora again congratulated Ms. Schratz and said he believes she may be the first Latina President of the board; but he will investigate further.

Mr. Muñoz congratulated the re-elected board members saying that this year's election was delayed and conducted in a different manner due to the pandemic. He thanked the voters for supporting the schools and approving the budget. Mr. Muñoz thanked Mayor Lora, the City Council and Assemblyman Schaer for their

May 27, 2020

leadership during the year and during this crucial time. He thanked the school administration, staff, and especially the parents and students noting that the past few months have not been easy due to the transitioning of classroom instruction to remote instruction. He congratulated Ms. Schratz and Mr. Rodriguez and said he looks forward to working with them.

Mr. VanRensalier expressed his thanks to former President Soto and former Vice President Schratz for their tireless advocacy on behalf of the students this past year. He congratulated the newly elected President Schratz and Vice President Rodriguez saying that they have served the district honorably and will continue their noble and solid commitment to the students, and he looks forward to working with them.

## **H. Public Participation**

Ms. Arellano said the public was invited to participate by submitting questions and comments via the weblink.

Mr. Brisman shared that there was one question posted to the link in Spanish and translated below:

Walissa Peña, 285 Aycrigg Avenue #18K

Ms. Peña asked: what is the process to enroll her child in school since she recently moved to Passaic, and what documents must she bring for enrollment.

*Mr. Muñoz responded that there is a list of documents needed for registration that can be found on the district website. He said her question will be placed in the district's Parent Help System, which is located on the website, and the appropriate administrator will provide a response.*

*Mr. Truppo said he will reach out to the parent and that the district is currently in the process of revamping the registration instructions. The district has online capabilities and will be scheduling appointments with families consistent with the CDC Guidelines. The registration information, once available will be shared with the community.*

Mayor Hector Lora, 46 Kensington Terrace

Mayor Lora said he wanted to highlight an incident he became aware of where Mr. Soto had come across an individual on the street, who was COVID positive and needed assistance. Mr. Soto reached out to family members, hospital and human services to be sure the individual was taken care of. He shared that Mr. Soto, in his other role, provides food to the community through the Heaven's Gate Food Pantry. He thanked Mr. Soto, on behalf of the city, for his wonderful leadership and assistance to the community. He thanked all the commissioners, employees and staff for all they have done during this pandemic.

Motion to close Public Portion:

Moved: Mr. Soto                      Seconded: Ms. Capursi

Vote: 9-0

Public Portion closed at 6:45

Mr. Soto said that, for the record, tonight's meeting was streamed live on Facebook and he sees many members joining the stream. He said that until the board is able to physically meet again, he encourages future meetings be streamed.

**I. Announcement of Next Regular Public Meeting**

President Schratz said that the next Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, June 1, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., through remote means posted on the District Website at [www.passaicsschools.org](http://www.passaicsschools.org).

**J. Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Soto

Seconded: Mr. Carrera

Voice Vote: 9-0

**The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.**

Recorded by:

*Erlinda R. Arellano*

Erlinda R. Arellano

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary