

# Special Public Meeting

## March 1, 2021

		
<p><b>President</b> Christina Schratz</p>	<p><b>Vice President</b> L. Daniel Rodriguez</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> Judith Sanchez</p>	<p><b>Board Member</b> Arthur G. Soto</p>	<p><b>Board Member</b> Ronald Van Rensalier</p>

**SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING - Monday, March 1, 2021**

1. Call to Order.....1

2. Invocation .....1

3. Pledge of Allegiance.....1

4. Roll Call .....1

5. Public Participation .....1

6. Agenda Items:

    1. Approval of the 2021-2022 School District Budget for Submission to the  
        New Jersey Department of Education/Executive County Superintendent of Schools

    2. Resolution Establishing the Annual Maximum Travel Expenditure Amount  
        2021-2022 School Year

    3. Resolution Establishing Professional Services Appropriations and Extra Curricular  
        Activities (Clubs and Athletics) for the 2021-2022 School Year

    4. Capital Reserve Withdrawal

    5. Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal

    6. Approval of Budget Transfers

7. **ADJOURNMENT** ..... 5

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **1. Call to Order**

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 the 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.

### **2. 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.

### **3. Pledge of Allegiance**

### **4. Roll Call**

### **5. Public Participation**

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

### **6. Agenda Items**

1. Approval of the 2021-2022 School District Budget for Submission to the New Jersey Department of Education/Executive County Superintendent of Schools
2. Resolution Establishing the Annual Maximum Travel Expenditure Amount 2021-2022 School Year
3. Resolution Establishing Professional Services Appropriations and Extra Curricular Activities (Clubs and Athletics) for the 2021-2022 School Year
4. Capital Reserve Withdrawal
5. Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal
6. Approval of Budget Transfers

### **7. Adjournment**

The next **Regular Public Meeting** of the Passaic Board of Education and the **Public Hearing on the Budget/Adoption of Budget** will be held on **Monday March 22, 2021** at 6:00 p.m. through remote means posted on the District Website at [www.passaicschools.org](http://www.passaicschools.org).

Special Public Meeting Minutes  
Passaic Board of Education  
Passaic, NJ 07055

March 1, 2021  
6:05 p.m.  
Webex

AGENDA:

8. Calling the Meeting to Order

Mr. Ryan A. Bowman, Interim School Business Administrator, Interim Board Secretary, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. 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).

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9. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

10. Roll Call

Vice President L. Daniel Rodriguez, Ms. Judith Sanchez, Mr. Arthur G. Soto, Mr. Ronald Van Rensalier, Ms. Maryann Capursi, Ms. Kenia Flores and President Christina Schratz

Absent: Mr. Horacio "Ray" Carrera, and Mr. Craig Miller

Also present: Mr. Pablo Muñoz, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Jeffrey Truppo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Ryan Aaron Bowman, Interim School Business Administrator/Interim Board Secretary, Ms. Laura Turci-Delgado, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Donald Goncalves, Chief of Operations, Ms. Maria Infante, Director of Human Services and Board Attorney, Mr. Yaacov Brisman.

President Schratz stated we would like to extend our condolences to the family and friends of Steven J. Cerdan, Parent Liaison at School No. 7 & School No.19, Gregory Mulavey, Paraprofessional at SchoolNo.19 and an Assistant Custodian at PREP Academy. She asked all present to join in a moment of silence for the recent lives lost at the Passaic Board of Education.

Vice President Rodriguez extended his condolences to the families of the staff at Passaic Board of Education that recently lost their lives.

#### **D. Public Participation:**

Ms. Schratz said that the public was invited to participate by submitting questions and comments via the weblink. She asked Mr. Brisman, Board Attorney to read all questions and comments submitted by the public.

Mr. Brisman read the following comments/questions:

#### **Nilda Correa, 321 Broadway Apt.7**

1. There are adult people interested in learning Spanish in the same way that the school has ESL classes. Could Spanish as a Second Language (SSL) program be incorporated for parents?

2. What is the response with the school online schedule? Online learning has not incorporated asynchronous work during school hours like it said it would be balanced or should be balanced. Instead the students are on for 6 hrs and then still have assignments that keep them on after hours. Again, is it possible for instruction to be given for the first period only, especially in double period classes. Then allow the students to get off unless they need help. This gives the teachers a period to help students in smaller groups or 1-1. This would minimize computer glitches, lagging, etc. and allow students to get more individualized attention. If they still need more help, then there's Reconnect Time.

3. If not, and since half days are considered days open for school, can we go into a half day schedule for the rest of the year? Please take into high consideration this possible alternative.

Mr. Muñoz provided a response to the comments and questions regarding overload home-based instruction and the length of the day, and the type of connection whether it be live or not, have been discussed at every meeting.

Mr. Truppo responded we will reach out to the parent, and will look for some resources regarding the language.

Motion to close Public Session: Mr. Soto

Seconded: Ms. Capursi

Voice Vote: 7 Yes

Public participation closed at 6:14 p.m.

**E. Agenda Items**

President Schratz introduce the six (6) agenda items for approval at this meeting:

1. **Approval of the 2021-2022 School District Budget for Submission to the New Jersey Department of Education/Executive County Superintendent of Schools**
2. **Resolution Establishing the Annual Maximum Travel Expenditure Amount 2021-2022 School Year**
3. **Resolution Establishing Professional Services Appropriations and Extra Curricular Activities (Clubs and Athletics) for the 2021-2022 School Year**
4. **Captial Reserve Withdrawal**
5. **Maintenance Reserve**
6. **Approval of Budget Transfers**

Motion to Approve: Mr. Van Rensalier  
Seconded: Mr. Soto

Voice Vote: 7 Yes

Vice President Rodriguez	Yes
Ms. Capursi	Yes
Ms. Flores	Yes
Ms. Sanchez	Yes
Mr. Soto	Yes
Mr. Van Rensalier	Yes
President Schratz	Yes

**1. Approval of the 2021-2022 School District Budget for Submission to the New Jersey Department of Education/Executive County Superintendent of Schools**

Recommends that the Passaic Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5(c) and N.J.A.C.6A:23A-8.1(a), recommends the proposed school budget for the school year 2021-2022, as prepared by Mr. Pablo Muñoz, Superintendent of Schools, be approved for submission to the New Jersey Department of Education and the Executive County Superintendent for Passaic County for review and approval.

The proposed school district budget as introduced by Mr. Muñoz highlights the following:

Total School District Budget Appropriations	\$ 369,858,505
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$ <u>353,039,928</u>
Minimum Tax Levy for Passaic Taxpayers*	\$ <u>16,818,577</u>
Total Operating Budget	\$ 320,035,270
Total Grants and Entitlements	\$ 49,823,235

\*The Minimum Tax Levy of \$16,818,577, reflects a zero percent (0%) tax increase over last year's budget.

The budget to be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education and to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for review is subject to possible adjustments and revisions. The proposed school budget is subject to revisions by the Passaic Board of Education. Budget discussions and review are ongoing through the month of March. The budget will be advertised in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:22-10.

Mr. Muñoz notes the following budget dates:

Monday, March 22, 2021 - 6:00 p.m. Public Hearing of the Budget

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 - Annual School Election - Vote on the Budget

Minimum Tax Levy for Passaic Taxpayers*	\$ <u>16,818,577</u>
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**2. Resolution Establishing the Annual Maximum Travel Expenditure Amount— 2021-2022 School Year**

Recommends that the Passaic Board of Education in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 and based upon the information provided by Mr. R. Aaron Bowman, Interim School Business Administrator, hereby establishes the annual maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2021-2022 school year. The amount listed below shall be travel that is supported by local and state funds in the general current expense budget. Travel amounts provided by federally funded programs are established by the individual grants and are not included in the calculation that determined the travel maximum requirement.

2021-2022 Maximum Travel Expenditure Amount (Exclusive of the Special Revenue Fund)	\$ <u>318,826.00</u>
2020-2021 Appropriated Travel Expenditure Amount	\$ <u>307,300.00</u>
2020-2021 Amount Spent to Date	\$ <u>36,487.00</u>

**3. Resolution Establishing Professional Services Appropriations and Extra Curricular Activities (Clubs and Athletics) for the 2021-2022 School Year**

Professional Services Appropriations—N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2 (a) (1)

The Passaic Public Schools has budgeted the amount of \$15,797,500.00 for professional services in the 2021-2022 general current expense budget.

Legal	\$ 286,000.00
Financial Audit	\$ 75,000.00
Actuarial Certification—IBNR	\$ 2,000.00
Insurance Consultant Contract	\$ 112,500.00
OT/PT/Speech/Evaluation (Pre-K – 12)	\$ 9,552,000.00
Medical Inspector/Nursing/Drug Screening	\$ 277,000.00
SRO Contract	\$ 3,800,000.00
Architect Contracts	\$ 1,500,000.00
Home Instruction	\$ <u>225,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$15,797,500.00</u></b>



**Resolution Establishing Professional Services Appropriations and Extra Curricular Activities (Clubs and Athletics) for the 2021-2022 School Year (continued)**

Extra Curricular Activities (Clubs and Athletics) —N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8 (c) (3)

The Passaic Public Schools has budgeted the amount of \$2,326,689.00 for extracurricular activities in the 2021-2022 general current expense budget:

K – 8 Co-Curricular (Clubs & Activities)	\$ 55,625.00
High School Co-Curricular (Clubs & Activities)	\$ 214,000.00
Interscholastic Athletics (Includes Coaches, Supplies & Services)	<u>\$ 2,087,064.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 2,356,689.00</u>

**4. Capital Reserve Withdrawal**

Recommends that the Passaic Board of Education based upon the recommendation of Mr. Pablo Muñoz, Superintendent of Schools recommends a capital reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$1,278,321.00. The district intends to utilize these funds to implement district wide capital improvements as follows:

1. Stadium Phase 2 – The stadium project continues with improvements to the facade, sidewalks, canopy entrance, lighting, banner poles, and the pressbox area. Phase 2 will continue to enhance Boverini Stadium.
 

\$628,321
2. Student Bathroom Renovations - Refurbishment of four (4) outdated bathrooms at School 3. These bathrooms require updated plumbing fixtures, interior upgrades, and esthetic improvements.
 

\$250,000
3. Playground Improvements- The play area at School No. 15 requires replacement. A new playground will provide students with a state of the art developmentally appropriate activity center.
 

\$200,000
4. Door Project at PHS – The replacement of targeted exterior doors will enhance safe entry and exit to the building, improve security, and offer protection against the elements.
 

\$200,000

**5. Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal**

Recommends that the Passaic Board of Education based upon the recommendation of Mr. Pablo Muñoz, Superintendent of schools recommends a maintenance reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$7,490,879.00. The district intends to utilize the resources to fund required maintenance activities throughout the district.

**6. Approval of 2020-2021 Budget Transfers**

Recommends that the Passaic Board of Education approves the budget transfers for the month of February 2021.

Account Number	Amount	Account Number	Amount
From:		To:	
11-000-270-512-13-0000	-\$1,400.00	11-110-100-101-13-0070	\$1,400.00
15-190-100-610-07-0000	-\$1,635.79	15-000-213-600-07-0000	\$1,635.79
30-000-401-450-56-1221	-\$254,002.00	30-000-401-450-56-0621	\$254,002.00
30-000-401-450-56-1421	-\$153,966.00	30-000-401-450-56-0621	\$153,966.00
15-190-100-610-11-0000	-\$185.00	15-000-240-500-11-0000	\$185.00
11-000-262-100-56-0072	-\$5,000.00	11-000-262-100-05-0051	\$5,000.00
15-421-200-100-30-0075	-\$10,000.00	15-421-100-101-30-0075	\$10,000.00
15-422-200-100-30-0075	-\$1,000.00	15-422-100-101-30-0075	\$1,000.00
15-190-100-640-28-0000	-\$2,138.88	15-000-218-104-28-0082	\$2,138.88
11-000-291-232-05-1020	-\$77,276.00	11-000-291-241-05-0000	\$77,276.00
11-000-221-500-58-0000	-\$500.00	11-000-251-500-58-0000	\$500.00
11-000-270-511-55-0000	-\$367,041.00	11-000-291-241-05-0000	\$367,041.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ (874,144.67)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 874,144.67</b>

**7. Adjournment**

The next **Regular Public Meeting** of the Passaic Board of Education will be held on **Monday, March 22, 2021** at 6:00 p.m. through remote means posted on the District Website at [www.passaicschools.org](http://www.passaicschools.org).

**Adjournment**

Ms. Schratz announced that the next Regular Public Meeting of the Passaic Board of Education will be held on Monday, March 22, 2021 6:00 p.m. through remote means posted on the District Website at [www.passaicschools.org](http://www.passaicschools.org).

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Flores  
Seconded: Mr. Rodriguez

Voice Vote: 7 Yes

*Meeting ended at 6:15 p.m.*

***Recorded by:***



***Mr. Ryan Aaron Bowman  
Interim School Business Administrator  
Interim Board Secretary***