



## **ORGANIZATION MEETING**

### **PASSAIC BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Monday, May 1, 2023  
6:00 P.M.**

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

This meeting is being held in accordance with the “Open Public Meetings Act”, Chapter 231, Laws of 1975. 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. Annual notice was filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(d). Adequate notice has been provided in accordance with the law.

**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

**C. Election Results—Tuesday, April 25, 2023**

**UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS SUMMARY – Unofficial Results by Board of Elections**

| <b>2023-2024 Tax Levy Question</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Local Tax Levy \$17,154,949        | 363        | 80        |

| <b>Candidates for Three Year Seat</b> | <b>Votes</b> |                   |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Christina Schratz                     | 419          | <u>Re-Elected</u> |
| Leslie Zuniga                         | 398          | <u>Elected</u>    |
| Arthur G. Soto                        | 416          | <u>Re-Elected</u> |

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

- Christina Schratz
- Leslie Zuniga
- Arthur Soto

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

**F. Organization Items:**

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

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

**3. Resolution Setting the Annual Meeting Schedule – Passaic Board of Education — 2023-2024 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**  
**2023-2024 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 2023-2024 School Year:

|                  |                           |  |                  |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------|
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>May 1, 2023</i>        | <i>Annual Board Organization Meeting</i> | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>May 10, 2023</i>       | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>            | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>June 12, 2023</i>      | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>            | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>June 26, 2023</i>      | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>            | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>July 24, 2023</i>      | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>            | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>August 28, 2023</i>    | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>            | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Tuesday</i>   | <i>September 26, 2023</i> | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>            | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>October 30, 2023</i>   | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>            | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>November 20, 2023</i>  | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>            | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>December 18, 2023</i>  | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>            | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>January 29, 2024</i>   | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>            | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>February 26, 2024</i>  | <i>Regular Public Meeting</i>            | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>March 25, 2024</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, with exception to the February 26, 2024 meeting which will be held at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School No. 6, 85 Hamilton Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey.

**G. Comments from Board Members**

**H. Public Participation**

At this portion of the meeting, members of the public will be able to question and comment on any item on the published agenda or on items/topics not on the agenda. Members of the public are requested to sign the register with their names and addresses. Please wait to be recognized by the President of the Board. Approach the microphone and give your name and address for the record.

Please be advised that the Board of Education will not entertain any comments from persons who communicate obscene material, make statements which are considered bias intimidation in which a person intends to intimidate any individual or group because of race, color, religion, gender, handicap, sexual orientation or ethnicity or makes comments intending to harass or speak any offensive language. The person who makes these statements will relinquish his/her allotted five (5) minutes for public participation.

The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Please bear in mind that students and employees have specific legal rights afforded by the laws of New Jersey. Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments. All comments and questions are to be directed through the President.

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

The next **Regular Public Meeting** of the Board of Education will be held on **Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**, in the Board Rooms, 663 Main Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, unless otherwise noted.

**J. Adjournment**

Organization Meeting Minutes  
Passaic Board of Education  
Passaic, New Jersey 07055

**May 1, 2023**  
6:08 p.m.

**AGENDA:**

**A. Call to Order**

Mr. R. Aaron Bowman Assistant Board Secretary, called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. He addressed the public and stated that this meeting was being held in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act." 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 at City Hall. A copy was also posted at the Board of Education and filed in accordance with the law.

**B. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Election Results – Tuesday, April 25, 2023**

Mr. Bowman announced the following Annual School Board Election results:

**Unofficial Election Results Summary – Unofficial Results by Board of Elections**

| <b>2023-2024 Tax Levy Questions</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Local Levy \$17,154,949             | 363        | 80        |

| <b>Candidates for Three Year Seat</b> | <b>Votes</b> |               |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Christina Schratz                     | 419          | Re-Elected    |
| Leslie Zuniga                         | 398          | Newly Elected |
| Arthur G. Soto                        | 416          | Re-Elected    |

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

Mayor Hector C. Lora gave the oath of office to the following board members:

- Christina Schratz
- Leslie Zuniga
- Arthur G. Soto

Mayor Lora congratulated the re-elected and newly elected board members and addressed all board members on what it means to be elected.

**E. Roll Call**

Board Members Present:

Ms. Barrales-Garcia, Ms. Maryann Capursi (remote) Mr. Craig Miller, Mr. L. Daniel Rodriguez, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Schratz, Mr. Arthur Soto, and Mr. Ronald Van Rensalier, Ms. Leslie Zuniga

Also Present: Ms. Sandra Montañez-Diodonet, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Jeffrey Truppo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and Dr. Izbicki, Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. R. Aaron Bowman, Assistant School Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary, Mr. Miguel Frias, Director of Human Resources and Mr. Yaacov Brisman, Board Attorney.

**F. Organization Items**

**1) Election of the Office of President**

Commissioner Barrales-Garcia nominated Commissioner Rodriguez for the position of President.

**Motion to Approve: Ms. Abril-Barrales**  
**Second: Mr. Soto**

|                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Commissioner Barrales-Garcia</b> | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Capursi</b>         | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Miller</b>          | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Rodriguez</b>       | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Sanchez</b>         | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commission Schratz</b>           | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Soto</b>            | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Van Rensalier</b>   | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Zuniga</b>          | <b>Yes</b> |

Commissioner Rodriguez was elected for the position of President.

**2) Election of the Office of Vice President**

Commissioner Miller nominated Commissioner Sanchez for the position of Vice President.

**Motion to Approve: Mr. Miller**  
**Second: Ms. Schratz**

|                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Commissioner Barrales-Garcia</b> | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Capursi</b>         | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Miller</b>          | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Rodriguez</b>       | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Sanchez</b>         | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commission Schratz</b>           | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Soto</b>            | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Van Rensalier</b>   | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Zuniga</b>          | <b>Yes</b> |

Commissioner Sanchez was elected for the position of Vice President.

**3) Resolution Setting the Annual Meeting Schedule – Passaic Board of Education – 2022-2023 School Year**

**ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE**  
**PASSAIC BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
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Motion to Approve: Mr. Miller  
 Second: Ms. Schratz

|                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Commissioner Barrales-Garcia</b> | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Capursi</b>         | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Miller</b>          | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Rodriguez</b>       | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Sanchez</b>         | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commission Schratz</b>           | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Soto</b>            | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Van Rensalier</b>   | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Commissioner Zuniga</b>          | <b>Yes</b> |

**G. Comments from Board Members**

| Board Member                  | Comment   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Commissioner Schartz          | Thanked everyone for supporting her and to my running mates we had fun. We all bring in a different leadership. I hope we all keep leading for the future. Thanked President and Vice President.  |
| Commissioner Zuniga           | Thanked everyone, thanked the Mayor for his kind words. Thank you for your support, and being such role models. Thank you.  |
| Commissioner Soto             | Enjoyed his campaigning, thanked everyone. Thank you, Mayor Hector C. Lora City Leaders present and everyone.   |
| Commissioner Van Rensalier    | It's an honor to work with all of the Board members. I look forward to working beside you all. Thank you.   |
| Commissioner Miller           | We call ourselves Team Passaic, and we are special. This was a great election. As leaders we must take responsibility and make Passaic a better City.   |
| Commissioner Capursi (remote) | Hello, I apologize for not being present, but glad to be able to attend virtually. Congratulations to everyone especially to our re-elected board members. Congratulated Ms. Zuniga. President & Vice President I trust that you will continue to guide us. |



**Comments from Board Members (Continued)**

| Board Member                            | Comment   |
|---|---|
| Commissioner Barrales-Garcia            | Congratulated everyone, thank you for always being there for me. I believe we are for one reason and that is our students. Thank you to the administration and the Board of Education.  |
| Vice President Sanchez                  | Thank you, I would like to congratulate the re-elected and newly elected Board Members, thank you for helping the budget get passed, thank you for all your hard work. Looking forward to working alongside all of you. Thank you all for your kind words.  |
| President Rodriguez                     | Thank you to everyone for your kind words. Congratulations to all the re-elected board members and newly elected. Thank you, Mayor Hector C. Lora, for your leadership. Thanked Assemblyman Mr. G. Schaer for your kind words. Again, thank you everyone. Looking forward for a great new year with lots of new and good changes. |
| Mayor Lora                              | Mr. Lora thanked President and congratulated Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. Sanchez on their re-appointments as President and Vice President. He also congratulated the elected commissioners.   |
| Assemblyman Gary S. Schaer              | Thanked everyone for their leadership, congratulated everyone that was re-elected and newly elected. Thank you for your dedication to our City.   |
| Superintendent Sandra Montanez-Diodonet | We are a blessed city and system. Congradulations to all for your re-elections. Having the same team again it's a blessing. Thank you all and thank you for passing our budget.   |

**H. Public Participation**

President Rodriguez invited members of the public to participate:

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Name/Address:</b>     | Ms. Vanesa Apaza, 9 Woodside Avenue, Little Falls, New Jersey   |
| <b>Question/Comment:</b> | She is the Program Coordinator of the City of Passaic City Coalition and their focus is on Substance Use Prevention. She explained the programs available and also gave out flyers. |

Motion to close Public Participation:

Moved: Mr. Miller  
Seconded: Mr. Soto

Voice Vote: 9 Yes

Public participation closed at: 6:59 p.m.

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

President Rodriguez announced that the next Regular Public Meeting of the Passaic Board of Education will be held on Monday, June 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Passaic Board of Education, Board Meeting Room, 663 Main Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Passaic, New Jersey.

**J. Adjournment**

President Rodriguez requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Sanchez  
Seconded: Mr. Van Rensalier

Voice Vote: 9 Yes

**Meeting ended at: 7:00 p.m.**

Recorded by:

Mr. R. Aaron Bowman  
Assistant School Business Administrator  
Assistant Board Secretary