

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS Monday, March 23, 2020 (11:00 AM)

#### THE FOLLOWING ACTION IS HEREBY RECORDED OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON MARCH 23, 2020 AT 11:00 A.M.

In adherence with social distancing requirements and Governor Cuomo's Executive Order, the Board of Education Special Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2020 was held via video conference via Zoom. The meeting was streamed live at [www.yonkerspublicschools.org](http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org)

Yonkers Board of Education **agendas, actions and webcasts** are available to the public on the District's website; [yonkerspublicschools.org](http://yonkerspublicschools.org) in the Board of Education section.

#### **ROLL CALL**

UPON THE ROLL BEING CALLED, THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:

#### **BOARD MEMBERS:**

Rev. Steve Lopez  
Judith Ramos Meier  
Andrea Brown  
Kevin Cacace  
Dr. John Castanaro  
Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio  
Dr. Edward Fergus  
Abdool H. Jamal

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada, Joanna Topping and various staff.

#### **1.1 CALL TO ORDER**

The Meeting was called to order by President Rev. Steve Lopez at 11:19 A.M.

#### **1.2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge was led by Vice President Judith Ramos Meier.

#### **1.3 PRAYER**

"Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee and ask Thy blessing upon us and Thy guidance in our deliberations. May Thy blessing rest upon all those who serve in our schools, upon our students, and upon our city and our country."

The Prayer was led by President Rev. Steve Lopez.

#### **1.4 MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Moment of Silence

## **ROLL CALL AND QUORUM CHECK**

### **2.1 ROLL CALL AND QUORUM CHECK**

#### ROLL CALL

REVEREND STEVE LOPEZ - Yes

JUDITH RAMOS MEIER - Yes

ANDREA BROWN - Yes

KEVIN CACACE - Yes

DR. JOHN CASTANARO - Yes

DR. ROSALBA CORRADO DEL VECCHIO - Yes

DR. EDWARD FERGUS - Yes

ABDOOL H. JAMAL - Yes

DR. AMMIR RABADI - Absent

## **- FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

### **3.1 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD**

Comments from the Board Members

President Rev. Steve Lopez noted the March 23, 2020 Board of Education Special Meeting is being held via video conference via ZOOM.

This meeting was the first video conference format used by the Trustees. The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged public education to rethink and redesign the public's accessibility to public meetings. Like school districts across the country, we are confronting the potential for a prolonged inability to hold onsite public meetings.

## **- FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

### **4.1 SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES**

Communication from the Superintendent

Work has begun planning instruction beyond March 31, we will keep everyone updated.

Continuity of instruction is in progress. Every teacher is expected to have a schedule to provide direct instruction to our students for a specific amount of time. You can view some of the terrific work teachers are doing on social media.

Reminder to parents, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Andrea Coddett will be sending information out on how parents can request instructional materials. The district is also working on a loaner program and will put information out soon.

In terms of instruction the district has put out two very specific guidance documents. The most recent was put out last night for pupil support staff, however any teacher is welcome and encouraged to use the documents.

Grab N Go is continuing to be provided to our families. On Thursday close to 1,600 breakfast and lunches were distributed. On Friday close to 1,200 meals and today, so far the weather has not cooperated, we distributed 514 meals to our families. We are looking into opening additional sites.

The District was directed by the New York State Education Department to open Health Care Providers/First Responders (HCPs/FRs) childcare centers to accommodate Yonkers Public Schools registered students ages 4 through 12 who are the children of essential service providers, essential health care workers. In order to assist families with their childcare needs as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic related school closures, Healthy Kids Extended Day Program & Neighborhood Kids Achievement Program (KAP) will provide childcare for children who are students ages 4 through 12 and are the children of essential service providers from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. while the schools in the District are closed beginning March 23, 2020 and until Yonkers Public Schools reopen. If anyone is interested in the childcare please email Assistant Superintendent Dr. Corey Reynolds at [creynolds@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:creynolds@yonkerspublicschools.org)

Superintendent Quezada reminded everyone particularly our employees, we have a group of individuals that are essential employees. Essential employees includes the majority of our twelve month employees, school aides, safety officers, nurses, food service. Please be aware we will continue to contact you for you to assist us to provide the mandated services we are scheduled to provide, which includes continuity of instruction, child care and providing breakfast and lunch to our families. We will continue to follow the regulations of the Governor Cuomo.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

### **5.1 ADOPTION OF SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS - 5.2**

#### **ADOPTION OF SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS - 5.2**

#### **Resolution: ADOPTION OF SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS - 5.2**

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Judith Ramos Meier**) Moved, Member (**Dr. John Castanaro**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'ADOPTION OF SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS - 5.2'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 8 - 0**

Abdool H. Jamal	Yes
Andrea Brown	Yes
Dr. Edward Fergus	Yes
Dr. John Castanaro	Yes
Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio	Yes
Judith Ramos Meier	Yes
Kevin Cacace	Yes
Steve Lopez	Yes

## **5.2 Child Care Resolution**

Scope: In order to assist families with their childcare needs as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic related school closures, Healthy Kids Extended Day Program & Neighborhood Kids Achievement Program (KAP) will provide childcare for children who are students ages 4 through 12 and are the children of essential service providers from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM while the schools in the District are closed beginning March 23, 2020 and until Yonkers Public Schools reopen.

**Resolution:** WHEREAS the District was directed by the New York State Education Department to open Health Care Providers/First Responders (HCPs/FRs) childcare centers to accommodate Yonkers Public Schools registered students ages 4 through 12 who are the children of essential service providers, essential health care workers including, but not limited to licensed health professionals such as physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, registered nurses, LPNs and nurse assistants or laboratory personnel, and pharmacists, and first responders including, but not limited to paramedics, emergency medical technicians, police officers, and firefighters, and as space permits, HCPs/FRs will accommodate children of YPS district essential employees, and WHEREAS Healthy Kids Extended Day Program & Neighborhood Kids Achievement Program (KAP) are childcare providers approved by the Office of Children and Family Services, and WHEREAS the Board of Education wishes to enter into a contract with Healthy Kids Extended Day Program & Neighborhood Kids Achievement Program (KAP) to provide childcare for Yonkers Public Schools registered students ages 4 through 12 who are the children of essential service providers and first responders during the Covid-19 Pandemic related school closures beginning March 23, 2020 and until the Yonkers Public Schools reopen, and WHEREAS the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to enter into an agreement with Healthy Kids Extended Day Program & Neighborhood Kids Achievement Program (KAP) to provide these services. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to enter into agreements with Healthy Kids Extended Day Program & Neighborhood Kids Achievement Program (KAP) for a total cost not to exceed \$60,000.00.

### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Judith Ramos Meier**) Moved, Member (**Dr. John Castanaro**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'WHEREAS the District was directed by the New York State Education Department to open Health Care Providers/First Responders (HCPs/FRs) childcare centers to accommodate Yonkers Public Schools registered students ages 4 through 12 who are the children of essential service providers, essential health care workers including, but not limited to licensed health professionals such as physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, registered nurses, LPNs and nurse assistants or laboratory personnel, and pharmacists, and first responders including, but not limited to paramedics, emergency medical technicians, police officers, and firefighters, and as space permits, HCPs/FRs will accommodate children of YPS district essential employees, and WHEREAS Healthy Kids Extended Day Program & Neighborhood Kids Achievement Program (KAP) are childcare providers approved by the Office of Children and Family Services, and WHEREAS the Board of Education wishes to enter into a contract with Healthy Kids Extended Day Program & Neighborhood Kids Achievement Program (KAP) to provide childcare for Yonkers Public Schools registered students ages 4 through 12 who are the children of essential service providers and first responders during the Covid-19 Pandemic related school closures beginning March 23, 2020 and until the Yonkers Public Schools reopen, and WHEREAS the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to enter into an agreement with Healthy Kids Extended Day Program & Neighborhood Kids Achievement Program (KAP) to provide these services. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to enter into agreements with Healthy Kids Extended Day Program & Neighborhood Kids Achievement

Program (KAP) for a total cost not to exceed \$60,000.00'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 8 - 0**

Abdool H. Jamal	Yes
Andrea Brown	Yes
Dr. Edward Fergus	Yes
Dr. John Castanaro	Yes
Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio	Yes
Judith Ramos Meier	Yes
Kevin Cacace	Yes
Steve Lopez	Yes

## **FINANCE**

### **6.1 ADOPTION OF FINANCE REPORTS - 6.2**

May I have a motion to vote on the Adoption of Finance Reports - 6.2?

**Resolution:** ADOPTION OF FINANCE REPORTS - 6.2

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio**) Moved, Member (**Dr. John Castanaro**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'ADOPTION OF FINANCE REPORTS - 6.2'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 8 - 0**

Abdool H. Jamal	Yes
Andrea Brown	Yes
Dr. Edward Fergus	Yes
Dr. John Castanaro	Yes
Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio	Yes
Judith Ramos Meier	Yes
Kevin Cacace	Yes
Steve Lopez	Yes

### **6.2 Budget Transfers**

Reallocation of appropriations to align with currently projected expenditures

**Resolution:** NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That all budget transfers as listed on the attached document are hereby authorized

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio**) Moved, Member (**Dr. John Castanaro**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That all budget transfers as listed on the attached document are hereby authorized'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 8 - 0**

Abdool H. Jamal	Yes
Andrea Brown	Yes

Dr. Edward Fergus	Yes
Dr. John Castanaro	Yes
Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio	Yes
Judith Ramos Meier	Yes
Kevin Cacace	Yes
Steve Lopez	Yes

## COVID-19 EMERGENCY AGREEMENT

### **7.1 ADOPTION OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY AGREEMENTS - 7.2 - 7.3**

ADOPTION OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY AGREEMENTS -

May I have a motion to vote on the Adoption of Covid-19 Emergency Agreements - 7.2 - 7.3 ?

**Resolution:** ADOPTION OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY AGREEMENTS - 7.2 - 7.3

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Dr. John Castanaro**) Moved, Member (**Dr. Edward Fergus**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'ADOPTION OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY AGREEMENTS - 7.2 - 7.3'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 8 - 0**

Abdool H. Jamal	Yes
Andrea Brown	Yes
Dr. Edward Fergus	Yes
Dr. John Castanaro	Yes
Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio	Yes
Judith Ramos Meier	Yes
Kevin Cacace	Yes
Steve Lopez	Yes

### **7.2 Yonkers Federation of Teachers (YFT) Emergency Agreement Re: Absences and Accruals**

Yonkers Federation of Teachers (YFT) Emergency Agreement Re: Absences and Accruals

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020 the Governor of the State of New York issued an Executive Order declaring a state disaster emergency for the entire state due to travel related cases and community contact transmission of the Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) occurring in New York State; and WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the Mayor of the City of Yonkers declared a state of emergency in the City due to emergency conditions produced by COVID-19 that threaten or imperil the public safety of its citizens; WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 the Westchester County Executive declared a state of emergency in the County due to the emergency conditions produced by COVID-19 that threaten or imperil the safety of its citizens; WHEREAS, due to the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant state of emergency, the Board of Education of the City of Yonkers wishes to state its approval by ratifying the Agreement; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Yonkers Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the Board of Education and Yonkers Federation of Teachers (YFT) attached hereto.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Dr. John Castanaro**) Moved, Member (**Dr. Edward Fergus**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020 the Governor of the State of New York issued

an Executive Order declaring a state disaster emergency for the entire state due to travel related cases and community contact transmission of the Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) occurring in New York State; and WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the Mayor of the City of Yonkers declared a state of emergency in the City due to emergency conditions produced by COVID-19 that threaten or imperil the public safety of its citizens; WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 the Westchester County Executive declared a state of emergency in the County due to the emergency conditions produced by COVID-19 that threaten or imperil the safety of its citizens; WHEREAS, due to the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant state of emergency, the Board of Education of the City of Yonkers wishes to state its approval by ratifying the Agreement; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Yonkers Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the Board of Education and Yonkers Federation of Teachers (YFT) attached hereto'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 8 - 0**

Abdool H. Jamal	Yes
Andrea Brown	Yes
Dr. Edward Fergus	Yes
Dr. John Castanaro	Yes
Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio	Yes
Judith Ramos Meier	Yes
Kevin Cacace	Yes
Steve Lopez	Yes

### **7.3 Yonkers Federation of Teachers (YFT) Emergency Agreement Re: Work During Closure**

Yonkers Federation of Teachers (YFT) Emergency Agreement Re: Work During Closure

**Resolution:** WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020 the Governor of the State of New York issued an Executive Order declaring a state disaster emergency for the entire state due to travel related cases and community contact transmission of the Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) occurring in New York State; and WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the Mayor of the City of Yonkers declared a state of emergency in the City due to emergency conditions produced by COVID-19 that threaten or imperil the public safety of its citizens; WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 the Westchester County Executive declared a state of emergency in the County due to the emergency conditions produced by COVID-19 that threaten or imperil the safety of its citizens; WHEREAS, due to the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant state of emergency, the Board of Education of the City of Yonkers wishes to state its approval by ratifying the Agreement; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Yonkers Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the Board of Education and Yonkers Federation of Teachers (YFT) attached hereto.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Dr. John Castanaro**) Moved, Member (**Dr. Edward Fergus**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020 the Governor of the State of New York issued an Executive Order declaring a state disaster emergency for the entire state due to travel related cases and community contact transmission of the Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) occurring in New York State; and WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the Mayor of the City of Yonkers declared a state of emergency in the City due to emergency conditions produced by COVID-19 that threaten or imperil the public safety of its citizens; WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 the Westchester County Executive declared a state of emergency in the County due to the emergency conditions produced by COVID-19 that threaten or imperil the safety of its citizens; WHEREAS, due to the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant state of emergency, the Board of Education of the

City of Yonkers wishes to state its approval by ratifying the Agreement; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Yonkers Board of Education hereby approves the Agreement between the Board of Education and Yonkers Federation of Teachers (YFT) attached hereto'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 8 - 0**

Abdool H. Jamal	Yes
Andrea Brown	Yes
Dr. Edward Fergus	Yes
Dr. John Castanaro	Yes
Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio	Yes
Judith Ramos Meier	Yes
Kevin Cacace	Yes
Steve Lopez	Yes

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **8.1 ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourn meeting.

**Resolution:** Motion to adjourn.

### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Judith Ramos Meier**) Moved, Member (**Andrea Brown**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Motion to adjourn'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **8** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 8 - 0**

Abdool H. Jamal	Yes
Andrea Brown	Yes
Dr. Edward Fergus	Yes
Dr. John Castanaro	Yes
Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio	Yes
Judith Ramos Meier	Yes
Kevin Cacace	Yes
Steve Lopez	Yes