

MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION STATED MEETING YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS Thursday, April 2, 2020 (4:00 PM)

THE FOLLOWING ACTION IS HEREBY RECORDED OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 2, 2020 AT 4:00 P.M.

In adherence with social distancing requirements and Governor Cuomo's Executive Order, the Board of Education Special Meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2020 was held via video conference via Zoom. The meeting was streamed live at www.yonkerspublicschools.org

Yonkers Board of Education **agendas, actions and webcasts** are available to the public on the District's website; 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
Kevin Cacace
Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio
Dr. Edward Fergus
Abdool H. Jamal

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order by President Rev. Steve Lopez at 4:15 PM.

1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was led by President Rev. Steve Lopez.

1.2 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.

1.3 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 - Absent
KEVIN CACACE - Yes
DR. JOHN CASTANARO - Absent
DR. ROSALBA CORRADO DEL VECCHIO - Yes
DR. EDWARD FERGUS - Yes
ABDOOL H. JAMAL - Yes
DR. AMMIR RABADI - Absent

COMMUNICATIONS

- FROM BOARD MEMBERS

3.1 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD

Comments from the Board Members

Board President Rev. Steve Lopez spoke about the challenges ahead of us with the budget for the Yonkers Public Schools.

- FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

4.1 SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Communication from the Superintendent

Our sincerest condolences to those who have lost loved ones during this time and our hearts go out to everyone suffering from this horrible disease.

Superintendent Quezada spoke about the instruction taking place in our homes, and expressed gratitude and pride to staff, teachers, parents and students during this difficult time.

Friday, April 10, 2020 will be a day dedicated in the Yonkers Public Schools to say thank you to all of our first responders. Thank you messages will be posted on social media to all of our first responders.

Superintendent Quezada invited the Trustees to read to our students. Select a book, record yourself reading and the recording will be shared on the Yonkers Public Schools website for our students and families to view. Please send your recordings to Dawn Bartz, DBartz@yonkerspublicschools.org

The district distributed two hundred and ninety-one laptops to families who requested hardware. We are expecting an additional six hundred and twenty laptops to be available to our families. One hundred and sixty-nine ipads will be distributed tomorrow to grades Pre-K through Grade 2.

Superintendent Quezada spoke about the current childcare centers that accommodate Yonkers Public Schools registered students ages 4 through 12 who are the children of essential service providers and essential health care workers and the Grab 'N Go Program.

The district has distributed close to 20,000 meals to our families. Superintendent Quezada reminded families to take advantage of our Free Grab 'N Go Breakfast and Lunch program.

Yonkers Public Schools is pleased to provide free Grab 'N Go breakfast and lunch to all children 18 years of age and under in the City of Yonkers while schools are closed. Grab 'N Go is provided weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the following locations:

- Eugenio Maria de Hostos MicroSociety School, 75 Morris Street
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy, 135 Locust Hill Avenue
- Roosevelt High School-Early College Studies, H.S., 631 Tuckahoe Road
- Scholastic Academy, for Academic Excellence, 77 Park Hill Avenue
- School 5, 118 Lockwood Avenue
- School 13, 195 McLean Avenue
- Thomas Cornell Academy, 15 St. Marys Street
- Yonkers Middle High School, 150 R - Rockland Avenue

Superintendent Quezada gave an update on the budget and spoke about the challenges ahead of us. The budget is expected to be approved by the Legislature today. The budget does not look good for the Yonkers Public Schools. The initial projected budget gap is \$42 Million.

We are expecting our State Delegation, led by Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins to make another \$12 Million available to us, which would make our budget gap approximately \$30 Million. A formal Budget Presentation will be held at the upcoming April 22, 2020 Board of Education Stated Meeting.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY AGREEMENTS

5.1 ADOPTION OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY AGREEMENTS - 5.2 - 5.4

ADOPTION OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY AGREEMENTS - 5.2 - 5.4

May I have a motion to vote on the Adoption of Covid-19 Emergency Agreements -5.2 - 5.4?

Resolution: ADOPTION OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY AGREEMENTS -5.2 - 5.4

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Judith Ramos Meier**) Moved, Member (**Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'ADOPTION OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY AGREEMENTS -5.2 - 5.4'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

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

5.2 Yonkers Council of Administrators (YCA) Emergency Agreement Re: Work During Closure

Yonkers Council of Administrators (YCA) Emergency Agreement Re: Work During Closure
Yonkers Council of Administrators (YCA) 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 Council of Administrators (YCA) attached hereto.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Judith Ramos Meier**) Moved, Member (**Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio**) 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 Council of Administrators (YCA) attached hereto'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

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

5.3 CSEA Emergency Agreement Re: Work During Closure

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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 CSEA attached hereto.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Judith Ramos Meier**) Moved, Member (**Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio**) 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 CSEA attached hereto'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

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

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

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 (**Judith Ramos Meier**) Moved, Member (**Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio**) 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: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

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

ADJOURNMENT

6.1 ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn meeting.

Resolution: Motion to adjourn.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Judith Ramos Meier**) Moved, Member (**Dr. Edward Fergus**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'Motion to adjourn'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

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