

MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Thursday, August 20, 2020 (11:00 AM)

THE FOLLOWING ACTION IS HEREBY RECORDED OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 20, 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 Thursday, August 20, 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

Andrea Brown

Kevin Cacace

Dr. John Castanaro *

Lakisha Collins-Bellamy

Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio

Abdool H. Jamal

*Dr. John Castanaro lost connection prior to roll call. He rejoined the meeting prior to any votes taken.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Superintendent Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Andrea Coddett, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Luis Rodriguez, Manager of Administration Dr. Fenix Arias, Ted Von Hone, Joanna Topping and various staff.

1.1 CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order by President Rev. Steve Lopez at 11:10 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 Vice President Judith Ramos Meier.

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

JUDITH RAMOS MEIER

ANDREA BROWN

KEVIN CACACE

DR. JOHN CASTANARO *

LAKISHA COLLINS-BELLAMY

DR. ROSALBA CORRADO DEL VECCHIO

ABDOOL H. JAMAL

*Dr. John Castanaro lost connection prior to roll call. He rejoined the meeting prior to any votes taken.

FROM BOARD MEMBERS

3.1 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD

Board President Rev. Steve Lopez proceeded to read resolution 4.2 Yonkers Public Schools Reopening Plan implementation whereby all Yonkers Public Schools students will begin the school year using an Online Remote Instruction model according to our School Reopening Plan posted on the District’s website. Students will remain at home and teachers will provide online remote instruction from the school buildings.

Instruction will begin for students as follows:

- **Tuesday, September 8** - Kindergarten through grade twelve (12) students begin instruction remotely,
- **Wednesday, September 9**, Prekindergarten students will participate in a half-day orientation remotely,
- **Thursday, September 10**, Prekindergarten students begin instruction remotely.

On Monday, October 5, all students districtwide will transition to a Hybrid Instruction model - all students are assigned to specific groups and receive instruction in-person at school sites on designated days of the week as well as online remotely from home on the other days of the week. Parents/guardians will have the option to continue their child's education using only the Online Remote Instruction model.

Superintendent Dr. Edwin M. Quezada provided an update to the community in English and Spanish on the Yonkers Public Schools Reopening Plan implementation.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

4.1 ADOPTION OF SUPERINTENDENT REPORT - 4.2

ADOPTION OF SUPERINTENDENT REPORT - 4.2

Resolution: ADOPTION OF SUPERINTENDENT REPORT - 4.2

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Judith Ramos Meier**) Moved, Member (**Abdool H. Jamal**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'ADOPTION OF SUPERINTENDENT REPORT - 4.2'. 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. John Castanaro	Yes
Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio	Yes
Judith Ramos Meier	Yes
Kevin Cacace	Yes
Lakisha Collins-Bellamy	Yes
Rev. Steve Lopez	Yes

4.2 Yonkers Public Schools Reopening Plan implementation

Yonkers Public Schools Reopening Plan implementation

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; and 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; and WHEREAS, the State of New York continues to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and WHEREAS, on July 31, 2020 Yonkers Public Schools submitted a School Reopening Plan to the State Education Department outlining the following three models for instruction during the 2020-2021 school year: 1) In-Person Instruction; 2) Hybrid Instruction; and 3) Online Remote Instruction; and WHEREAS, on August 7, the Governor of the State of New York announced that Schools may reopen provided that the average rate of positive coronavirus tests is and remains below 5% over a two-week period in the region where the schools are located; and WHEREAS, due to the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Education of the City of Yonkers (“Board”) has determined that it is in the best interest of the District’s students to delay the opening of school buildings to students only and to begin the school year with Online Remote Instruction for all students with a transition to Hybrid Instruction in accordance with the models outlined in the Yonkers Public Schools (“YPS”) School Reopening Plan; and NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on September 8, 2020 Kindergarten through grade 12 students will begin Online Remote Instruction in accordance with the YPS School Reopening Plan. During this time students will remain at home and teachers will provide online remote instruction from the school buildings; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on September 9, 2020 Prekindergarten students will participate in a half-day orientation remotely and on September 10, 2020 will begin Online Remote Instruction in accordance with the YPS School Reopening Plan. Students will remain at home and teachers will provide online remote instruction from the school buildings; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on October 5, 2020 all students will transition to Hybrid Instruction in accordance with the YPS School Reopening Plan; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that parents/guardians will have the option to continue their child’s education by Online Remote Instruction only; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all dates are subject to adjustment based on COVID 19 pandemic changes, Department of Health and State Education Department Guidelines and federal, state and local laws.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Judith Ramos Meier**) Moved, Member (**Abdool H. Jamal**) 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; and 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; and WHEREAS, the State of New York continues to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and WHEREAS, on July 31, 2020 Yonkers Public Schools submitted a School Reopening Plan to the State Education Department outlining the following three models for instruction during the 2020-2021 school year: 1) In-Person Instruction; 2) Hybrid Instruction; and 3) Online Remote Instruction; and WHEREAS, on August 7, the Governor of the State of New York announced that Schools may reopen provided that the average rate of positive coronavirus tests is and remains below 5% over a two-week period in the region where the schools are located; and WHEREAS, due to the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Education of the City of Yonkers (“Board”) has determined that it is in the best interest of the District’s students to delay the opening of school buildings to students only and to begin the school year with Online Remote Instruction for all students with a transition to Hybrid Instruction in accordance with the models outlined in the Yonkers Public Schools (“YPS”) School Reopening Plan; and NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on September 8, 2020 Kindergarten through grade 12 students will begin Online Remote Instruction in accordance with the YPS School Reopening Plan. During this time students will remain at home and teachers will provide online remote instruction from the school buildings; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on September 9, 2020 Prekindergarten students will participate in a half-day orientation remotely and on September 10, 2020 will begin Online Remote Instruction in accordance with the YPS School Reopening Plan. Students will remain at home and teachers will provide online remote instruction from the school buildings; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on October 5, 2020 all students will transition to Hybrid Instruction in accordance with the YPS School Reopening Plan; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that parents/guardians will have the option to continue their child’s education by Online Remote Instruction only; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all dates are subject to adjustment based on COVID 19 pandemic changes, Department of Health and State Education Department Guidelines and federal, state and local laws’. 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. John Castanaro	Yes
Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio	Yes
Judith Ramos Meier	Yes
Kevin Cacace	Yes
Lakisha Collins-Bellamy	Yes
Rev. Steve Lopez	Yes

ADJOURNMENT

5.1 ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn meeting.

Resolution: Motion to adjourn.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Judith Ramos Meier**) Moved, Member (**Lakisha Collins Bellamy**) 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. John Castanaro	Yes
Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio	Yes
Judith Ramos Meier	Yes
Kevin Cacace	Yes
Lakisha Collins-Bellamy	Yes
Rev. Steve Lopez	Yes