

**HACKENSACK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
191 SECOND STREET, HACKENSACK, NJ 07601  
SPECIAL MEETING MEETING  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

**I Flag Salute / Moment of Silence / Sunshine Statement / Call to Order / Roll Call**

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, adequate notification of this meeting has been provided by advertising in The Record and posting notice in the Board of Education Administration Building (Padovano Education Center) and filing notice with the City Clerk. I hereby call to order the Special Meeting, Wednesday, February 5, 2025, in the Hackensack High School Media Center, at 6:16 pm.

<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Ms. Amirhamzeh (Leila)	x	
Mr. Carroll (Demetrius)	x	
Ms. Cordero-Outen (Lissette)		x
Ms. Gilmore (Eugina "Gina")	x	
Mr. Martin (Kenneth)	x	
Ms. Pringle (Shivonnie)	x	
Ms. Harris (Jennifer)- President	x	
Mr. Stein (Mark)- Vice President	x	
TBD- Vacancy		

*\* Dr. McBryde was unable to attend the meeting. Assistant Superintendent Rosemary Marks sat in his place.*

- Appointment of Interim Legal Counsel**

**Be It Resolved**, that the Hackensack Board of Education, approves the appointment of Antonelli Kantor Rivera PC, **Interim Counsel**, to represent the Board of Education, from 02/05/25 to 02/28/25, at the following rate of \$175.00 per hour for attorneys and \$90.00 per hour for paralegal services; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that Madelaine P. Hicks Esq., will be the primary contact and coordinating attorney; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, all bills shall be forwarded to the Board Secretary for review and the processing for payment.

<b>Appointment of Temporary Legal Counsel</b>				
<i>Motion: Trustee Amrihamzeh</i>	<i>Second: Trustee Pringle</i>			
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Ms. Amirhamzeh (Leila)	x			
Mr. Carroll (Demetrius)	x			
Ms. Cordero-Outen (Lissette)				x
Ms. Gilmore (Eugina "Gina")	x			
Mr. Martin (Kenneth)	x			
Ms. Pringle (Shivonnie)	x			
Ms. Harris (Jennifer)- President	x			

Mr. Stein (Mark)- Vice President	<b>x</b>			
TBD- Vacancy				

- **Interview Candidates by order of date of application received**
  - Kiyomi K. Campbell
  - Melanie Alston-Balaputra

### Approval – Appointment Of Board Member

**Whereas**, the Hackensack Public School District has one vacant board member position;

**Be It Resolved**, the Hackensack Board of Education hereby appoints the board member candidate listed below to serve as board member through the reorganization meeting of January 2026.

1. Melanie Alston-Balaputra

<b>Approval of New Trustee</b>				
<b>Motion: Trustee Stein</b>	<b>Second: Trustee Carroll</b>			
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Ms. Amirhamzeh (Leila)	<b>x</b>			
Mr. Carroll (Demetrius)	<b>x</b>			
Ms. Cordero-Outen (Lissette)				<b>x</b>
Ms. Gilmore (Eugina “Gina)	<b>x</b>			
Mr. Martin (Kenneth)	<b>x</b>			
Ms. Pringle (Shivonnie)	<b>x</b>			
Ms. Harris (Jennifer)- President	<b>x</b>			
Mr. Stein (Mark)- Vice President	<b>x</b>			
TBD- Vacancy				

*\* Trustee Stein nominated Melanie Alston-Balaputra to fill the vacant seat, seconded by Trustee Carroll*

- **Administer the Oath of Office to newly appointed Board Member:** February 26, 2025, pending clearance of background check.

### II. Presentations

### III. Executive Session

**Be It Resolved**, that the Hackensack Board of Education determines it is unnecessary to meet in Executive Session on Wednesday, February 5, 2025.

### IV. Public Comments

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules: 1) If in person, a participant must sign the “sign-in” sheet and be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable; 2) Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes’ duration during the public session; 3) All statements, questions, or inquiries shall be directed to the presiding officer and any questions or inquiries directed by a participant to another Board member shall be redirected to the presiding officer who shall determine if such statement, question, or inquiry shall be addressed by the presiding officer on behalf of the Board or by the individual Board member; and 4) All Board and/or Superintendent responses to questions or inquiries shall be held until the end of public participation.

- Commend both ladies (interviewees) for getting involved in the fight for a better school system.
- Ms. Alston understands the commitment that must be made and is knowledgeable about the need to go to meetings with the State Board, something other members should participate in.

**V. Resolutions- None**

**A. Community Relations**

- Committee has been finalized, total number of members is 14 (including one student representative and three trustees)
- Community is the heart of Hackensack, looking forward to it.

**B. Other Committees**

**VI. New Business**

**VII. Second Public Comment** (Individuals may address the Board on Agenda and School Matters of Community Interest for 1 minute)

**VIII. Board Comments**

- Thank you to the two candidates.
- Thank you to everyone who came out.
- Ms. Campbell there are always opportunities to come, don't give up.
- Congrats Ms. Alston, looking forward to working with you.
- Stay connected with the board.
- Working closely together to ensure the community feels safe, especially immigrant students and their families as well as LGBTQ.
- Remainder that there are resources on district website and is continually update as information comes in
- Preschool enrollment opens on February 12, 2025.
- February is American Heart month, Friday is National Wear Red Day- please remember to wear red.
- Take part in raising awareness, improve your health and reduce the risk of heart disease.
- February Black History Month- Hackensack High School Dance Team will perform on February 7, 2025 at 7pm, doors open at 6:30pm.
- Have a blessed night.
- Always very hard to choose between 2 qualified candidates, unfortunately there was only one seat to fill.
- Congrats to the Lady Comets basketball team- they were down by 16 points but managed to win against Fairlawn.
- February is a very busy month, this week is National School Counselor Week, Black History Month, Heart Health Month.
- Two candidates stay in touch.
- Thank you Central office and Board members for all the hard work.

**IX. Adjournment**

*Trustee Stein motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:07pm, seconded by Trustee Carroll.*

Respectfully submitted,



Lydia Singh, SBA/Board Secretary