



May 19, 2025 ~ 7:45am
Special Meeting of the ESM Board of Education
ESM District Office ~ Upstairs Conference Room

II-A-4903
06/12/2025

SPECIAL MEETING

Board of Education Present: Mrs. Diana Abdella, Mr. John Albanese, Mrs. Susan Cain, Mrs. Tracy Callahan, Mrs. Deborah Kolod.

Board of Education Absent: Mrs. Lori Aird, Mrs. Leah Cushing, Mrs. Kay Gallery, Mr. D. Paul Waltz.

Administrative Personnel Present: Dr. Donna DeSiato, Supt.; Mr. Grenardo Avellino, Deputy Supt.; Mrs. Katherine Skahen, Exec. Dir. of School Bus. Admin./Clerk; Ms. Pamela Buddendeck, Executive Director of Employee Engagement & Accountability.

Other Present:

Interested Citizens: 0

MRS. TRACY CALLAHAN, VICE PRESIDENT, CALLED THE SPECIAL MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:49 AM AT THE ESM DISTRICT OFFICE.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SPECIAL PRESENTATION/RECOGNITIONS: None

REPORTS:

A. Acceptance of Minutes

None

B. President/Vice President/Board Member Reports

None

C. Superintendent Reports

Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO) Authorization & Appointment

“RESOLVED BY MR. ALBANESE, SECONDED BY MRS. KOLOD THAT, the Reports A – C, as recommended by the Superintendent be approved.”

Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Motion Carried

FIFTEEN MINUTE PERIOD: None

ACTION ITEMS:

A. Authorization to Appoint Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO)

“WHEREAS, the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education require that the School District initiate the selection process to obtain an Impartial Hearing Officer no later than two business days after receipt by the school district of a due process complaint notice and that, after the Impartial Hearing Officer accepts appointment, the board of education immediately appoint the Impartial Hearing Officer; and

WHEREAS, Section 200.5(j)(3)(ii) of the Commissioner’s Regulations authorizes a Board of Education to designate one or more of its members to appoint the Impartial Hearing Officer.”

“NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT;

- 1) The President and Vice-President are designated by the Board to appoint an Impartial Hearing Officer selected in accordance with Part 200 of the Commissioner’s Regulations and Board of Education policy, which appointment shall be ratified by the Board of Education at its next regularly scheduled meeting.
- 2) This resolution shall be effective immediately and shall continue in effect until revoked by the Board of Education.”

“RESOLVED BY MRS. KOLOD, SECONDED BY MRS. ABDELLA THAT, the Action Item A, as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved.”

Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Motion Carried

B. Appointment of Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO)

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the ESM Board of Education appoint Israel Wahrman, Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO) upon the request of a parent/guardian for an Impartial Hearing of a Special Education matter.”

“RESOLVED BY MRS. ABDELLA, SECONDED BY MRS. KOLOD THAT, the Action Item B, as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved.”

Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Motion Carried

CONSENT AGENDA: None

PERSONNEL ITEMS:

A. Resignations

Laura McAuslan, Mathematics Teacher - Central High School, Eff. 7/1/2025

Eunice Ray, English Teacher - Central High School, Eff. 8/28/2025

B. Retirements

Donna Peck, Teaching Assistant, Woodland Elementary, Eff. 7/1/2025

Linda Burns, School Bus Dispatcher - Transportation Center, Eff. 10/1/2025

“RESOLVED BY MRS. CAIN, SECONDED BY MRS. KOLOD THAT, Personnel Items A-B, as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved.”

Ayes –5, Nays – 0, Motion Carried

POLICY DISCUSSION: None

POLICY ACTION: None

“RESOLVED BY MRS. KOLOD, SECONDED BY MRS. CAIN THAT, THE SPECIAL MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:00 AM”

Ayes - 5, Nays - 0, Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Skahen
District Clerk

Approved _____
Filed _____



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AGENDA

- I. SPECIAL PRESENTATION/RECOGNITIONS:** None
- II. REPORTS:**
 - A. Acceptance of Minutes
None
 - B. President/Vice President/Board Member Reports
None
 - C. Superintendent Reports
Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO) Authorization & Appointment
- III. FIFTEEN MINUTE PERIOD:** None
- IV. ACTION ITEMS:**
 - A. Authorization to Appoint Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO)
 - B. Appointment of Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO)
- CONSENT AGENDA:** None
- V. PERSONNEL ITEMS:**
 - A. Resignations
 - B. Retirements
- VI. POLICY DISCUSSION:** None
- VI. POLICY ACTION:** None