

**ORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE  
BAYONNE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024  
6:30 PM  
ALEXANDER X. O’CONNOR AUDITORIUM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Gary Maita, Board Secretary, will call the Organization Meeting to order.

**SUNSHINE LAW**

Be advised that this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975 (Sunshine Law) and that adequate notice of the date, time and agenda has been sent to the Jersey Journal and has been posted and filed with the Municipal Clerk of the City of Bayonne and posted on the district website in accordance with the law.

**STATEMENT OF VIDEOTAPING OF PUBLIC PORTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

Please note that the public portion of all board of education meetings are videotaped and available for public viewing on our website. Therefore, members of the public should have no expectation of privacy in any statements that they make when addressing the Board/Administration.

**NO SMOKING ON SCHOOL GROUNDS**

Please be advised that there is no smoking on school grounds – inside or outside – at any time.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Dr. Gary Maita will lead The Pledge of Allegiance.

**RESULTS OF ELECTION**

Dr. Gary Maita will read the results of the School Board Election conducted on November 7, 2023 General Election Ballot from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM by the County Board of Elections:

**CERTIFIED ELECTION RESULTS**

<b>THREE YEAR TERM</b>	
<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>
Lisa Burke	2835
Miriam Bechay	2687
Angela Sanniola	2762
Mariam Salama	941
Michael J. Alonso	1079
Write-In	245

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE**

Ms. Nita Raval, Esq., will administer the prescribed oath of office to elected Board members: Lisa Burke, Miriam Bechay and Angela Sanniola.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lisa Burke, Miriam Bechay, and Angela Sanniola

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHERS PRESENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT**

According to Bylaw 0152, Dr. Gary Maita, Board Secretary, will open up the nomination for the position of Board President.

Dr. Gary Maita will explain that if there was more than one nomination for President or Vice President, candidates will be voted on in order in which they were nominated.

Mary Jane Desmond nominates Jodi Casais.

Sam Maggio seconds.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

<b>MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD PRESIDENT</b>	
<b>MOVED BY</b>	<b>Mary Jane Desmond</b>
<b>SECONDED BY</b>	<b>Sam Maggio</b>
<b>AYE</b>	<b>Bechay, Burke, Casais, Desmond, Godesky-Rodriguez, Gonzalez Jr., Maggio, Sanniola, Sclafane</b>
<b>NAY</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

<b>ELECTION OF JODI CASAIS, BOARD PRESIDENT</b>	
<b>AYE</b>	<b>Bechay, Burke, Casais, Desmond, Godesky-Rodriguez, Gonzalez Jr., Maggio, Sanniola, Sclafane</b>
<b>NAY</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	

**ASSUMPTION OF THE CHAIR**

**ELECTION OF BOARD VICE PRESIDENT**

According to Bylaw 0152, Dr. Gary Maita, Board Secretary, will open up the nomination for the position of Board Vice President.

Mary Jane Desmond nominates Hector Gonzalez Jr.

Pam Sclafane seconds.

### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

<b>MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD VICE PRESIDENT</b>	
<b>MOVED BY</b>	<b>Mary Jane Desmond</b>
<b>SECONDED BY</b>	<b>Pam Sclafane</b>
<b>AYE</b>	<b>Bechay, Burke, Desmond, Godesky-Rodriguez, Gonzalez Jr., Maggio, Sanniola, Sclafane, Casais</b>
<b>NAY</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	

### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

<b>ELECTION OF HECTOR GONZALEZ JR., BOARD VICE PRESIDENT</b>	
<b>AYE</b>	<b>Bechay, Burke, Desmond, Godesky-Rodriguez, Gonzalez Jr., Maggio, Sanniola, Sclafane, Casais</b>
<b>NAY</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public Participation

State your name, address, and group affiliation, if applicable. You have the right to speak for three (3) minutes. Please direct your comments to the Board chairperson. You may not address or question an administrator or other Board members.

**Please observe reasonable decorum, do not be abusive, obscene or irrelevant.**

The chairperson may interrupt, warn, or terminate a speaker’s statement if reasonable decorum is not observed. **Thank you for helping to maintain a courteous and respectful atmosphere.**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Approval of the Consent Action Item

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves a Consent Agenda.

2. Approval of 2024-2025 Regular Meeting Dates

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bayonne Board of Education hereby adopts the following schedule of meetings to be held at 6:30 PM in the Alexander X. O’Connor Auditorium, Bayonne, NJ.

Open Workshop and Agenda sessions to be held at 5:30 PM in the Anna J. Herbert Meeting Room, in which the public may attend but may not participate.

Closed sessions may be held after each of these sessions.

January 30, 2024	January Monthly Meeting
February 20, 2024	February Monthly Meeting
March 19, 2024	March Monthly Meeting
April 16, 2024	April Monthly Meeting
May 21, 2024	May Monthly Meeting
June 20, 2024	June Monthly Meeting
July 16, 2024	July Monthly Meeting
August 20, 2024	August Monthly Meeting
September 17, 2024	September Monthly Meeting
October 15, 2024	October Monthly Meeting
November 19, 2024	November Monthly Meeting
December 17, 2024	December Monthly Meeting
January 7, 2025	Organization Meeting

3. Adoption of Bylaws, Policies and Regulations

BE IT RESOLVED that Bylaws and Policies printed and codified in the comprehensive document entitled BYLAWS AND POLICIES OF THE BAYONNE BOARD OF EDUCATION are heretofore adopted by the Bayonne Board of Education.

4. Approval of Payrolls and Signing of Warrants

BE IT RESOLVED that in the absence of the President of the Board of Education, the Vice President be and is hereby authorized to approve payrolls and sign warrants drawn against the Board of Education General School Fund.

PRESIDENT                      Jodi Casais

VICE PRESIDENT              Hector Gonzalez, Jr.

5. Designation of Official Newspaper for Notices

BE IT RESOLVED that the JERSEY JOURNAL be the primary Official Newspaper where legal notices of the school district shall be published.

6. Appointment of Delegate to Hudson County School Board Association

BE IT RESOLVED that Trustee Hector Gonzalez Jr. is appointed as Delegate to the Hudson County School Board Association.

ALTERNATE    Mary Jane Desmond

7. Appointment of Delegate to NJ School Board Association

BE IT RESOLVED that Trustee Sam Maggio is appointed as Delegate to the NJ School Board Association.

ALTERNATE    Pam Sclafane

8. ADOPTION OF CODE OF ETHICS

BE IT RESOLVED that, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21, the Bayonne Board of Education must minimally adhere to the following “Code of Ethics”:

### **CODE OF ETHICS**

- a. I will uphold and enforce all laws, state board rules and regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- b. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.
- c. I will confine my Board action to policy-making, planning, and appraisal and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the Board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- d. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow Board members, to see that they are well run.
- e. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board of Education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the Board.
- f. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan, political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
- g. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. But in all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow Board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.
- h. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- i. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- j. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

#### 9. Acceptance of Acknowledgments of Annual Ethics Training

BE IT RESOLVED that annual ethics training to its trustees under N.J.A.C. 6-3-1.3 and N.J.S.C. 6A:30, has been provided at its annual organization meeting.

10. Approval of Health Insurance Brokerage Services

BE IT RESOLVED that this Board of Education approves the continuation of the present contracts for the year January 4, 2024 to and including January 7, 2025 with exception of any provisions that are inconsistent with any existing laws of the State of NJ, and which include the following firms at the current rates and limits.

Health Insurance Brokerage: HORIZON BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD

11. Approval of Property, Casualty & Workmen’s Compensation Insurance Brokerage Services

BE IT RESOLVED that this Board of Education approves the continuation of the present contracts for the year January 4, 2024 to and including January 7, 2025 with exception of any provisions that are inconsistent with any existing laws of the State of NJ, and which include the following firms at the current rates and limits.

Property, Casualty & Workmen’s Compensation Insurance Brokerage Services  
FAIRVIEW INSURANCE

12. Acceptance of Communications:

Sade Coleman, MSW.

Resignation

13. Approval of Field Trips:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bayonne Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. John Niesz, approves the following field trips.

<b>ATTENDEE(S)</b>	<b>SCHOOL / DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>NAME OF FIELD TRIP</b>	<b>DATE(S)</b>	<b>COST</b>
11th-12th grade	BHS/ CTE Department	Drew University, 36 Madison Ave, Madison NJ 07940	1/11/2024	\$0.00
5th-8th grade	Lincoln Community School	Bayonne Municipal Building, 630 Avenue C Bayonne NJ	1/22/2024	\$0.00
8th grade	Horace Mann School	BHS Ice Rink, Avenue A, Bayonne NJ	1/26/2024	\$0.00
10th grade	BHS/ Social Studies	Rutgers University Busch Campus, 604 Bartholomew Rd, Piscataway, NJ 08854	1/24/2024	\$500.00

14. Approval of Reassignments



BE IT RESOLVED that based on the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. John Niesz, the below named personnel be reassigned to the position next to their name at the salary and effective dates indicated below:

2023-2024 REASSIGNMENTS

NAME	FROM	TO	NEW SALARY	EFFECTIVE DATE
Danielle Raslowsky	Teacher of Elementary School	10 Month Acting Assistant Principal, Henry E. Harris Community School	\$140,340	December 14, 2023 until TBD
Jason Acerra	10 Month Assistant Principal, Woodrow Wilson Community School	10 Month Acting Principal, Woodrow Wilson Community School	\$150,661	January 5, 2024 until TBD
Stefanie Tych	12 Month Assistant Supervisor of Special Services	10 Month Acting Assistant Principal, Woodrow Wilson Community School	\$140,340	January 5, 2024 until TBD

Shannon Anwander appointed 12/20/23 at Step 11 MA \$66,983; should be Step 17 MA \$104,651.

<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	
<b>MOVED BY</b>	<b>Melissa Godesky-Rodriguez</b>
<b>SECONDED BY</b>	<b>Jodi Casais</b>
<b>AYE</b>	<b>Bechay, Burke, Desmond, Godesky-Rodriguez, Maggio, Sanniola, Sclafane, Gonzalez Jr., Casais</b>
<b>NAY</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	

## **NON-CONSENT ACTION ITEMS**

### 1. Approval of Depositories

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bayonne Board of Education authorizes the use of the following depositories.

- A. Provident Bank
- B. BCB Community Bank
- C. State of NJ Cash Management Fund

<b>NON-CONSENT ACTION ITEMS</b>	
<b>MOVED BY</b>	<b>Sam Maggio</b>
<b>SECONDED BY</b>	<b>Jodi Casais</b>
<b>AYE</b>	<b>Bechay, Burke, Desmond, Godesky-Rodriguez, Maggio, Sanniola, Sclafane, Gonzalez Jr., Casais</b>
<b>NAY</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

<b>MOTION TO ADJOURN</b>	
<b>MOVED BY</b>	<b>Mary Jane Desmond</b>
<b>SECONDED BY</b>	<b>Angela Sanniola</b>
<b>AYE</b>	<b>Bechay, Burke, Desmond, Godesky-Rodriguez, Maggio, Sanniola, Sclafane, Gonzalez Jr., Casais</b>
<b>NAY</b>	

**TIME: 6:57**