

WINSLOW TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Reorganization Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, January 4, 2023
7:00 p.m.
Minutes

I. MEETING OPENED BY SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

II. PUBLIC NOTICE of this meeting was given to all Board Members and Associates in a notice dated **08/25/2022**. Adequate and electronic notice of this Public Meeting has been provided specifying the time, place, and manner in which this meeting is being conducted. It was advertised in the Courier Post, posted in all schools, the Administration Office, the Municipal Building, the Library, Bud Duble Center, Edgewood Acres, Elm Town, and the Winslow Township Post Offices.

III. MISSION STATEMENT

The **Mission** of the Winslow Township School District, a large diverse and growing community, is to educate all students to become independent, life-long learners, critical thinkers and caring and confident members of their community. The District, in partnership with the community, and in a climate of cooperation and mutual respect, will provide an academic environment which values excellence and diversity, encourages students to strive for personal excellence, and assists them in acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to contribute positively to a rapidly changing world.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. ELECTION RESULTS

Members of the Local Board of Education – Three (3 Year Terms)

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| ○ Debbie Esposito | 5,433 votes |
| ○ Julie Peterson | 4,809 votes |
| ○ Joe Thomas | 4,793 votes |

VI. INSTALLATION OF BOARD MEMBERS – ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE

The oath of office was administered to Debbie Esposito, Julie Peterson, and Joe Thomas by Howard Long, Esq., Solicitor.

VII. ROLL CALL

Present:	Debbie Esposito	Julie Peterson
	Lorraine Dredden	Cheryl Pitts
	Rita Martin	Joe Thomas
	Cynthia Moore	Kelly Thomas
	Rebecca Nieves	

Also Present:	H. Major Poteat, Ed.D., Superintendent
	Tyra McCoy-Boyle, Business Admin./Board Secretary
	Howard Long, Jr., Esq., Solicitor

VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO NEXT REORGANIZATION MEETING IN JANUARY 2024

A. The Board Secretary Opens the Floor for Nominations for Board President:

Nominated: Cheryl Pitts Move: Lorraine Dredden
Second: Julie Peterson

Motion to Close Nominations: Move: Rita Martin
Second: Lorraine Dredden

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Dredden, to close Nominations for Board President.

Roll Call:			
Ms. Dredden	Yes	Ms. Peterson	Yes
Ms. Esposito	Yes	Ms. Pitts	Yes
Ms. Martin	Yes	Ms. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Moore	Yes	Mr. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Nieves	Yes		
Motion Carried			

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Peterson, to elect Ms. Cheryl Pitts as President of the Winslow Township Board of Education for 2023.

Roll Call:			
Ms. Dredden	Yes	Ms. Peterson	Yes
Ms. Esposito	Abstain	Ms. Pitts	Yes
Ms. Martin	Yes	Ms. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Moore	Abstain	Mr. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Nieves	Abstain		
Motion Carried			

{Board President is seated and assumes direction of the meeting}

B. The Board President Opens the Floor for Nominations for Vice President:

Nominated: Julie Peterson Move: Ms. Martin
Second: Ms. Thomas

Nominated: Rebecca Nieves Move: Ms. Moore
Second: Ms. Esposito

Motion to Close Nominations: Move: Ms. Peterson
Second: Ms. Dredden

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Dredden, to close Nominations for Board Vice President.

Roll Call:			
Ms. Dredden	Yes	Ms. Peterson	Yes
Ms. Esposito	Yes	Ms. Pitts	Yes
Ms. Martin	Yes	Ms. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Moore	Yes	Mr. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Nieves	Yes		
Motion Carried			

Mr. Long explained a best practice when there are multiple nominations. He suggested when a Board Member's name is called, they should state who they vote for and that the majority carried will be the candidate who wins.

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Moore, to have Board Members cast their vote for Vice President during Roll Call.

Roll Call:			
Ms. Dredden	Peterson	Ms. Peterson	Peterson
Ms. Esposito	Nieves	Ms. Pitts	Peterson
Ms. Martin	Peterson	Ms. Thomas	Peterson
Ms. Moore	Nieves	Mr. Thomas	Peterson
Ms. Nieves	Nieves		
Ms. Peterson has won the nomination for Board Vice-President. Motion Carried			

C. Appointment of Board Secretary:

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Moore, to appoint Ms. Tyra McCoy-Boyle as the Board Secretary of the Winslow Township Board of Education for 2023.

Roll Call:			
Ms. Dredden	Yes	Ms. Peterson	Yes
Ms. Esposito	Yes	Ms. Pitts	Yes
Ms. Martin	Yes	Ms. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Moore	Yes	Mr. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Nieves	Yes		
Motion Carried			

D. Designation of Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.)

A motion was made by Ms. Esposito, seconded by Ms. Dredden, to approve to appoint Ms. Tyra McCoy-Boyle as the Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.) from January 2023 through December 2023.

Roll Call:			
Ms. Dredden	Yes	Ms. Peterson	Yes
Ms. Esposito	Yes	Ms. Pitts	Yes
Ms. Martin	Yes	Ms. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Moore	Yes	Mr. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Nieves	Yes		
Motion Carried			

IX. BUSINESS & OPERATIONS

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Dredden, to approve items A, B & C under the Business & Operations section.

A. Conduct of Board of Education Meetings

1. Parliamentary Authority

Approve the Conduct of Board of Education Meetings according to the Parliamentary authority established by Robert's Rules of Order.

Note: The Board of Education Bylaw Conduct of Board Meetings #0164.

2. Standing Sub-Committees

Approve the following Standing Sub-committees of the Board of Education through Reorganization January 2024:

- Athletic Committee
- Citizens Advisory Committee
- Education Committee
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
- Marketing Committee
- Negotiations Committee
- Operations Committee
- Policy/HR Committee

B. Schedule of 2023 Board of Education Meetings (Jan. 2023 – Aug. 2023)

Approve a schedule of Board of Education Meetings for January 2023 through August 2023:

<i>Regular Mtg.</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Regular Mtg.</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Wed., January 11, 2023	7:00 p.m.	Admin. Bldg.	Wed., January 25, 2023	7:00 p.m.	WTMS
Wed., February 8, 2023	7:00 p.m.	Admin. Bldg.	Wed., February 22, 2023	7:00 p.m.	Admin. Bldg.
Wed., March 8, 2023	7:00 p.m.	WTMS	Wed., March 22, 2023	7:00 p.m.	WTMS
Wed., April 5, 2023	7:00 p.m.	WTMS	Wed., April 26, 2023	7:00 p.m.	WTMS
Wed., May 10, 2023	7:00 p.m.	WTMS	Wed., May 24, 2023	7:00 p.m.	WTMS
Wed., June 14, 2023	7:00 p.m.	WTMS	Wed., June 28, 2023	7:00 p.m.	WTMS
Wed., July 12, 2023	7:00 p.m.	WTMS	Wed., July 26, 2023	7:00 p.m.	WTMS
Wed., August 9, 2023	7:00 p.m.	WTMS	Wed., August 23, 2023	7:00 p.m.	WTMS

Note: The remaining 2023 dates will be determined after the 2023-2024 school district calendar has been approved.

C. Board Member Code of Ethics

Approve the adoption of the Code of Ethics governing board behavior.

Note: Approval is required pursuant to Bylaw 0142.

Roll Call:			
Ms. Dredden	Yes	Ms. Peterson	Yes
Ms. Esposito	Yes	Ms. Pitts	Yes
Ms. Martin	Yes	Ms. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Moore	Yes	Mr. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Nieves	Yes		
Motion Carried			

X. **APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES AND BOARD COMMITTEES BY THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Martin, to approve the appointments of Delegates and Board Committees.

- A. NJ School Boards Association Representative: Ms. Pitts
- B. Camden County School Boards Representative: Ms. Martin
- C. NJ Urban Boards Committee Representative: Ms. Martin
- D. Camden County Educational Services Representative: Ms. Peterson
- E. Athletic Committee Chairperson: Ms. Martin
Member: Mr. Thomas
- F. Citizens Advisory Committee Advisor: Ms. Martin
Member: Ms. Esposito

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- G. Education Committee
 Chairperson: Ms. Peterson
 Member: Ms. Thomas
 Member: Ms. Martin

- H. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
 Chairperson: Ms. Thomas
 Member: Ms. Peterson
 Member: Ms. Pitts

- I. Marketing Committee
 Chairperson: Ms. Moore
 Member: Mr. Thomas
 Member: Ms. Nieves

- J. Negotiations Committee
 Chairperson: Ms. Peterson
 Member: Ms. Dredden
 Member: Ms. Martin

- K. Operations Committee
 Chairperson: Ms. Dredden
 Member: Ms. Esposito
 Member: Ms. Thomas

- L. Policy/HR Committee
 Chairperson: Ms. Pitts
 Member: Ms. Esposito
 Member: Ms. Nieves
 Member: Mr. Thomas

- M. Winslow Twp. Municipal Drug & Alcohol Alliance Representative: Ms. Martin

- N. Winslow Twp. Economic Development Council Representative: Ms. Dredden

- O. Adopt a School Representative:

School	Board Member
School No. 1	Ms. Moore
School No. 2	Ms. Dredden
School No. 3	Ms. Peterson
School No. 4	Ms. Nieves
School No. 5	Ms. Martin
School No. 6	Ms. Esposito
Middle School	Ms. Thomas
High School	Mr. Thomas

Roll Call:			
Ms. Dredden	Yes	Ms. Peterson	Yes
Ms. Esposito	Yes	Ms. Pitts	Yes
Ms. Martin	Yes	Ms. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Moore	Yes	Mr. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Nieves	Yes		
Motion Carried			

XI. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

XIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Dr. Poteat addressed the following informational items:

- The next Real Talk with the Superintendent is Monday, January 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Additional information will be provided to the community.
- The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the District Administration Building as a trial run for live streaming. The January 25, 2023 Board Meeting will be held at the Winslow Township Middle School Cafeteria for capacity reasons. Students from School 6 will be performing that evening. Ms. Pitts was advised by Mr. Long that a sign should be placed on the Winslow Township Middle School Cafeteria door prior to the January 11, 2023 meeting. Dr. Poteat is going to mention the January 11, 2023 Board Meeting location at the next Real Talk.
- Mr. Long asked whomever made the motion and seconded the motion to approve the items at the bottom of page 4, if they'd be willing to amend their motion to effectuate a change of the January 25, 2023 Board Meeting location.

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Dredden, to amend the motion to include the change in location of the January 25, 2023 Board Meeting from the Administration Building to the WTMS Cafeteria.

Voice Vote: All in favor

Ms. Pitts recognized Mr. Brandon Glikas, a Winslow Township committeeman. She welcomed him to the meeting and wished him a Happy New Year.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Time Limited)

The Winslow Township Board of Education highly values the input of citizens in making important decisions that affect the children of our community. We also believe in the rights of citizens to observe Board Meetings. To ensure that all of our citizens have the opportunity to attend School Board Meetings and offer comment, and to ensure that the Board can conduct the important business of the District, we ask that speakers follow the guidelines for making public comments.

Notation of Public Comments on Agenda Items – The Board President or Board Secretary will recognize those individuals in the audience who wish to make comment.

Please respect the following procedures:

1. All members of the public attending School Board Meetings must treat each other and the Board with respect.
2. State your full name and address.
3. Please limit your comments to **four minutes**.
4. Submit your questions to the Board of Education with your name, address and telephone number where you can be contacted. Your questions will be answered within a reasonable time.
5. Individuals offering citizen comment are not permitted to make personal attacks on any District employee, Board Member, other testifier or member of the public.

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Dredden, to open the meeting for Public Comments at 7:42 p.m.

Voice Vote: All in favor

Wanda Glaud

Ms. Glaud read through the community bulletin board and saw disturbing news regarding a three-year-old at School #4 who was allegedly being abused by a school teacher. She asked if the teacher was on administrative leave until the investigation is complete, and if not, why. Dr. Poteat responded that the investigation was completed by the Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit and the allegations were unfounded.

Eileen Smith

Ms. Smith is the grandmother of the three-year-old child from School #4. She stated that just because the allegations were found to be untrue does not mean that the situation didn't happen. She is appalled that the teacher who harmed her grandson is back in the classroom and the teacher who was teaching for 35 years was removed from the classroom. She wants to know why. Mr. Long responded that it would be inappropriate for the Board to discuss personnel matters in a public forum. Ms. Pitts stated that the Board would be more than happy to meet with her, her daughter, and anyone else she would like to bring along to answer her questions in the Executive Session. Dr. Poteat stated that once the incident(s) are under investigation, the Superintendent cannot have conversations with those individuals involved.

Stacey Smith

Ms. Smith is the mother of the three-year-old from School #4. Her response to Ms. Glaud was that the teacher was never removed from the building. She stated that there were three incidences with her son and she was never given an incident report by the school Principal. Her son has a special diet and his food should have never been taken away from him. She wants the School Board to understand her pain when DYFS showed up at her house. Ms. Smith asked what the procedure is to discipline a teacher who is not tenured and who has multiple allegations against them in the last seven weeks. Ms. Pitts invited Ms. Smith to meet with the Board in confidence to discuss. Ms. Pitts also asked Ms. Smith if she was contacted by the Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit with the results of their investigation. The results were not acceptable to her because they only investigated one incident. Ms. Smith also wants to know why she hasn't seen the video footage from the incident involving her son. Ms. Pitts once again invited Ms. Smith to the Executive Session. Dr. Poteat addressed Ms. Smith's request to see the video footage by email.

Shamar Adams

Mr. Adams is the father of three-year-old from School #4. He has been dealing with this for a month and a half and there is no reason to go back and forth with who should be teaching their child. Mr. Adams told the Board to not wait for something else to happen.

Mohamed Kanu

Mr. Kanu is a parent of one of the children in the classroom. He said that the kids are afraid to go back to the classroom. That's a sign that something is wrong. Mr. Kanu stated that this is a grant funded program and he speaks for all the parents whose kids are in the classroom. Until the teacher is removed, their kids won't return to the classroom.

Dina Holmes

Ms. Holmes has been teaching for twenty-two years. She treats children as if they are her own children and she is outraged by the way the teacher is treating the students in the Pre-K class. She stated that the emails that were sent out were very vague and is disturbed by the lack of urgency and transparency regarding the situation. Ms. Holmes wanted to know why a highly qualified veteran teacher with no complaints had been transferred. She will not send her child back to a classroom with a teacher she is afraid of.

Eric Holmes

Mr. Holmes's daughter attends the same class. He's looking for results and if the situation isn't resolved, the Board will hear his roar.

Jovanni Polhill

Ms. Polhill apologized to Ms. Smith for what happened to her child. Ms. Polhill has three boys who attend schools in Winslow Township and has noticed a pattern within the District. There are several teachers who are bad apples and she has had several incidences with all three of her sons pertaining to mistreatment from the teachers. She stated that there are so many system failures in Winslow Township and she is embarrassed that Winslow Township is where she graduated from.

XV. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Dredden, to close the meeting for Public Comments at 8:19 p.m.

Voice Vote: All in favor

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve adoption of Executive Resolution and adjournment to Executive Session at 8:21 p.m.

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.) requires all meetings of the Winslow Township Board of Education to be held in public, except as set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) which provides for nine (9) types of matters that may lawfully be discussed in "Executive Session," i.e. without the public being permitted to attend; and

WHEREAS, the Winslow Township Board of Education has determined that certain issues set forth below are permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) to be discussed without the public in attendance shall be discussed during an Executive Session to be held on January 4, 2023 at 8:21 p.m.; and

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WHEREAS, the nine (9) exceptions to public meetings set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) are listed below, and the items to be privately discussed that fall within such exceptions shall be identified and written, and after each exception is a space where additional information that will disclose as much information about the discussion as possible without undermining the purpose of the exception as follows:

"(1) Any matter which, by express provision of Federal law, State statute or rule of court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from public discussion." The legal citation to the provision(s) at issue is: relative to student matters and the nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is student matters;

"(2) Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government." The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____;

"(3) Any material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as any records, data, reports, recommendations, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including but not limited to information relative to the individual's personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly." The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____;

"(4) Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body" The collective bargaining contract(s) discussed are between the public body and _____;

"(5) Any matter involving the purchase lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed." The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____;

"(6) Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection. Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law." The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____;

"(7) Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer." The parties to and docket numbers of each item of litigation and/or the parties to each contract discussed are _____ and nature of the discussion, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____;

"(8) Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting." The employee(s) and/or title(s) and nature of the discussion, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality are: _____;



"(9) Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility." The nature of the matter, described as specifically as possible without undermining the need for confidentiality is _____;

WHEREAS, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be 30 minutes after which the public meeting shall reconvene and immediately adjourn.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Winslow Township Board of Education will go into Executive Session for only the above stated reasons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) will be made public at a time when the need for confidentiality no longer exists, or the public's interest in disclosure is greater than any privacy or governmental interest being protected from disclosure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Board Solicitor, shall read aloud enough of this resolution so that members of the public in attendance can understand, as precisely as possible, the nature of the matters that will privately discussed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary, on the next business day following this meeting, shall furnish a copy of this resolution to any member of the public who requests one at the fees allowed by N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

Roll Call:			
Ms. Dredden	Yes	Ms. Peterson	Yes
Ms. Esposito	Yes	Ms. Pitts	Yes
Ms. Martin	Yes	Ms. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Moore	Yes	Mr. Thomas	Yes
Ms. Nieves	Yes		
Motion Carried			

XVII. ADJOURNMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Esposito, to close the meeting of the Executive Session at 10:02 p.m.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Martin, to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m. All Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyra McCoy-Boyle
Business Administrator/Board Secretary