

PROSPECT PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2023

A Special Meeting of the Prospect Park Board of Education, Prospect Park, New Jersey, was called to convene at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at the Prospect Park Municipal Building at 106 Brown Avenue, Prospect Park, New Jersey 07508.

- 1. Call to Order: Board President**
 Reading of the Open Public Meeting Act Notice

“In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act, the Prospect Park Board of Education has issued a notice of this meeting to be publicized by having the date, time, and place posted at the Prospect Park School, Prospect Park Municipal Building and the District’s website. This notice complies with N.J.S.A. 10:4-9.1, The meeting notice has been mailed to The Record and Herald News (Gannett News Service) and TAPinto Hawthorne for publication

- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

- 3. Roll Call: Board Secretary**

BOARD MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT W/ NOTIFICATION
Ms. Ensour	x		
Mr. Lopez	x		
Mr. Nadim			x
Mr. Rodriguez			x
Ms. Valerio			x
Vice-president Colcloughly	x		
President Gonzalez	x		

Also in attendance were

- Dr. Tyeshia Reels, Superintendent
- Richard Giglio, School Business Administrator
- Christine Kahwaty, Assistant School Business Administrator
- Albert Buglione, School Board Attorney
- Fahim Abedrabbo, Assistant to the School Business Administrator

4. Mission Statement

The mission of the Prospect Park School District is to develop healthy, alert, informed, responsible, and well-balanced human beings who believe in our America Heritage, and are imbued with a true desire and willingness to participate in and actively contribute to our democratic way of life. We also believe that the public school should be a place where the principal, teacher, and parent work in unison to ensure the successful progress and goal attainment of the child.

5. Acknowledging and Reaffirming the School Board Member Code of Ethics

The Prospect Park Board of Education, individually and as a group, acknowledges and reaffirms that as members of the Board of Education, they recognize they hold authority not as individuals but as members of the full Board. The Board members will comply with the Code of Ethics for School Board members pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1 as follows and re-produced below:

A school board member shall abide by the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members:

- a. I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules, and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall 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 that 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 that 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. 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 school.

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 the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

6. Conduct at Public Meetings

It is the goal of the Prospect Park Board of Education that all Board of Education Members and members of the public, act in a respectful manner toward one another, and do not disparage, nor interfere with school functions, operations, or Board of Education proceedings.

Any verbal, written, or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion shall not be tolerated and anyone violating this prohibited conduct may be subject to removal from the meeting and may be subject to other penalties that are appropriate under the law.

All Board of Education members and members of the general public are requested to take personal responsibility for their actions and to treat everyone that they have contact, in a fair and respectful manner.

At this portion of the meeting, time has been allotted for public comment by members of the public. Each speaker may be allotted up to three (3) minutes and one (1) opportunity, during each public session, to address the Board when recognized by the Board President. Individuals wishing to address the Board shall be recognized by the Board President and shall give their names, addresses, and the group if any, that they represent. Students of the Prospect Park school system who choose to speak are not required to give their home addresses.

Although the Board encourages public participation, it reserves the right, through its Board President, to terminate remarks to and/or by any individual, not in keeping with the conduct of a proper and efficient meeting. With the exception of those individuals whose names are on the agenda, the Board will not respond to questions during the public participation portion of this meeting involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, negotiations, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any specific, prospective or current employee.

All comments and questions are to be directed through the Board President.

Motion to Open Public Hearing:

Motion by: Mr. Lopez

Second: President Gonzalez

BOARD MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT W/ NOTIFICATION
Ms. Ensour	X		
Mr. Lopez	X		
Vice-president Colcloughly	X		
President Gonzalez	X		

Tom Magura

Question the painting of the mural and the visit of Ruby Bridges to the District.

Motion to Close Public Hearing:

Motion by: Vice-president Colcloughly

Second: Mr. Lopez

BOARD MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT W/ NOTIFICATION
Ms. Ensour	X		
Mr. Lopez	X		
Vice-president Colcloughly	X		
President Gonzalez	X		

7. Agenda Items

A1 Approval to Appoint a Middle School Math Teacher

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the appointment of Laura Lombardi as a Middle School Math teacher effective September 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, at an annual salary of \$69,018.00, plus single benefits, based on the negotiated Teacher’s Association of Prospect Park contract.

A2 Approval to Appoint a Title I Intervention Teacher

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the appointment of Jessica Lohsen as a Title I Intervention teacher effective September 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, at an annual salary of \$53,628.00, plus single benefits, based on the negotiated Teacher’s Association of Prospect Park contract.

A3 Approval to Appoint a Second-Grade Teacher

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the appointment of Yvonne Rinaldi as a Second Grade teacher effective September 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, at an annual salary of \$58,268.00, plus single benefits, based on the negotiated Teacher’s Association of Prospect Park contract.

A4 Approval to Appoint an Art Teacher

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the appointment of Kimberly Kowzun as an Art teacher effective September 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, at an annual salary of \$64,018.00, plus single benefits, based on the negotiated Teacher’s Association of Prospect Park contract.

A5 Approval to Appoint a Child Study Team Administrative Assistant

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the appointment of Genesis Batista as a Child Study Team Administrative Assistant effective September 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, at an annual salary of \$48,010.00, plus single benefits, based on the negotiated Teacher’s Association of Prospect Park contract.

A6 Approval to Appoint a Preschool Teacher

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the appointment of Olivia Calacanis as a Preschool Teacher effective September 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, at an annual salary of \$53,628.00, plus single benefits, based on the negotiated Teacher’s Association of Prospect Park contract.

A7 Approval to Appoint a Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the appointment of Kara Parham as a Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant effective September 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, at an annual salary of \$99,668.00, plus single benefits, based on the negotiated Teacher’s Association of Prospect Park contract.

A8 Approval to Appoint Long-Term Substitutes

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the appointment of the following individual as Long-Term Substitute teachers effective September 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, at a daily rate of \$175.00 per day:

- Ayesha Brown-Moses
- Manar Hardan
- Angel Quiles

A9 Approval to Appoint an Executive Administrative Assistant

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the appointment of Carrie Bell as an Executive Administrative Assistant effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, at an annual salary of \$75,000.00, plus benefits.

A10 Approval to Appoint an Executive Administrative Assistant

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the appointment of Moumita Dey as Community and Parent Involvement Specialist (CPIS), funded through the Preschool grant, effective August 7, 2023, through June 30, 2024, at an annual salary of \$55,000.00 (pro-rated), plus single benefits.

A11 Approval of the Use of Sick Time

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the approval of Employee ID #0368 to use sick time effective September 1st until further notice.

A12 Approval of Virtual-Remote Instruction Plan

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the Virtual-Remote Instruction Plan for the 2023-2024 school year.

A13 Approval of District to Host Ruby Bridges Visit

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the District to host the in-person visit of Ruby Bridges, Paterson Public School staff and students, and other dignitaries on November 8, 2023.

A14 Approval of Leadership Team Retreat

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the District to facilitate a District Leadership Retreat inclusive of school and district leadership on August 31, 2023, at the Prospect Park Municipal Building.

A15 Resolution Awarding Contract—Halls that Inspire, Inc.

Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and the School Business Administrator, the Board of Education hereby awards a professional services contract for the artistic painting of murals to

Halls That Inspire, Inc.
97 Spruce Street
Paterson, New Jersey 07501

The award of the contract is based on the terms and conditions of the July 9, 2023, proposal received and reviewed by the District. Halls That Inspire, Inc. will paint the hallways of the Middle School with eight (8) murals that are reflective of the student and community population. As stated in the proposal, the artistic murals chosen can transform the school building where the

“...children can thrive, be inspired, and be proud of the school building...”

All activities of this project will be coordinated by the Office of the Superintendent in her goal to Rebuild the School District.

The cost of the contract is estimated to be \$10,800.00.

The award is contingent upon receipt of the Certificate of Insurance from Halls That Inspire, Inc., and written approval from the Diocese of Paterson and St. Paul’s Church to have the hallways of the leased building painted with artistic murals.

Professional Services Contract

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2 (h), the Board of Education recognizes the contract to be a professional services contract as the services are “original and creative in character in a recognized field of artistic endeavor.”

The term of the contract will be from September 1, 2023, through the completion of the project.

A16 Approval of Initial/Renewal Application for Multiple Temporary Instructional Spaces for the 2023/2024 School Year

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the Initial/Renewal Application for Multiple Temporary Instructional Spaces for the 2023/2024 school year. The application is required by the County Office for the opening of the Middle School

A17 Approval of CDS System Change Form- New School (2023/2024)

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the CDS System Change Form- New School (2023/2024). This form is required by the County Office for the opening of the Middle School

A18 Resignation

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board accepts the resignation of

Name of Employee Megan Major
Position Teacher
Effective Date September 25, 2023

A19 Approval of Agreement with Ramapo College; Internship

Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the agreement with Ramapo College to participate in a student internship program with the District. The term of the agreement will be from August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024.

Motion to Approve Agenda Items:

Motion by: Ms. Ensour
Second: President Gonzalez

BOARD MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT W/ NOTIFICATION
Ms. Ensour	X		
Mr. Lopez	X		
Vice-president Colcloughly	X		
President Gonzalez	X		

8. Public Hearing: Statement to the Public

At this portion of the meeting, time has been allotted for public comment by members of the public. Each speaker may be allotted up to three (3) minutes and one (1) opportunity, during each public session, to address the Board when recognized by the Board President. Individuals wishing to address the Board shall be recognized by the Board President and shall give their names, addresses, and the group if any, that they represent. Students of the Prospect Park school system who choose to speak are not required to give their home addresses.

All comments and questions are to be directed through the Board President.

Motion to Open Public Hearing:

Motion by: Vice-president Colcloughly

Second: President Gonzalez

Motion to Close Public Hearing:

Motion by: Mr. Lopez

Second: Vice-president Colcloughly

9. Adjournment

Adjourn the Meeting

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm.