

VISION STATEMENT

Cultivating compassionate and extraordinary learners.

MISSION STATEMENT

Springfield Public Schools will challenge every student through meaningful, engaging experiences – empowering all students to flourish and contribute in an evolving world.

An Emergency Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Springfield in the County of Union, New Jersey, was held via zoom on Friday, September 10, 2021 at 1:31 P.M.

President’s Statement: Pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, the Board Secretary caused notice of the meeting to be given to the public and the press on September 10, 2021. The public comment format for this meeting is as follows – attendees wishing to comment during the public sessions will state their name and address. The President of the Board of Education will recognize the attendee at the appropriate time. All of the Board's Policies and Regulations related to public participation in board meetings shall remain in effect, including, but not limited to, the presiding officer's ability to limit each statement made by a participant to a 3-minute duration.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Mrs. Laura Gamarekian.

Present: Mr. Marc Miller, Mr. Hector Munoz (arrived at 1:37 PM), Mrs. Meredith Murphy, Mrs. Kristy Rubin, Mrs. Paula Saha, Mr. Scott Silverstein, Mrs. Hilary Turnbull, Mrs. Laura Gamarekian

Absent: Mr. Anthony Delia

Also Present:

Mrs. Rachel Goldberg, Superintendent

Mr. Matthew Clarke, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mrs. Erica Scudero, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Mrs. Dana Kelly, Director of Human Resources

Mrs. Tiffany Boehm, Director of Student Support Services

Mrs. Daniela Riccardi, Director of Technology

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. RESOLUTION TO CONDUCT AN EMERGENCY MEETING

Moved by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the following resolution:”

**RESOLUTION OF THE SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO CONDUCT AN EMERGENCY MEETING**

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A.* 10:4-9 permits the Springfield Board of Education to conduct an emergency meeting without adequate notice upon the affirmative vote of three quarters of the members present if: (1) such meeting is required in order to deal with matters of such urgency and importance that a delay for the purpose of the providing adequate notice would be likely to result in substantial harm to the public interest; and (2) the meeting is limited to discussion of and acting with respect to such matters of urgency and importance; (3) notice of such meeting is provided in accordance with *N.J.S.A.* 10:4-9 and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs regulations, *N.J.A.C.* 5:39-1.1., *et seq.*; and (4) the District could not have reasonably foreseen the need for such a meeting at a time when adequate notice could have been provided; and

WHEREAS, flooding and the resulting property damage from tropical depression Ida required the closure of the Edward V. Walton Early Childhood Center ("Walton") just as school was to resume for the 2021-2022 school year; and

WHEREAS, the District needs to resume in-person instruction for the students normally housed at Walton while remediation efforts are underway; and

WHEREAS, in order to address this emergency situation, the District has negotiated a shared services agreement with the Township of Springfield for use of certain portions of the Chisholm Center and a lease agreement with the St. James Church for use of its former parish school building, both of which begin September 13, 2021 and shall continue until Walton is remediated; and

WHEREAS, the inability to enter into these two agreements on short notice so that the classroom spaces can be cleaned and prepared for students and students can resume their education as soon as possible would present substantial harm to the Springfield students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Springfield Board of Education as follows:

1. The Springfield Board of Education hereby declares upon the affirmative vote of three quarters of the members present that the holding of an emergency meeting is required in order to deal with matters of such urgency and importance that a delay for the purpose of providing adequate notice would be likely to result in substantial harm to the public interest.
2. The Springfield Board of Education hereby further declares that the emergency meeting will be limited to discussion of and acting with respect to the matters as outlined above.

The Springfield Board of Education hereby further declares that the need for such meeting could not reasonably have been foreseen at a time when adequate notice could have been provided.”

Yeas: Unanimous by all Members present.

MOTION CARRIED

4. Emergency Rules

Moved by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs enacted emergency regulations that require public bodies (e.g., municipalities, boards of education, etc.) to meet certain criteria if the public body is holding a remote public meeting during a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Springfield Board of Education ("Board") is required by the aforementioned regulations to adopt procedures for public comment made during remote meetings during a state of emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

1. The Board Secretary shall announce publicly, and shall cause to be entered in the minutes of the meeting, an accurate statement to the effect that either: (1) both adequate and electronic notice of the meeting has been provided, specifying the time, place, and manner in which such notice was provided; or (2) only electronic notice of the meeting has been provided, specifying the time, place, and manner in which such notice was provided, and that discussion and effectuation of public business shall be limited to the matters included in *N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.5(g)*;
2. In the event the Board conducts a remote meeting during a state of emergency, the Board shall allow members of the public to make comments via audio or audio and video. Individuals will be prompted to enter their name and address in the Q&A function, and the Board shall hear the comments in the order received. All of the Board's Policies and Regulations related to public participation in board meetings shall remain in effect, including, but not limited to, the presiding officer's ability to limit each statement made by a participant to a 3 minute duration;
3. If a member of the public becomes disruptive during any portion of the remote public meeting, the Board President shall mute, or direct appropriate staff to mute, the disruptive member of the public. The disruptive individual shall receive a warning that continued disruption may result in the individual being removed from the remote meeting or muted at future remote meetings. Disruptive conduct includes, but is not limited to, shouting, interruption, or use of profanity. If time permits, the Board may allow the disruptive individual to make a public comment at the conclusion of the public comment portion, but reserves the right to continue muting or remove the disruptive individual if the disruptive behavior persists.
4. These procedures and requirements for making public comment, along with an explanation of the audio muting function of the electronic communications platform being used, shall be announced by the Board President at the beginning of each remote public meeting during a state of emergency.”

Yeas: Unanimous by all Members present.

MOTION CARRIED

5. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Silverstein, to accept and approve the Superintendent’s Report as presented –

1. Walton Relocation due to Hurricane IDA

Yeas: Unanimous by all Members present.

MOTION CARRIED

6. PUBLIC SESSION (1:47 PM)

- No public wished to comment at this time.

7. LEASE AGREEMENT WITH SAINT JAMES

Moved by Mrs. Rubin, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the following resolution:”

RESOLUTION OF THE SPRINGFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION TO APPROVE LEASE WITH ST. JAMES CHURCH FOR USE OF FORMER PARISH SCHOOL

WHEREAS, *N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.14* permits the Springfield Board of Education to provide temporary facilities for its students in the case of an emergency;

WHEREAS, flooding and the resulting property damage from tropical depression Ida required the closure of the Edward V. Walton Early Childhood Center ("Walton") just as school was to resume for the 2021-2022 school year; and

WHEREAS, the District wishes to resume in person instruction for the students normally housed at Walton while remediation efforts are underway; and

WHEREAS, in order to address this emergency situation, the District has negotiated a lease with Saint James Church for use of the former St. James the Apostle School to begin September 13, 2021 and to continue until Walton is remediated; and

WHEREAS, the District has consulted with the Union County Executive County Superintendent in order to obtain approval for the temporary use of the former St. James School as necessitated by this emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Education has approved the temporary use of the former St. James School pursuant to the emergency stabilization regulations found in *N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.14*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Springfield Board of Education that it hereby approves the lease agreement between the St. James Church, as Landlord, and the Springfield Public Schools, as Tenant, for use of certain portions of the former St. James School, beginning on September 13, 2021 and continuing month-to-month as needed until the Walton School is remediated and students can return, at the rental rate of \$10,000.00 per month, as set forth in the lease agreement.

Yeas: Unanimous by all Members present.

MOTION CARRIED

8. SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD

Moved by Mrs. Rubin, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the following resolution:”

RESOLUTION OF THE SPRINGFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION TO APPROVE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD FOR USE OF CHISHOLM CENTER

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.14 permits the Springfield Board of Education to provide temporary facilities for its students in the case of an emergency;

WHEREAS, flooding and the resulting property damage from tropical depression Ida required the closure of the Edward V. Walton Early Childhood Center ("Walton") just as school was to resume for the 2021-2022 school year; and

WHEREAS, the District wishes to resume in person instruction for the students normally housed at Walton while remediation efforts are underway; and

WHEREAS, in order to address this emergency situation, the District has negotiated a shared services agreement with the Township of Springfield for use of certain portions of the Chisholm Center to begin September 13, 2021 and to continue until Walton is remediated; and

WHEREAS, the District has consulted with the Union County Executive County Superintendent in order to obtain Department of Education approval for the temporary use of certain portions of the Chisholm Center as necessitated by this emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Education has approved the temporary use of certain portions of the Chisholm Center pursuant to the emergency stabilization regulations found in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.14.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Springfield Board of Education that it hereby approves the Shared Services Agreement between the Township and the Board for the use of certain portions of the Chisholm Center, beginning on September 13, 2021 and continuing as needed during the 2021-2022 school year until the Walton School is remediated and students can return, at no charge to the District, as set forth in the Shared Services Agreement, and authorizes the Board President to execute same.

Yeas: Unanimous by all Members present.

MOTION CARRIED

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn the regular meeting at 1:51 PM.

Yeas: Unanimous by all Members present.

MOTION CARRIED

Upcoming Meetings:

1. Regular Meeting – September 20, 2021 at 7:30 PM in the JDHS IMC
2. Regular Meeting – October 4, 2021 at 7:30 PM in the JDHS IMC

Matthew A. Clarke
Business Administrator/Board Secretary