Atlantic City Board of Education



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Angela Brown
Board Secretary

May 10, 2024

At the special meeting of the Atlantic City Board of Education held on May 9, 2024, the following resolution was approved.

On a motion made by Mr. Mayfield and seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Atlantic City Board of Education voted to Approve and invoke the following Doctrine of Necessity. At the call of the roll the vote was as follows: Mrs. Bailey-yes; Ms. Bridgers-yes; Mrs. Byard-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes; Mr. Mayfield-yes; Mr. McKinley-yes; Mr. Siddik-yes; Mr. Steele-yes. Of eight members present, eight voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Commission ("SEC") has provided guidance in Public Advisory Opinion A03-98, regarding how a Board should invoke the Doctrine of Necessity when a quorum of a board of education has conflicts of interest on a matter required to be voted upon; and

WHEREAS, the opinion set forth that, when necessary for a Board to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity, the Board should state publicly that it is doing so, the reason that such action is necessary and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

WHEREAS, the SEC by resolution dated February 25, 2003, clarified and required a Board of Education invoking the Doctrine of Necessity to adopt a resolution setting forth that they are invoking the doctrine, the reason for doing so, and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

WHEREAS, the SEC further directed Boards of Education that invoke the Doctrine of Necessity to read the resolution at the regularly scheduled public meeting, post it where it posts public notices for thirty days, and provide the Commission with a copy; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Education promulgated N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2, which places additional standards and restrictions upon the ability of a board member to vote on a particular issue; and

WHEREAS, the five board members' conflicts are as follows:

- (1) Board Member Mrs. Ruth Byard's daughter is Board approved as a teacher her granddaughter is employed as a social worker and her daughter is a substitute safety officer and;
- (2) Board Member Ms. Patricia Bailey's son is employed by the Board as a custodian; and
- (3) Board Member Mr. Walter Johnson's spouse is employed by the Board as a teacher; and
- (4) Board Member Mr. Shay Steele's spouse is employed by the Board as teacher;

(5) Board Member Mr. Kashawn McKinley's spouse is employed by the Board as a secretary.

WHEREAS, the inability of the aforementioned Board members to participate in personnel matters involving the Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, as required by law, the Board desires to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity in accordance with Procedures established by the Commission; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Atlantic City Board of Education, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, that the aforementioned Board Members are prohibited from participating in personnel matters involving the Superintendent; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board invokes the Doctrine of Necessity in order to allow the full body of the Board to participate in personnel matters involving the Superintendent in accordance with State law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be read at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board and be publicly posted by the Board; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the School Ethics Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Brown Board Secretary