

**Atlantic City Board of Education  
Public Hearing Meeting – (Zoom Meeting)  
May 5, 2020 – 500pm**

**1**

**Call To Order**           The public hearing of the Atlantic City Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Devlin at 5:14pm.

**Roll Call**           At the call of the roll, members present included Mrs. Bailey, Ms. Bassford, Mrs. Byard, Mr. Chowdhury, Mr. Devlin, Mr. Herbert, Mr. Hossain, Mr. Islam and Mr. Thomas.

**Noted for the record:** Mr. Steele unable to log-into the Zoom meeting.

Also present Monitor Mr. Fisher, Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Yahn, Business Administrator Mrs. Ricketts, General Counsel Mrs. Riley and Mr. Riley, Director Ms. Saunders and Board Secretary Mrs. Brown.

**Statement of Notice**

A notice of the public hearing was published in the Press of Atlantic City, mailed to the City Clerk and posted on the bulletin board of the CitiCenter Building at 1300 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401 on January 11, 2020.

**Flag Salute:**   Mrs. Brown led those assembled in the flag salute.

**Vision:**   The Atlantic City District recognizes the urgency to provide resources to improve instruction through exemplary and diverse practices which are monitored and analyzed through student achievement data. The District has the expectation that all students will achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards at all grade levels.

**Mission:** In order to meet the needs of all students, the District is committed to increasing student learning and improving teaching in the core academic subjects by using instructional strategies aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and based on Scientifically Based Research. Parents will be active partners and key stakeholders with the Atlantic City School District to support their student’s intellectual, emotional, physical and social growth.

**Superintendents Report** – Mr. Caldwell thanked all staff for their hard work since the Governor schools, discussed the pick-up schedule for school lunches, advised any student can pick-up a lunch, discussed APT meetings, Directors meetings and the continuation of robust student instruction.

**Public Discussion** – ACEA Cassandra Montague, wished everyone health and safety and advised she cannot wait to get back into the buildings for work.

**Atlantic City Board of Education**  
**Public Hearing Meeting – (Zoom Meeting)**  
**May 5, 2020 – 500pm**

**Budget Presentation** – Business Administrator Mrs. Celeste Ricketts presented the proposed 2020/2021 school budget. Highlights of the budget includes enrollment from 2017 – 2019, total budget of \$198,629,667, total operating budget \$177,811,227, total grants, \$14,503,183, debt service \$6,315,257, superintendents goals of raised student achievement, chronic absenteeism, ACHS recruitment and retention and moving out of the CitiCenter Building. Major instructional purchases include an alternative school, district wide tablets, computers and carts, projectors and switches. Capital projects include the purchase of an administration building, cooling tower at ACHS, roof replacement at ACHS, electric upgrades, boilers and rooftop replacements. Equipment and Vehicle purchases include PA systems, Bobcat, heaters, strobe lights and hot water exchanges. Local revenue is \$81,888,890, tuition is \$7,159,877, state aid is \$78,241,381, carryover is \$9,987,412, debt service is \$6,315,257 and grants are \$14,503,183. Human resources includes four new positions 1 accounts payable clerk, one high school secretary, one nurse and one PIRT team member. Fund balance recap to be used in the 2020/2021 school year is \$9,987,412.

A lengthy conversation ensued regarding registration of students, tuition rates, tax increases, retable's, lowering the tax levy, final plans for graduation, cutting the budget due to economic concerns, the lack of all members being able to review the proposed budget prior to the vote, the need for clarity and to vote, the process prior to the public hearing, halal food, status of teachers contracts, the proposed alternative school, the number of seats available, the districts needs for same, budgets in prior years, the percentage that is taxpayer funded, the pilot program, district savings in prior years, the state monitor and county oversight.

**GOODS & SERVICES 1 – 2**

On a motion made by Ms. Bassford and seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Atlantic City Board of Education voted to approve **Goods & Services #1** as follows: At the call of the roll the vote was as follows: Mrs. Bailey-yes; Ms. Bassford-yes; Mrs. Byard-yes; Mr. Chowdhury-no; Mr. Devlin-no; Mr. Herbert-no; Mr. Hossain-no; Mr. Islam-no, Mr. Thomas-yes. Of nine members present, four voted in the affirmative and five voted in the negative. **The motion failed to carry.**

Be it resolved by the Atlantic City Board of Education to adopt the 2020/2021 budget, as required by the New Jersey Department of Education process, in the following sums.

General Fund	\$177,811,227
Special Revenues	\$ 14,503,183
Debt Service	<u>\$ 6,315,257</u>
Total Budget	<u>\$198,629,667</u>

**Atlantic City Board of Education  
Public Hearing Meeting – (Zoom Meeting)  
May 5, 2020 – 500pm**

On a motion made by Ms. Bassford and seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Atlantic City Board of Education voted to approve **Goods & Services #2** as follows: At the call of the roll the vote was as follows: Mrs. Bailey-yes; Ms. Bassford-yes; Mrs. Byard-yes; Mr. Chowdhury-no; Mr. Devlin-no; Mr. Herbert-no; Mr. Hossain-no; Mr. Islam-no, Mr. Thomas-yes. Of nine members present, four voted in the affirmative and five voted in the negative. **The motion failed to carry.**

Be it resolved by the Atlantic City Board of Education to approve the 2020/2021 budget and local revenue.

Local Revenue	\$81,888,890
Debt Service Revenue	<u>\$ 5,826,969</u>
 Total Local Revenue	 <u>\$87,715,859</u>

**Closed Session**

On a motion made by Ms. Bassford and seconded by Mr. Herbert, the Atlantic City Board of Education voted to go into executive session to discuss workers compensation at 7:03pm.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting; and  
WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the City of Atlantic City has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public; and  
WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Board of Education will reconvene at the conclusion of closed session, at approximately \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. this evening.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the City of Atlantic City will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

Any matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public (Provision relied upon);

Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

Any matter the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;

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;

Any matter involving the purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed;

Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public, provided that their disclosure could impair such protection;

**Atlantic City Board of Education**  
**Public Hearing Meeting – (Zoom Meeting)**  
**May 5, 2020 – 500pm**

**4**

Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law; 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: *Public Hearing: Workers Compensation*

(If contract negotiation the nature of the contract and interested party is) (Under certain circumstances, if public disclosure of the matter would have a potentially negative impact on the District's position in the litigation or negotiation, this information may be withheld until such time that the matter is concluded or the circumstances no longer present a potential impact);

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 (Subject

to the balancing of the public's interest and the employee's privacy rights under *South Jersey Publishing*, 124 N.J. 478, the employee(s) nature of discussions are employment requirements/modifications.

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;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Board Attorney advises the Board of Education that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the School District or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby declares that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place and hereby directs the Board Secretary to take the appropriate action to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

I, Angela Brown, Board Secretary do hereby certify the above to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the City of Atlantic City at their meeting held on May 5, 2020.

## **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

On a motion made by Ms. Bassford and seconded by Mr. Herbert, the Atlantic City Board of Education voted to return to open session at 7:31pm.

**NOTED FOR THE RECORD:** Mr. Allen Thomas was unable to get back into the Zoom meeting due.

## **AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **GOODS & SERVICES 3 - 6**

3. Approve the Section 20 settlement agreement with employee #100230 (NYA), in the amount of \$12,500.

**Atlantic City Board of Education  
Public Hearing Meeting – (Zoom Meeting)  
May 5, 2020 – 500pm**

**5**

4. Approve the workers compensation settlement agreement with employee #103701 (PAS), in the amount of \$34,308.
5. Approve the workers compensation settlement agreement with employee #102076 (ACHS), in the amount of \$5,052.50 and the Section 20 settlement in the amount of \$10,000, for a total amount of 15,052.50.
6. Approve, as amended, the workers compensation settlement agreement with employee #102245 (CH), in the amount of \$104,729; \$542.00 weekly for 172.03 weeks.

**GOODS & SERVICES 3 - 6**

On a motion made by Ms. Bassford and seconded by Mr. Herbert, the Atlantic City Board of Education voted to approve Goods & Services resolutions 3 -6. At the call of the roll the vote was as follows: Mrs. Bailey-yes; Ms. Bassford-yes sending-abstain elementary; Mrs. Byard-yes; Mr. Chowdhury-yes; Mr. Devlin-yes-abstain #6, Mr. Herbert-yes; Mr. Hossain-yes; Mr. Islam-yes. Of eight members present, seven voted in the affirmative, one abstained on elementary and one abstained on #6. The motion carried.

**Adjourn**                      On a motion made by Ms. Bassford and seconded by Mr. Herbert, the meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Brown  
Board Secretary