

**BOGOTA BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOGOTA, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER by Mr. Severino, Board President at 7:32 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Bogota Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Bogota Borough Hall, communicated by letter to The Record, filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Bogota and posted on the Bogota Board of Education website.

ROLL CALL was taken by Mr. Brown, Interim Board Secretary

Members present: Mrs. Carpenter, Ms. Granquist, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. McHale, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Moore, Mr. Severino and Mrs. VanBuren.

Members absent: None

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Varcadipane, Interim Superintendent, Mr. Richard Brovarone, Esq. Mr. Brown, Interim Board Secretary and Ms. Elizabeth Ruiz, Assistant Board Secretary.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Varcadipane announced the following:

- Recap on Career Day.
- Status of Basketball Pole at Steen.
- Discussed Jean Day on Fridays for students and staff.
- Informed price for Gym Floor at High School, is lowered to \$126,500.00.

HEARING OF CITIZENS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Mrs. VanBuren moved, seconded by Mrs. Carpenter, a motion to open the meeting for public comments on agenda items only. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote.

Vicky Shepherd advised that the field trip to Lunt Fontanne Theatre, will be paid by students and PTO.

Mrs. Carpenter moved, seconded by Mr. Moore, a motion to close the meeting for public comments on agenda items only. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote.

MINUTES

Approval of the following minutes as submitted by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary:

December 13, 2016 Work Session/Action Meeting
January 3, 2017 Reorganization Meeting
January 10, 2017 Work Session/Action Meeting
January 17, 2017 Regular Meeting

Mrs. VanBuren moved, seconded by Mrs. Kohles a motion to amend the minutes of January 10, 2017 and January 17, 2017. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call.

Mrs. Carpenter moved, seconded by Mr. McHale a motion for approval of the minutes as amended. On a roll call vote Mrs. Carpenter voted yes with the exception of January 17, 2017 which she abstained, Mrs. Lewis voted yes with the exception of December 13, 2016 which she abstained, Mr. Moore voted yes with the exception of January 10, 2017 which he abstained, Mrs. Granquist, Mrs. Kohles, Ms. Montgomery, Mrs. VanBuren, Mr. McHale, Mr. Severino voted yes. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda Resolutions

Education 2-28-17-01, 2-28-17-02, 2-28-17-03, 2-28-17-04, 2-28-17-05

Personnel 2-28-17-12, 2-28-17-13, 2-28-17-14, 2-28-17-15, 2-28-17-16

Mrs. Carpenter moved, seconded by Mr. Moore a motion and approval of consent agenda items **2-28-17-01 through 2-28-17-05** and agenda items **2-28-17-12 through 2-28-17-16**. On roll call vote Mrs. Carpenter, Mrs. Granquist, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Moore, Mrs. VanBuren and Mr. Severino voted yes. Motion carried.

EDUCATION

Approval of Vision Therapy

2-28-17-01 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves/ratifies the payment in the amount of \$500 for student #026974 attending Children's Therapy Center for vision therapy services rendered by Progressive Steps during the month of June 2016.

Approval of HIB

2-28-17-02 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following harassment, intimidation, and bullying findings:

School	Incident	Description	Consequences/Intervention
Lillian M. Steen	16-17 #1	Non-actionable HIB	Parent Notifications
Lillian M. Steen	16-17 #2	Non-actionable HIB	Engaging in counseling through the guidance/special services program. Parent Notifications

Approval of Conferences

2-28-17-03 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves/ratifies the following professional conferences (pending fund availability).

Name	Description	Location	Date	Amount
Maggie Andrezza	NJ Educational Insurance Fund Meeting	Maggiano's Hackensack, NJ	2/3/17	None
Elizabeth Ruiz	NJ Educational Insurance Fund Meeting	Maggiano's Hackensack, NJ	2/3/17	None
Rachel Mantione	NJ Council of Exceptional Children Conference	Ramapo College	3/13/17	\$115

Approval of Field Trips

2-28-17-04 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following field trips.

Date	Staff	Students	Location	Expense
3/17/17	Monica Garcia Tom Hughes	Grade 9	Medieval Times Lyndhurst, NJ	To be paid by Students
5/23/17	Tricia Miraldi Lauren Sontag Donna Citakian Various Aides	Grade 2 & LLD K-3	Turtle Back Zoo Orange, NJ	To be paid by Students and PTO
5/3/17	Cornelia Geraghy Kim Neilsen Patrick Rochford	Grade 2	Meadowlands Environmental Center	To be paid by Students and PTO
5/12/17	Monica Garcia	Grade 11	Kean University	None
3/1/17	Bob Calleja Kristen King Thomas Hughes	Grade 9-12	Metropolitan Museum of Art	To be paid by Students

Approval of CAP Workshops

2-28-17-05 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves New Jersey Child Assault Prevention (NJ CAP) Program for workshops for both E. Roy Bixby School and Lillian M. Steen School.

Elementary workshops are one hour classroom programs facilitated by three CAP counselors. Workshops train students to recognize potentially dangerous situations and to make effective use of options available to them.

The District of Bogota has received a grant in the amount of \$3,288 with a balance due from the district of \$676. This is for both E. Roy Bixby and Lillian M. Steen.

Approval of Conferences

2-28-17-06 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves/ratifies the following professional conferences (pending fund availability).

Name	Description	Location	Date	Amount
Steve Kordosky	NJ Science Education Leaders Association Meeting	TBD	3/9/17	None
Andrea Lynch	NJ Music Educators Association Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	4/6/17 & 4/7/17	\$180 + mileage
Barry McCann	NJ Music Educators Association Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	4/6/17 & 4/7/17	\$180 + mileage
Seth Mandel	NJTESOL/NJBE Conference	New Brunswick, NJ	6/2/17	\$199
Tara Amanna	Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction	Hackensack, NJ	3/21/17	None
Jill Connolly	Bergen County Children's Interagency Coordinating Council	Lyndhurst, NJ	3/10/17	None
Jill Connolly	Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction	Hackensack, NJ	3/21/17	None
Arlene Luna	Matching Interventions to Reasons for Reading Difficulties	Garwood, NJ	3/24/17	\$205 + mileage

Approval of Field Trips

2-28-17-07 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following field trips.

Date	Staff	Students	Location	Expense
5/23/17	Deborah Hunter Nicole Stols	Grade 3	Liberty Science Center	To be paid by students and PTO
5/11/17	Theresa Henriquez Peter Russo Sam Chiang Lynn Demetrakis	Grade 7	Liberty Science Center	To be paid by students
5/25/17	Brad DiRupo Monica Garcia Shannon Raftery	Grade 11-12	Great Adventure "U Got Brains" Program	None
5/24/17	Yvonne Breiner Vicki Shepherd	Grade 6	Lunt Fontanne Theatre NY, NY	To be paid by students

Approval of HIB

2-28-17-08 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following harassment, intimidation, and bullying findings:

School	Incident	Description	Consequences/Intervention
Lillian M. Steen	16-17 #3	Intentional (without hate Speech) and designed to Harass, intimidate or bully	Detention 3 days. Parent Notification.

Approval of Student Teacher

2-28-17-09 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves Aminah Evans, a Bergen Community College student, to complete her 20 hours of classroom observation at the Jr./Sr. High School from during the 2017 Spring Semester under the supervision of Thomas Hughes.

Approval of Home Instruction

2-28-17-10 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves home instruction for Student #26976 for a period of six weeks not to exceed 10 hours per week to be provided by Tricia Miraldi at the BEA Contracted rate.

Approval of Instagram/Twitter Account

2-28-17-11 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves establishment of an Instagram and Twitter Account for Bogota High School. Designated personnel will manage these accounts exclusively.

Mrs. Carpenter moved, seconded by Mr. McHale a motion and approval of agenda items **2-28-17-06 through 2-28-17-11**. On roll call vote Mrs. Carpenter, Mrs. Granquist, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Moore, Mrs. VanBuren and Mr. Severino voted yes. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL

All personnel appointments are contingent upon receipt of an affirmative criminal history record check and the holding of proper certification.

Approval of Substitute Teacher

2-28-17-12 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the appointment of **Ryan Jahnke as a substitute teacher at a salary of \$110 per diem and a substitute classroom and/or special education aide at a salary of \$12.50 per hour for the remainder 2016/2017 school year.**

Approval of Play/Musical Director

2-28-17-13 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the appointment of **Andrea Lynch** as Play/Musical Director at a salary of Step 1 \$1,291 for the 2016/2017 school year.

Approval of Aide Rate

2-28-17-14 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with the Education Committee, the Board approves the revision to the Teacher Aide rates for the remainder of the 2016/2017 school year as follows.

Effective March 1, 2017

- All aides currently 18.00 per hour will increase to \$19.00 per hour
- All aides currently at 13.10 per hour will increase to \$15.00 per hour
- All aides currently at \$9.00 per hour will go increase to 12.00 per hour

Effective March 1, 2017

Qualifications will drive hour rates for all aides:

1. Certified Teachers \$19.00 per hour
2. Everyone else (College Degree-60 credits-No degree) \$15.00 per hour
3. Lunch/Breakfast Aides - \$12.00 per hour.

Approval of salary adjustment

2-28-17-15 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the salary adjustment for Horizontal/Lateral Movements retroactive to February 1st, as per the negotiated Agreement for the 2016/2017 school year for the following staff members.

Name	Current Salary	Adjustment
Samuel Chiang	BA Step 6 \$54,233	MA Step 6 \$62,233
Louis Severino	BA Step 7 \$56,233	MA Step 7 \$64,233
Gina Giunchini	BA Step 6 \$54,233	MA Step 6 \$62,233

Accept Resignation

2-28-17-16 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board accepts the resignation of **Soo Ostro**, Teacher Aide at Bixby School effective February 10, 2017.

Mr. McHale moved, seconded by Mr. Moore a motion and approval of agenda items **2-28-17-01** through **2-28-17-16**. Mrs. Carpenter, Ms. Granquist, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Moore, Mrs. VanBuren, Mr. McHale, and Mr. Severino voted yes. Motion Carried.

Approval of Teachers Contract

2-28-17-17 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the Agreement between the Bogota Education Association and the Bogota Board of Education, for the 2016-2017 school year, as attached.

Mrs. VanBuren moved, seconded by Mr. McHale a motion to table agenda item **2-28-17-17**. On a roll call vote Mrs. Carpenter, Ms. Granquist, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Moore, Mrs. VanBuren, Mr. McHale, and Mr. Severino voted yes. Motion Carried.

Approval of Resignation

2-28-17-18 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board accepts the resignation of Brian Rochford as Assistant Boys Track Coach for the 2017 Spring Season.

Approval of Resignation

2-28-17-19 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board accepts the resignation of Ken Varon as 7th/8th grade Softball Coach for the 2017 Spring Season.

Approval of Boys Track Coach

2-28-17-20 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the appointment of Ken Varon as Assistant Boys Track Coach at a salary of Step 1 \$3,765 for the 2016/2017 school year.

Approval of Assistant Baseball Coach

2-28-17-21 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the appointment of Ryan Buchmuller as Assistant Baseball Coach at a salary of Step 2 \$3,931 for the 2016/2017 school year.

Approval of 7th/8th Grade Softball Coach

2-28-17-22 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the appointment of Christina Minieri as 7th/8th Grade Softball Coach at a salary of Step 1 \$2,959 for the 2016/2017 school year.

Approval of 7th/8th Grade Baseball Coach

2-28-17-23 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the appointment of Akil Davis as 7th/8th Grade Baseball Coach at a salary of Step 2 \$3,089 for the 2016/2017 school year.

Approval of Volunteer 7th/8th Grade Softball Coach

2-28-17-24 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the appointment of George Vazquez as Volunteer 7th/8th Grade Softball Coach for the 2016/2017 school year.

Approval of Volunteer Varsity Baseball Coach

2-28-17-25 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the appointment of Jared Duetsch as Volunteer Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2016/2017 school year.

Mrs. Carpenter moved, seconded by Mr. Moore a motion and approval of agenda items **2-28-17-18 through 2-28-17-25**. On a roll call vote Mrs. Carpenter, Ms. Granquist, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Moore, Mrs. VanBuren, Mr. McHale, and Mr. Severino voted yes. Motion Carried.

FINANCE

Approval of Bill List

2-28-17-26 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the payment of bills in the amount of \$1,775,792.81 dated February 28, 2017 as per the attached, which will become part of this resolution.

Approval of Budgetary Line Item Expenditure

2-28-17-27 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(C1), that, as of, January 31, 2017 no budgetary line item account has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(C3), no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(B), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's fiscal obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Approval of Payroll Transfer

2-28-17-28 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves/ratifies the payroll and fund transfer for the month of January in the amount of \$1,228,897.03 dated January 30, 2017 as attached, which shall be made a part of this resolution.

Approval of Report of the Secretary

2-28-17-29 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board approves the Report of the Secretary for the months of December 2016 and January 2017 as attached, which shall be made a part of this resolution.

Approval of Budget Transfers

2-28-17-30 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves/ratifies budget transfers for the month of January 2017; as attached, which shall be made a part of this resolution.

Approval of Duncan Financial Services

2-28-17-31 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves Duncan Financial Services of Saddle Brook, New Jersey as an authorized provider of 403(B) tax shelter annuity services to the Bogota Employees.

Approval to Cancel Capital Project

2-28-17-32 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the cancelation of the capital project "Parking Lot Upgrades at the High School". Funds were previously transferred from the capital reserve account and appropriated in the 2016/2017 school year budget to fund this project. The unexpended project balance of \$378,408 will be transferred back into the Capital Reserve account, effective February 28, 2017.

Approval to Appropriate Capital Reserve Funds

2-28-17-33 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves a Resolution to Appropriate Capital Reserve Funds.

WHEREAS the Bogota Board of Education, County of Bergen desires to advance the following capital project,

Renovation of Boilers at all 3 district schools

WHEREAS capital reserve funds may be appropriated by board resolution to support eligible or otherwise eligible capital projects, and

WHEREAS the Bogota Board of Education acknowledges that State support for capital projects is not currently available, and

WHEREAS the Department of Facilities must approve all capital projects and will only move forward with approval of a properly submitted capital project if a local board of education declares an eligible capital project as "otherwise" eligible, and

WHEREAS, by declaring a capital project as “otherwise” eligible, the Bogota Board of Education hereby declares that the above-mentioned project will be supported in full with local capital reserve funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bogota Board of Education hereby declares the above referenced project as “otherwise” eligible and directs the Superintendent and School Business Administrator to obtain competitive pricing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bogota Board of Education hereby appropriates \$250,000 from its capital reserve fund to support the full cost of this project.

Approval to Appropriate Capital Reserve Funds

2-28-17-34 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves a Resolution to Appropriate Capital Reserve Funds.

WHEREAS the Bogota Board of Education, County of Bergen desires to advance the following capital project,

Replacement of Bogota High School Gym Floor

WHEREAS capital reserve funds may be appropriated by board resolution to support eligible or otherwise eligible capital projects, and

WHEREAS the Bogota Board of Education acknowledges that State support for capital projects is not currently available, and

WHEREAS the Department of Facilities must approve all capital projects and will only move forward with approval of a properly submitted capital project if a local board of education declares an eligible capital project as “otherwise” eligible, and

WHEREAS, by declaring a capital project as “otherwise” eligible, the Bogota Board of Education hereby declares that the above-mentioned project will be supported in full with local capital reserve funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bogota Board of Education hereby declares the above referenced project as “otherwise” eligible and directs the Superintendent and School Business Administrator to obtain competitive pricing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bogota Board of Education hereby appropriates \$150,000 from its capital reserve fund to support the full cost of this project.

Approval to Appropriate Capital Reserve Funds

2-28-17-35 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves a Resolution to Appropriate Capital Reserve Funds.

WHEREAS the Bogota Board of Education, County of Bergen desires to advance the following capital project,

Installation of Blacktop and Playground area at Bogota High School

WHEREAS capital reserve funds may be appropriated by board resolution to support eligible or otherwise eligible capital projects, and

WHEREAS the Bogota Board of Education acknowledges that State support for capital projects is not currently available, and

WHEREAS the Department of Facilities must approve all capital projects and will only move forward with approval of a properly submitted capital project if a local board of education declares an eligible capital project as “otherwise” eligible, and

WHEREAS, by declaring a capital project as “otherwise” eligible, the Bogota Board of Education hereby declares that the above-mentioned project will be supported in full with local capital reserve funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bogota Board of Education hereby declares the above referenced project as “otherwise” eligible and directs the Superintendent and School Business Administrator to obtain competitive pricing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bogota Board of Education hereby appropriates \$175,000 from its capital reserve fund to support the full cost of this project.

Approval to Award Contract to Repair High School Gym Floor

2-28-17-36 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves a Resolution to award a contract to Classic Sports Floors to replace the gym floor at Bogota High School for the amount of \$129,770.

WHEREAS, quotes were obtained from Mathusek, Inc. and Classic Sports Floor to replace the gym floor and

WHEREAS, both vendors are members of the Ed Data purchasing consortium, and

WHEREAS, both vendors submitted a price of \$129,770 and

WHEREAS, Classic Sports Floors is the approved primary vendor and Mathusek is the approved secondary vendor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bogota Board of Education hereby award a gym floor replacement contract to Classic Sports Floor of West Berlin, NJ in the amount of \$129,770

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

2-28-17-37 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves Kenneth O'Donnell LLC to paint the High School Gym during Spring Break at a cost of \$12,400 as per attached.

Mr. McHale moved, seconded by Mr. Moore a motion and approval of agenda items 2-28-17-18 through 2-28-17-37. On a roll call vote Mrs. Carpenter voted yes except board agenda item 2-28-17-26 check # 020115 she voted no., Ms. Granquist, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Moore, Mrs. VanBuren, Mr. McHale, and Mr. Severino voted yes. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Montgomery questioned the fees of Bruno & Associates.

Ms. Montgomery asked about the possibility of having extra crossing guards at Steen Elementary when bridge project takes place.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Montgomery inquired on how payroll department is doing.

Mrs. VanBuren inquired about budget questions.

Mr. Severino requested a copy of the full budget.

Ms. Lewis inquired about the lights out at Steen Elementary.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. VanBuren read a letter and requested it be added to the agenda. (Attached)

Mrs. VanBuren moved, seconded by Mr. McHale a motion add agenda item 2-28-17-38. On a roll call vote Mrs. Carpenter recused, Ms. Granquist, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Moore voted no, Mrs. VanBuren, Mr. McHale, and Mr. Severino voted yes. Motion failed.

HEARING OF PUBLIC

During this portion of the meeting, the residents are invited to address the Board with any questions, comments or concerns there may be with respect to the operation of their school.

Mr. McHale moved, seconded by Mr. Moore a motion to open the meeting for public comments. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote.

Vicky Shepherd commented on Dress Down Day.

Mr. McHale moved, seconded by Mr. Moore a motion to close the meeting for public comments.
Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Moore moved, seconded by Mrs. Carpenter a motion for adjournment of the meeting at 8:26 pm.
Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert R. Brown".

Robert R. Brown
Interim Board Secretary

STATEMENT TO READ ALOUD - 2/28/2017 REGULAR BOGOTA BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING: Kathy Van Buren

On 1/17/17 - at the Regular Meeting of the Board - I requested discussion in closed/executive session regarding personnel. My discussion was a proposal that we add and move a resolution that evening to appoint a specific individual as Superintendent of the Bogota Public Schools affective 7/1/17 for a 4 year term. This proposal came after a lot of what I thought to be logical thinking on my part – to wit...

- We currently have an interim – temporary – superintendent only because we needed to have someone in that position until we could legally move forward with a permanent appointment. Indeed, the same individual I proposed was discussed at that time – in October - , we were led to believe that would not be allowed – but *I have found out since that time that the individual I proposed could have taken on the position at that time, even though the individual's certification was still pending.*
- My proposal on the 17th was not well received - at all, I was harshly accused of plotting, blindsiding, rushing, “shoving it down their throats”and so on.
- By majority consensus, I withdrew my “SUGGESTION” – fair enough – I thought we were all on the same page, but obviously not.
- The next morning I wrote an apology to my fellow board members. I had indeed spoken to several board members in advance of that meeting, but not all, as I had been away and did not have any cell or internet access – I had returned home just hours before the meeting – in a rental car as that was the only way I could get home for the meeting.
- The one reply, from the board member most verbal on what I had suggested, was a very nice reply. She noted that we needed to have time to think about it, to discuss as a board, and not to move on a resolution yet.

- As a result, the Board President requested that the BA poll the board individually for their consensus on posting for the position. It was done this way for legal reasons.
- What ensued were some curt emails, again accusations flying – again a majority of trustees were in agreement and to NOT take any action.
- On 2/7/17 at the Work/Action BOE Meeting– I asked under Old Business what the Board was doing re: the open position of a permanent superintendent.
- At that time my fellow board member Amanda - who was the one who replied to my email, and wrote that we should not add a resolution just yet - opened a folder, read a pre-written resolution to add to the agenda to appoint the Interim Superintendent for another full year – beginning July 1, 2017 and going to June 30, 2018. She referenced “we” a number of times, which means there was a group of the required 5 to carry a vote and all set to do so. I thought it odd that our attorney made no comment as to the proper format, wording etc. of the resolution which is normal in such a situation – it just sailed right through. It also bothered me that this was not the monthly public meeting, but rather a Work Session with certain action allowable if advertised as such. This denied the public from attending a proper meeting where such a critical topic should be addressed.
- It was added to the agenda 5-3 (with one bd member not voting due to a conflict), then the same vote to move the resolution. Mr. McHale, Mr. Severino & I were the “no” votes.
- In closing I feel very strongly that it is our responsibility to provide this school district with a full time, permanent superintendent, one committed to, and held accountable for his actions in the long term, unlike an Interim.
- We have been approving a lot of expenditures for updating our facilities, but nothing towards education. Our buildings may look nice,

but that is not what will get our students in college – we need educational leadership, with action towards improved technology and the overall educational impact on our students.

I ask that this statement be included in the minutes of tonight's meeting.

Thank you,


Kathy Van Buren