

Meeting called to order by Board President, Jeffrey Woo at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Palisades Park Jr/Sr High School

The assemblage saluted the flag.

In attendance: J. Woo, P. Kim, K. Bruno, S. Jang, J. Kim, T. Matarazzo, J. Mattessich, B. Woo,

Dr. Cirillo, Louis Flora, Board Attorney, Matthew Petracca, Special Counsel

Absent: C. Hwang

Statement of Presiding Officer:

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 213, P.L. 1975, I hereby state that notice of this Special meeting has been given by written notice dated September 12, 2018.

The Meeting has been:

- Posted on school bulletin boards
- Advertised in at least one of the Board's official newspapers
- Communicated to the Borough Clerk of Palisades Park

Report of the Board President:

Mr. Woo commented that this meeting was scheduled in light of all the negative commentary and questions surrounding the adoption of a Shared Services Agreement between the Board and the Borough of Palisades Park. He further suggested that the Board's special counsel, who was not initially involved in the review and adoption of this agreement, conduct an investigation of this agreement due to the ongoing controversy regarding the agreement and the school security officers assigned as per the agreement.

A motion by Dr. Matarazzo, seconded by Mr. Barnabas Woo authorizing the special counsel to conduct an investigation and prepare a report on said agreement, and issues related to the shared services agreement, and present this report at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Roll Call: Ayes – J. Woo, P. Kim, K. Bruno, S. Jang, J. Kim, T. Matarazzo, J. Mattessich, B. Woo

There are no Committee reports at this meeting.

Dr. Cirillo suggested going into closed session to discuss a matter that was brought to his attention this evening.

Closed Session:

A motion to go into closed session was made by J. Mattessich, seconded by K. Bruno, all ayes on roll call to discuss possible litigation resulting from an online newspaper article that may be published in tomorrow's edition.

Special Meeting**September 19, 2018**

Meeting called to order by Board President, Jeffrey Woo at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Early Childhood Center

The assemblage saluted the flag.

In attendance: J. Woo, P. Kim, K. Bruno, S. Jang, J. Kim, T. Matarazzo, B. Woo,
Dr. Cirillo, L. Flora, Esq., M. Petracca, Esq., Police Chief Raymond Hayducka

Absent: J. Mattessich, C. Hwang (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

Statement of Presiding Officer:

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 213, P.L. 1975, I hereby state that adequate notice of this special meeting has been given by written notice dated September 17, 2018.

The Meeting has been:

- Posted on school bulletin boards
- Advertised in one of the Board's official newspapers
- Communicated with the Borough Clerk of Palisades Park

Mr. Woo announced that the Board will be going into closed session for approximately 30 minutes. Formal action will be taken.

Motion to convene in closed session B. Woo, seconded by T. Matarazzo, all ayes on roll call vote.

Closed Session:

Special Counsel, Matthew Petracca, gave the Board an overview of an extensive report that he has compiled regarding the discrepancies and errors in the current Shared Services Agreement. Each board member was given a binder detailing the findings of this report. Chief Hayducka worked as a private consultant on this report. Chief Hayducka has 30 years of experience in law enforcement and in advising districts in matters of school security.

R E D A C T E D

Due to the sensitive material in this extensive report compiled by Mr. Petracca, the binders were collected and not given to the public at this time. There are some details in this report that have to be revisited and possibly amended upon further review. Also, Mr. Petracca has to supplement this report when he receives the OPRA documents from the Borough. The report will remain privileged at this time.

Motion to close executive session: T. Matarazzo, seconded by B. Woo, all ayes on roll call.

Re-Open to Public Session:

Motion to open the meeting to the public: K. Bruno, seconded by P. Kim, all ayes on roll call.

Police Chief Raymond Hayducka introduced himself to the audience. He stated he is not present as a police chief, but rather as a private consultant in matters of school security. He has been involved in school security since 1999 after the Columbine incident. (See attached NJ Police Chief Magazine article)

Chief Hayducka detailed the differences between a school security officer, a SRO (school resource officer) and Class III officers. His recommendation is that the best course of action would be a SRO, but it is also the most costly option.

Retired police officers hired as school security officers (armed upon the recommendation of the Superintendent) have zero law enforcement powers. They have limited duties: they do not retain the power to arrest, cannot communicate with responding officers, cannot stop & frisk, have no standard uniforms and can at times provide a false sense of security. Age limitation not a requirement.

Class III officers have the same privileges as police officers when on campus. They are retired officers (no more than 3 years), undergo mandated psych testing, they are appointed annually and are supervised by the local chief of police. They have to be retired officers in good standing. Their primary function is school security.

A school resource officer is the best and most costly option. They undergo specialized training and have multiple duties. The presence of an SRO alleviates gang activity, bullying, student fighting and aggressive behaviors. They are assigned on a full-time basis and are completely integrated into the school system as part of the faculty. They mentor students and have instructional duties. The local police chief has direct authority over the SRO, who is a member of the police department.

Following Chief Hayducka's presentation the Board took the following action:

A motion to explore a security study of the district and related costs: Moved by: T. Matarazzo, seconded by K. Bruno, all ayes on roll call. Motion passes 8 – 0.

Stephanie Jang commented that the school security guards began working in the district without the Board's knowledge, and prior to the BOE being presented with the shared services agreement. The officers began working in our schools in April 2018, and the Board did not officially vote on the agreement until the May 2nd special meeting. She felt as if the agreement was forced on the Board by the Borough without sufficient information. She apologized to the community for not being more involved in this process. In the future, the Board will be more engaged in matters concerning the security and safety of our students and teachers.

A motion to terminate the current shared services agreement with the Borough: Moved by B. Woo, seconded by S. Jang, all ayes on roll call. Motion passes 8 – 0.

Barnabas Woo made a motion to terminate the contract of the Board Attorney due to lack of confidence and misinformation surrounding the shared services agreement. The motion was seconded by Jason Kim. A discussion ensued and a decision was made to table this motion and return to closed session for further deliberation.

Motion by T. Matarazzo, seconded by K. Bruno, all ayes on roll call to return to a closed session forum following audience participation.

Motion to open the meeting to public commentary: T. Matarazzo, seconded by K. Bruno, all eyes on roll call.

Audience Participation:

Maria Pesantes, resident/parent, thanked Chief Hayducka for his commentary. Mrs. Pesantes contacted Dr. Gambino at the State DOE. Dr. Gambino is the school safety liaison for Bergen County. She suggested that the MOA should be discarded because the correct protocols were not adhered to. She further commented that our school safety specialist has not been present at one board meeting regarding these school safety issues. He should be registered at one of the State's school safety academies within one year of his appointment.

Dr. Cirillo replied that our school safety specialist is enrolled in a school safety academy and is participating in a week long program.

Sandy Cortazzo, resident, recommended moving forward with the best interests of our school community in mind. She commended the Board for their attention to this most important matter.

Lisa Ardire, resident/parent, questioned the presence of security in the schools. The answer is yes.

Maria Pesantes – "Fear does not dictate what we do". No one should enter our school buildings without the proper vetting. She will be following the progress of the Board on the issues discussed.

A motion by K. Bruno, seconded by T. Matarazzo, all eyes on roll call to close audience participation.

A motion to go into closed session: T. Matarazzo, seconded by B. Woo, all eyes on roll call.

Closed Session:

REDACTED

Motion to close this session: P. Kim, seconded by K. Bruno, all eyes on roll call.

The meeting continues to open session:

Motion to open: T. Matarazzo, seconded by J. Kim, all eyes on roll call.

A motion to terminate Louis Flora's contract with the Board of Education, effective immediately:

Moved by: Barnabas Woo, seconded by Jason Kim

Roll call: Ayes – J. Woo, K. Bruno, C. Hwang, S. Jang, J. Kim, T. Matarazzo, B. Woo

Nay – P. Kim

Motion passes 7 – 1.

A motion to retain the services of Matthew Petracca, Esq. until the next Reorganization meeting (January 2019). The Board will advertise for RFP's for legal services in December 2018 and interview prospective candidates.

Moved by: T. Matarazzo, seconded by B. Woo, all eyes on roll call.

Motion passes 8 – 0.

Motion to adjourn: T. Matarazzo, seconded by J. Kim, all eyes on roll call to adjourn the meeting.

Diane Montemurro