

School Ethics Commission Special Meeting Public Session Minutes

January 11, 2024

Chairperson Bender called the regularly scheduled meeting of the School Ethics Commission (Commission or SEC) to order at 9:31 a.m.

Notice of the special meeting was provided to the State House Press Corps and the Secretary of State, and filed as required by the Open Public Meetings Act.

I. Roll Call

Roll Call	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Present	X	X	X	X	X		5
Absent						X	1

Also, in attendance were Brigid C. Martens, Director, Office of School Ethics; Jeannine Pizzigoni, staff member; and Amna Toor, Deputy Attorney General (DAG). Everyone in attendance at the meeting participated by telephone/video.

II. Public Comment

9:32 a.m. Alix Hayes, a former member of the Ocean Township Board of Education, Monmouth County, noted her attendance, but did not offer any public statement/comment.

III. Executive Session

At 9:34 a.m., the following Resolution was read:

Whereas, the Open Public Meetings Act (*N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*) authorizes the Commission, a public body, to meet in Executive Session under certain circumstances; and

Whereas, the Open Public Meetings Act requires that the Commission adopt a Resolution at a public meeting to go into Executive Session; and

Now therefore be it resolved that, consistent with the provisions of *N.J.A.C. 10:4-12(b)*, the Commission will adjourn to Executive Session to discuss matters which, by statute, are regarded as confidential and also to discuss matters possibly involving litigation: C82-22; and

Now therefore be it further resolved that the Commission will return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of Executive Session.

Motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Michael Carucci, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the matters set forth in the foregoing Resolution.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X		5
No							0
Abstention							0

IV. Return to Public

At **10:14 p.m.**, a motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to return to public session for the purpose of receiving public comment/testimony, and to vote on matters discussed in Executive Session (as appropriate).

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X		5
No							0
Abstention							0

V. Second Public Comment

10:15 a.m. Alix Hayes, a member of the Ocean Township Board of Education, Monmouth County, again noted her attendance, and offered the following statement:

I had no plans to make a public statement, but I did just want to thank you for your service.

It is a thankless job which you do, and you probably get beat up by emails and calls and public comment, and I sympathize with you. I wish you a happy New Year and once again, thank you for all you do for advancing ethics in public education in New Jersey. Thanks.

VI. Other Business

C82-22 The Commission was briefed on this matter by Director Martens, which was on the agenda for informational purposes only. The Commission discussed reviewing this matter at another special meeting.

VII. Adjournment

At 10:17 a.m., a motion was made by Dennis Roberts, and seconded by Carol E. Sabo, to adjourn.

Vote

Vote	Robert Bender	Michael Carucci	Mark Finkelstein	Dennis Roberts	Carol E. Sabo	Richard Tomko	Total
Yes	X	X	X	X	X		5
No							0
Abstention							0

Submitted by:

Jeannine Pizzigoni

Approved by:

Brigid C. Martens, Director
School Ethics Commission