

**Toms River, New Jersey, June 30, 2021**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Toms River Regional Schools took place at Toms River High School South, 55 Hyers Street, Toms River, on Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 6:03 P.M.

Board President Joe Nardini read the following Opening Statement:

“Good Evening, Welcome to a Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Toms River Regional Schools.”

“This meeting was announced to the public through a notice published in the Asbury Park Press and The Star Ledger on June 23, 2021, which constituted at least 48 hours notice as required by law under the Open Public Meetings Act.”

A roll call of attendance indicated the following Board Members were present: Ms. Kathy Eagan, Mrs. Jennifer Howe present virtually, Mr. Kevin Kidney, Mr. Alex Mizenko, Mrs. Michele Williams, Mrs. Anna Polozzo and Mr. Joe Nardini.

Mrs. Lisa Contessa arrived 6:25 p.m.  
Ms. Ashley Palmiere arrived 6:25 p.m.

Also in attendance were Interim Superintendent Gialanella, Assistant Superintendents DiMeo, Fastnacht, Business Administrator Doering, Board Secretary Saxton, Board Attorney Leone and Attorney Burns.

**NO EXECUTIVE SESSION – BREAK - 6:04 P.M.**

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION – 6:30 P.M.**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Polozzo, seconded by Mr. Kidney and carried that the Board return to Regular Session at 6:30 P.M.*

*All members present voting Aye.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board President Mr. Nardini led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board President Joseph Nardini requests all Board members put phones into silent mode, put in front of them upside down.

Board President Joseph Nardini reads a letter from Charlie Muller, the County Superintendent of Schools regarding the requirements for hiring a Superintendent.

Board Vice President Anna Polozzo discusses the hiring of a local qualified Superintendent and makes a motion to appoint Mr. James Ricotta as permanent Superintendent of Toms River Regional Schools for a term of 3 years. Mrs. Michele Williams 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. This item shall be added to the agenda as item 7A.

**INQUIRIES FROM GUESTS AND PRESS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY** *(limited to 5 minutes as per Board Policy # 0167; Public Participation in Board Meetings)*

Public comments were heard by Mrs. Whitaker.  
Public comments were heard by Mr. Leonard.  
Public comments were heard by Mr. Tormollan.  
Public comments were heard by Mr. Steffer.  
Public comments were heard by Mr. Micliz.  
Public comments were heard by Mr. Onofrietti.  
Public comments were heard by Mrs. Edgecomb.  
Public comments were heard by Mrs. Remelgado.  
Public comments were heard by Mrs. Roseo.  
Public comments were heard by Mrs. Ambrosio.  
Public comments were heard by Mr. Meehan.  
Public comments were heard by Mrs. Puglisi.  
Public comments were heard by Mr. Gamble.  
Public comments were heard by Mrs. Fergus.  
Public comments were heard by Mrs. Paska.

**5-10 MINUTE RECESS 8:18 P.M. – 8:27 P.M.**

**PERSONNEL AGENDA (# 1-3)**

*A motion was made by Mr. Mizenko, seconded by Mrs. Polozzo and carried that the following Personnel Agenda (#1-3) be approved:*

**CERTIFICATED STAFF 1-2:**

**1. Recommended for Employment:  
{Code = (R) Replacement; (New) New Position}**

A.	<u>Sarah J. Manginelli</u> SB Sped	(R) 9/1/2021-6/30/2022	\$68,795
B.	<u>Heather R. Price</u> IE Social Worker	(New) 8/1/2021-6/30/2022	\$63,916

**2. Recommended for Change of Employment:**

A.	<u>Breanna P. Morey</u> WAL Tier I Para	<u>Change to:</u> ED Elem Aut 9/1/2021-6/30/2022	\$55,005
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**SUPPORT STAFF 3:**

**3. Custodial Department:**

A. Recommended Change of Employment:

Change to:

Michael J. Celmer  
Groundskeeper

SB Custodian  
7/1/2021 – 6/30/2022

*On roll call following the vote:*

*Ayes: Contessa, Eagan, Howe, Kidney, Mizenko, Palmiere, Williams, Polozzo, Nardini*

*Noes: None*

*Abstained: None*

*Absent: None*

**MOTION TO APPOINT MR. JAMES RICOTTA AS PERMANENT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR A 3 YEAR TERM**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Polozzo, seconded by Mrs. Williams and carried that the Motion to Appoint Mr. James Ricotta as Permanent Superintendent of Schools for a 3 year term be approved:*

*Ayes: Mizenko, Williams, Polozzo*

*Noes: Contessa, Howe, Kidney, Palmiere*

*Abstained: Eagan, Nardini*

*Absent: None*

**MOTION TO APPOINT WILLIAM J. DOERING, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR AS THE DESIGNEE TO PAY ALL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS FOR TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS UNTIL A CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR IS APPOINTED**

*A motion was made by Mr. Mizenko, seconded by Mr. Nardini and carried that the Motion to Appoint Mr. William J. Doering, Business Administrator to Pay all Financial Obligations for Toms River Regional Schools until a Chief School Administrator is Appointed be approved:*

*On roll call following the vote:*

*Ayes: Contessa, Eagan, Howe, Kidney, Mizenko, Palmiere, Williams, Polozzo, Nardini*

*Noes: None*

*Abstained: None*

*Absent: None*

**MOTION TO APPOINT NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION AS THE LIAISON TO CONDUCT THE NEXT SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Contessa, seconded by Mr. Kidney and carried that the Motion to Appoint New Jersey School Boards Association as the Liaison to Conduct the Next Superintendent Search be approved:*

*On roll call following the vote:*

*Ayes: Contessa, Kidney, Palmiere*

*Noes: Howe, Mizenko, Williams, Polozzo, Nardini*

*Abstained: Eagan*

*Absent: None*

**MOTION TO EXTEND MR. THOMAS GIALANELLA AS INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT FOR 30 DAYS AT THE SAME RATE OF PAY AND ALL CONTRACT TERMS TO STAY IN PLACE SUBJECT TO EXECUTIVE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Polozzo, seconded by Mrs. Howe and carried that the Motion to Extend Mr. Thomas Gialanella as Interim Superintendent for 30 days at the Same Rate of Pay and All Contract Terms to Stay in Place Subject to Executive County Superintendent Approval be approved:*

*On roll call following the vote:*

*Ayes: Contessa, Howe, Kidney, Mizenko, Palmiere, Williams, Polozzo*

*Noes: None*

*Abstained: Eagan, Nardini*

*Absent: None*

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE TOMS RIVER SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION FOR JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2026**

*A motion was made by Mr. Mizenko, seconded by Mrs. Williams and carried that the Motion to Approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Toms River Schools Transportation Association for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2026 be approved:*

*Ayes: Contessa, Eagan, Howe, Kidney, Mizenko, Palmiere, Williams, Polozzo, Nardini*

*Noes: None*

*Abstained: None*

*Absent: None*

**MOTION TO APPOINT BOARD ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO BEGIN AN INVESTIGATION INTO ANY POTENTIAL ETHICS VIOLATIONS MADE BY THE SITTING BOARD MEMBERS WITHIN THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Polozzo, seconded by Mr. Nardini and carried that the Motion Appoint Board Attorney's Office to begin an Investigation into any Potential Ethics Violations made by the Sitting Board Members within the 2021 School Year be approved:*

*Ayes: Contessa, Eagan, Kidney, Mizenko, Palmiere, Williams, Polozzo, Nardini*

*Noes: Howe*

*Abstained: None*

*Absent: None*

**Mrs. Polozzo requests to open a discussion on the re-advertisement of the superintendent search**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR A NEW SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Polozzo, seconded by Mrs. Howe and carried that the Motion to Approve the Advertisement for a New Superintendent Search be approved:*

*Ayes: Contessa, Howe, Kidney, Mizenko, Palmiere, Williams, Polozzo*

*Noes: Howe*

*Abstained: Eagan, Nardini*

*Absent: None*

**Mrs. Polozzo requested an Executive Session to be held July 14, 2021 before the Board committee meetings.**

**Mrs. Polozzo asked Mr. Doering to provide the cost of the advertisement and email the Board all the options. The Board will take a straw poll to make a decision once received.**

### **MOTION TO GO TO SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Polozzo, seconded by Mrs. Williams and carried that the Motion to go into Second Public Comment be approved:*

*Ayes: Eagan, Howe, Mizenko, Williams, Polozzo, Nardini*

*Noes: Contessa, Kidney, Palmiere*

*Abstained: None*

*Absent: None*

### **INQUIRIES FROM GUESTS AND PRESS (limited to 5 minutes as per Board Policy # 0167 – Public Participation in Board Meetings)**

Public comments were heard by Mr. Leonard.

Public comments were heard by Mr. Steffer.

Public comments were heard by Ms. Pulgisi.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Polozzo, seconded by Mrs. Howe and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 9:40 P.M.*

**Toms River, New Jersey, June 30, 2021**

*All members present voting Aye.*

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*Wendy L. Saxton, Board Secretary*