

**MINUTES OF A REORGANIZATION MEETING  
OF THE  
RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
January 6, 2014**

A Reorganization meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday evening, January 6, 2014 in the High School Cafeteria. Meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Mr. Joseph Kelly, Board Secretary, with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL**      On roll call the following members were present: Mrs. Ahmed, Mrs. Jones, Mr. Novosielski, and Mr. Tully.

**OATH OF OFFICE**                      1. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary administered the oath of office to the newly re-elected members of the Rutherford Board of Education:

- a. Mr. Steven Arce
- b. Mrs. Mary Lanni
- c. Mr. Kevin McLean

**ROLL CALL**                                      On roll call the following members were present: Mrs. Ahmed, Mr. Arce, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Lanni, Mr. McLean, Mr. Novosielski, and Mr. Tully. Dr. Jones and Mr. Kelly were also present.

**N.J. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW**

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 meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Rutherford Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on the bulletin board outside the Borough Clerk's Office, mailed to the News Leader, Herald, South Bergenite, and the Record newspapers, and filed with the Borough Clerk.

**TAPING AND BROADCASTING OF MEETINGS**

Work Sessions and regular meetings of the Rutherford Board of Education will be broadcast without editing during a two-hour segment, as limited by Comcast's time constraints, on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 p.m. on the Comcast public access channel and on FiOS Channel 38. Any member of the public who wishes to view the two-hour tape can make that request to the board secretary.

**REVIEW OF RESULTS OF ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION:**

BOARD MEMBERS:

<b>Name, Term</b>	<b>Votes Received</b>
Steven Arce, three years	774
Mary Lanni, three years	1,117
Kevin McLean, three years	912

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion by Mr. McLean, seconded by Mr. Novosielski that an Executive Session be held at 7:38 P.M. for the purpose of discussing a Student Matter. Action may or may not be taken. The Board expects to return within 15 minutes.

Approved by Voice Vote.

The Board returned at 8:09 P.M.

**ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT:**

**OPEN NOMINATIONS**

2A. Motion by Mr. McLean, seconded by Mrs. Lanni, to accept nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education.

Approved by Voice Vote. [7-0-0]

Mr. McLean nominated Mr. Tully.  
Mrs. Jones nominated Mr. Novosielski.  
No further nominations.

**CLOSE NOMINATIONS**

2B. Motion by Mr. McLean, seconded by Mrs. Ahmed, to close nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education.

Approved by Voice Vote. [7-0-0]

Pursuant to a request from several Board members, each of the nominees spoke of their experience and qualifications to serve as president.

Mr. Novosielski noted that he has served on the Board for fifteen years and has experience as vice-president, chair of various committees and the Board's parliamentarian, in addition to being a graduate of the Rutherford Public Schools. In those fifteen years, much has been accomplished but there is much more to be done in the coming years and he would like to play an active role in overseeing those changes. He has obtained his Certificated

Board Member qualification as well as his Master Board Member certification and has completed the NJSBA Leadership Training. Mr. Novosielski thanked the Board members for their consideration.

Mr. Tully noted that it has been his privilege to serve on the Board and greatly appreciates the seasoned nature of the Board, adding that each of the Board members has their heart in the right place and wants to do what's best for the students. He thanked Mr. Casadonte and Mr. Griggs for the superb jobs they did during their tenure on the Board, and noted that, while much has been accomplished in recent years, there are big issues ahead for the Board to address. He thanked the Board members for their consideration.

Mr. McLean noted that, while both candidates are well-qualified to serve as president, the role does require its holder to act as a facilitator in many different situations and that Mr. Novosielski might have a conflict of interest in certain situations, due to the nature of his employment, whereas Mr. Tully has no such conflicts.

Mrs. Ahmed responded that she did not see any such conflict of interest as a problem, given that Mr. Novosielski's experience as a teacher will bring an added dimension to the role.

Mr. Novosielski responded that he has experience in working on both sides of the negotiations table and that his various experiences represent not so much a "conflict of interest" as a "confluence of interests".

With no more questions or comments, the Board members then completed ballots indicating their votes for Board President. After a tie vote (three votes for each candidate, with one abstention), a second ballot was completed, with the following results, as read into the public record by Mr. Kelly:

Mr. Novosielski – 4 votes (Mrs. Ahmed, Mr. Arce,  
Mrs. Jones, Mr. Novosielski)  
Mr. Tully – 2 votes (Mrs. Lanni, Mr. McLean)  
Abstained – 1 (Mr. Tully)

ELECTION OF BOARD  
PRESIDENT

2C. Motion by Mr. McLean, seconded by Mrs. Lanni, that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:15-1 and Bylaw 9121, the Rutherford Board of Education, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey, elects Mr. Gary Novosielski as President of the Board of Education, effective immediately, until the next organization meeting as prescribed by law.

Approved by Voice Vote. [4-2-1]

Mr. Kelly transferred control of the meeting to Mr. Novosielski.

ELECTION OF BOARD VICE PRESIDENT:

OPEN NOMINATIONS

3A. Motion by Mrs. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Lanni, to accept nominations for the office of Vice-President of the Board of Education.

Approved by Voice Vote. [7-0-0]

Mr. Tully nominated Mr. McLean.  
Mrs. Jones nominated Mr. Tully.  
No further nominations.

CLOSE NOMINATIONS

3B. Motion by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mrs. Lanni, to close nominations for the office of Vice-President of the Board of Education.

Approved by Voice Vote. [7-0-0]

The Board members completed ballots indicating their votes for Board Vice-President, with the following results, as read into the public record by Mr. Kelly:

Mr. McLean – 5 votes (Mrs. Ahmed, Mr. Arce,  
Mrs. Lanni, Mr. Novosielski, Mr. Tully)  
Mr. Tully – 2 votes (Mrs. Jones, Mr. McLean)

ELECTION OF BOARD  
VICE-PRESIDENT

3C. Motion by Mrs. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Lanni, that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:15-1 and Bylaw 9121, the Rutherford Board of Education, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey, elects Mr. Kevin McLean as Vice-President of the Board of Education, effective immediately, until the next organization meeting as prescribed by law.

Approved by Voice Vote. [5-2-0]

**Motion by Mr. McLean, seconded by Mrs. Jones:**

**BOARD MEETING  
SCHEDULE**

5. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to adopt the following Board meeting schedule for the 2014. Meetings are to be held at 7:30 P.M. unless otherwise noted.

Approved by Voice Vote.

**Rutherford Board of Education  
Meeting Schedule  
2014**

January	13	Worksession/Regular	7:30 p.m.
February	3	Worksession	7:30 p.m.
	10	Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
March	3	Worksession	7:30 p.m.
	10	Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
	TBD	Budget Hearing	
April	14	Worksession/Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
May	5	Worksession	7:30 p.m.
	12	Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
June	2	Worksession	7:30 p.m.
	9	Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
July	7	Worksession/Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
September	8	Worksession/Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
October	6*	Worksession	7:30 p.m.
October	13	Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
November	3	Worksession	7:30 p.m.
November	10	Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
December	8	Worksession/Regular Meeting	7:30 p.m.
January	5	Reorganization Meeting	7:30 p.m.

\* Board of Education Scholastic Awards

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT: [None]**

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: (Agenda Items Only) [None] 8:37 P.M.**

**NEW BUSINESS (Action to be Taken)**

**PERSONNEL:**

Motion by Mrs. Ahmed, seconded by Mr. McLean, to move the following resignations, retirements, salary adjustments, reassignments, appointments, etc., as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, pending approval from the State Department of Education, subject to the New Jersey Criminal Background Check and other legal requirements.

Approved by Voice Vote.

**THOM CASADONTE**

1A. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to accept, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Thom Casadonte, from the Rutherford Board of Education effective December 31, 2013.

**THOMAS GRIGGS**

2A. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to accept, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Thomas Griggs, from the Rutherford Board of Education effective December 31, 2013.

Mrs. Ahmed, Mrs. Jones and Mr. Novosielski each spoke very highly of the contributions made over the years by Mr. Casadonte and Mr. Griggs and thanked them for their service.

**Roll Call Vote Items #1A and #2A:**

Mrs. Ahmed – aye	Mrs. Lanni – aye	Mr. Tully – aye
Mr. Arce – aye	Mr. McLean – aye	
Mrs. Jones – aye	Mr. Novosielski – aye	

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Jones asked the Board to consider opening up the Long-Range Committee to the entire Board, so that all members could participate. The Board agreed, and will bring the full Board up to speed at the January 13, 2014 meeting.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: [None]**

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: (Any Topic) [None] 8:53 P.M.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mr. McLean, seconded by Mrs. Jones , that the meeting be adjourned at 8:53 P.M.

Approved by Voice Vote

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joseph P. Kelly  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary