

REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

AUDUBON HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024

7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

I. **Call to Order:** In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act of 1975, the Audubon Board of Education transmitted notice of this meeting, scheduled at 7:00 P.M. in the Audubon Junior-Senior High School Library Media Center to the Retrospect newspaper and the Borough Clerk and by postings on the Audubon Public School District website and at the Main and the Pine Street entrance of the Junior-Senior High School.

II. **Flag Salute**

III. **Board Election Results**

District School Election of the Audubon Public School District of Audubon Borough, in the County of Camden in the State of New Jersey was held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 pursuant to the notice given in accordance with state law.

Board Candidates:	Mark Gatti	1,377
	William Wilson	1,332
	Alison Lipsky	1,271
	Joseph Miller	1,000

IV. **Administration of the Oath of Office**

Board Members Elected to Three-Year Term (3 Seats): Mark Gatti
William Wilson
Alison Lipsky

Oath of Office Statement

V. **Roll Call**

SY 2022-2024

___ James Blumenstein ___ Allison Cox ___ Andrea Robinson

SY 2023-2025

___ Ammie Davis ___ Stephen Wilson ___ Tara Sullivan-Butrica

SY 2024-2026

___ Alison Lipsky

___ Mark Gatti

___ Bill Wilson

VI. Reorganization of the Board

1. Office of President

The Board Secretary calls for nomination for the office of President of the Board.

Motion to close nominations for the office of President.

The Board Secretary/Business Administrator calls the roll for the office of President.

The Board Secretary/Business Administrator declares _____
duly elected as President of the Audubon Board of Education.

President assumes chairmanship of meeting.

2. Office of Vice-President

The President calls for nominations for the office of Vice-President of the Board.

Motion to close nominations for the office of Vice President.

The Board Secretary/Business Administrator calls the roll for the office of Vice President.

The Board President declares _____ duly elected as the
Vice President of the Audubon Board of Education.

3. Board Meeting Dates

Motion to approve the Board meeting dates for the period of January 3, 2024 through January 8, 2025. Meetings will begin as noted with the Executive Closed Session at 6:30 pm, followed by the Action Meeting at 7:00 PM except for the Re-Organization Meeting on January 4, 2023 which will start at 7:00 PM.

2024 Board Meeting Dates

VII. Authorizing Executive Session:

WHEREAS, while the Sen. Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 et seq.) requires all meetings of the **Audubon Board of Education** to be held in public, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) sets forth nine types of matters that may lawfully be discussed in Executive Session," i.e. without the public being permitted to attend; and

WHEREAS, the **Audubon Board of Education** has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public; and

WHEREAS, the nine exceptions to public meetings set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) are listed below, and next to each exception is a box within which the number of issues to be privately discussed that fall within that exception shall be written, and after each exception is a space where additional information that will disclose as much information about the decision as possible without undermining the purpose of the exception shall be written.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Audubon Board of Education** will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b):

X Any matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public;

_____ Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

X Any material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as any records, data, reports, recommendations, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to

any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including but not limited to information relative to the individual's personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly;

_____ Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body

_____ Any matter involving the purchase lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed;

_____ Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection;

X Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law;

_____ Any pending or anticipated litigation or negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer;

X Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public; Specifically the evaluation of the Superintendent

_____ Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility;

WHEREAS, the length of the Executive Session is undetermined; however, the **Audubon Board of Education** will make every attempt to estimate the time of the session prior to convening the session after which the public meeting shall reconvene and the **Audubon Board of Education** will proceed with business.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Audubon Board of Education** will go into Executive Session for only the above stated reasons;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Audubon Board of Education** hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the **Audubon Board of Education** attorney advises that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the school district or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Board of Education**, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby declares that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place and hereby directs the board secretary to take the appropriate action to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

1. Motion to move the Board of Education, by Resolution, adjourn into Executive Session from which the general public will be excluded to discuss school matters. The results of this session will be made public immediately after or as soon thereafter as a decision is reached.
Motion to Approve: _____ Second: _____

Time: _____ Voice Count: _____

2. Motion to reconvene the Board of Education, by Resolution.

Motion to Approve: _____ Second: _____

Time: _____ Voice Count: _____

VIII. Participation: (Agenda Items Only)

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board has set aside two portions of this Board meeting for public comment on any school or school district issue that a member of the public feels may be of interest to the residents of the school district.

For the first portion, public comments are invited on matters pertaining only to the agenda for tonight's meeting. For the second portion, public comments are invited on all matters pertaining to the school district.

Participants should announce their name, address, and any group they may represent, if applicable. The Board reserves the right to limit public discussion. Public discussion of a topic will be limited to fifteen (15) minutes, and individual speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard. Reference bylaws #0167 of the Audubon Public Schools Board of Education Manual.

The Board uses the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to citizen. Not all issues brought to a Board meeting will be resolved at that particular meeting. Complaints stated or actions requested by the public may be taken under advisement by the Board for investigation, discussion, actions, or disposition at a later date or time. The public comments sessions are an opportunity for citizens to share their opinions and remarks with the Board; it is not a question and answer session. The Board may or may not respond to public comments at the time they are made and is under no obligation to do so.

The Board does not endorse public comments nor will the Board be held liable for comments made by members of the public. Any individuals who may be the subject of public comments, including district employees, shall retain all rights against defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey.

All motions are voted on by all members unless otherwise marked with a +.

IX. Governance

Board of Education Goals

- ❖ To continue to provide equitable access to a rigorous curriculum while focusing on improving student achievement and decreasing the achievement gaps.
- ❖ To maintain a cost-effective budget that provides for educational resources, supports a preventative maintenance program, and encourages and facilitates long-range facility improvements.
- ❖ To foster a positive school climate and culture in order to positively impact student motivation, engagement, and achievement.

1. Motion to approve Audubon Board of Education's compliance with the Ethics Acts thereby certifying that:
 - i. The School Ethics Act and Code of Ethics for School Board Members has been received and discussed,
 - ii. Policies and Procedures regarding training of district Board of Education members have been adopted, and

- iii. Each School Board of Education member acknowledges receipt of the Code of Ethics for School Board Members and has become familiar with the Code of Ethics.

Code of Ethics

- 2. Motion to approve Robert's Rule of Order as the basis for the conduct of all meetings of the Audubon Board of Education.

Motion to Approve Item(s) 1 through 2: _____ Second: _____

Roll Call

___ Mark Gatti	___ Alison Lipsky	___ Bill Wilson
___ Ammie Davis	___ Tara Butrica	___ Stephen Wilson
___ James Blumenstein	___ Allison Cox	___ Andrea Robinson

X. Operations:

Board of Education Goals

- ❖ To continue to provide equitable access to a rigorous curriculum while focusing on improving student achievement and decreasing the achievement gaps.
- ❖ To maintain a cost-effective budget that provides for educational resources, supports a preventative maintenance program, and encourages and facilitates long-range facility improvements.
- ❖ To foster a positive school climate and culture in order to positively impact student motivation, engagement, and achievement.

- 1. Motion to approve the fee agreement between M. Lou Garty, Esquire and the Audubon Board of Education for investigation services at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

Fee Agreement

M. Lou Garty Biography

Motion to Approve Item(s) 1 through 1: _____ Second: _____

Roll Call

___ Mark Gatti	___ Alison Lipsky	___ Bill Wilson
___ Ammie Davis	___ Tara Butrica	___ Stephen Wilson
___ James Blumenstein	___ Allison Cox	___ Andrea Robinson

XI. Education:

None

XII. Human Resources:

Board of Education Goals

- ❖ To continue to provide equitable access to a rigorous curriculum while focusing on improving student achievement and decreasing the achievement gaps.
- ❖ To maintain a cost-effective budget that provides for educational resources, supports a preventative maintenance program, and encourages and facilitates long-range facility improvements.
- ❖ To foster a positive school climate and culture in order to positively impact student motivation, engagement, and achievement.

1. + Motion to approve the long-term (FTE 1.0) Substitute Elementary Teacher agreement for Laurie McCloskey at Mansion Avenue School, effective December 21, 2023, January 2, 2024 through February 6, 2024 at \$270.00 per diem, no benefits; time worked does not count towards the acquisition of tenure, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.
2. + Motion to approve the long-term (FTE 1.0) Substitute Elementary Teacher agreement for Walter Westfield at Mansion Avenue School, effective February 9, 2024 through April 10, 2024 at \$270.00 per diem, no benefits; time worked does not count towards the acquisition of tenure, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.
3. + Motion to approve the long-term (FTE 0.87) Substitute School Counselor agreement for Rachel Simonetti at Mansion Avenue School, effective retroactive to December 13, 2023 through January 24, 2024 at \$234.90 per diem with executed time sheets, no benefits; time worked does not count towards the acquisition of tenure, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.
4. Motion to approve the Twelve-Month (FTE 1.0) Maintenance Department Evening Supervisor contract for Kevin Stuart, for the 2023-2024 school year, effective January 15, 2024 at the salary of \$62,000.00 (to be prorated), pending the completion of all Audubon Board of Education and New Jersey Department of Education requirements, at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.
5. Motion to create a fulltime (FTE 1.) tenure track teacher of mathematics position at the Junior-Senior High school for the 2023-2024 school year at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.
6. Motion to approve the first-year tenure track Teacher of Mathematics contract for Kelsey L. Abram, at the Audubon Junior-Senior High School effective March 4, 2024 through June 30, 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year in accordance with the 2021-2024 negotiated contract between the Audubon Board of Education and the Audubon Education Association at Step 12, FTE 1.0 prorated, pending the completion of all Audubon Board of Education and New Jersey Department of Education requirements, at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.
- 7 +. Motion to rescind the following Mansion Avenue School extracurricular contract for the 2023-2024 school year, effective January 16, 2024, in accordance with the negotiated 2021-2024 contract between the Audubon Board of Education and the Audubon Education Association at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

Name	Position/Activity	Contractual Rate
Bridget Bialecki	Intervention & Referral Services	\$1,351.43

- 8 +. Motion to approve the following Mansion Avenue School extracurricular contract for the 2023-2024 school year, effective January 15, 2024 through June 30, 2024, in accordance with the negotiated 2021-2024 contract between the Audubon Board of Education and the Audubon Education Association at the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

Name	Position/Activity	Contractual Rate
Erica Cavanaugh	Intervention & Referral Services	\$1,351.43 Prorated

Motion to Approve Item(s) 1 through 8: _____ Second: _____

Roll Call

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| ___ Mark Gatti | ___ Alison Lipsky | ___ Bill Wilson |
| ___ Ammie Davis | ___ Tara Butrica | ___ Stephen Wilson |
| ___ James Blumenstein | ___ Allison Cox | ___ Andrea Robinson |

XIII. Public Participation: (Open Discussion)

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

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XIV. Adjournment

1. The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for (*Tentatively Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 6:30 PM*) in the Audubon Junior-Senior High School Media Center.
2. There will be a Board Retreat on (*Tentatively Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 9:00 AM*) in the Audubon Junior-Senior High School Media Center. No action will be taken.
3. Motion to adjourn meeting at approximately _____ pm.

Motion to Approve: _____ Second: _____

Roll Call

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| ___ Mark Gatti | ___ Alison Lipsky | ___ Bill Wilson |
| ___ Ammie Davis | ___ Tara Butrica | ___ Stephen Wilson |

___ James Blumenstein

___ Allison Cox

___ Andrea Robinson

The Audubon Board of Education reserves the right to add and/or delete motions or make changes to motions in this agenda up to the time of the meeting and during the actual meeting.