

**WASHINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES – July 11, 2023**

**Approved 8/21/23**

**I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President, Bartley Howley, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT**

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is either discussed or acted upon. The Board has fully complied with the notice requirements by advertising in the Express Times posting publicly and by notifying the Municipal Clerk of the date, time, and place of meeting.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present**

Angela Bridygham  
Lisa Eller  
Carmine Freda  
Dawn Higgins  
Bartley Howley  
Joseph Kresefsky  
Ya’el Kresefsky  
Holly Masenior  
Melissa Vitalos

**II. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD – None**

**III. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Lisa Eller, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:01 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

This executive session is expected to last about 20 minutes. The general nature of the subject areas to be discussed are: Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Ruling, and Personnel Matters.

It is anticipated that action pursuant to this executive session will not be taken.

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Washington Borough Board of Education, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

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1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter.
2. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public upon resolution of all information discussed.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Carmine Freda, to exit executive session at 7:03 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Erica Chesniak, W.E.A. Co-President, gave a statement on behalf of the association regarding the Superintendent appointment process and historical collaborative climate that the WEA has with administration and their desire to continue with new leadership.

**V. ACTION ITEMS: Superintendent’s Recommendations**

CONSENT AGENDA: Matters listed within the consent agenda have been referred to members of the Board of Education for reading and study are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion.

**A. Consent Agenda Motion: BOARD AFFAIRS: SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION**

Motion made by Lisa Eller, seconded by Carmine Freda, to approve the following board affairs agenda item **1.1** through **1.3**.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

- 1.1 To approve participation in the SEMI program for the 2023-24 school year.
- 1.2 To approve the submission and acceptance of the application for “Elementary and Secondary Education Act” (ESEA) fiscal year 2024 in the following amounts:

Title I:	\$130,684
Title IIA:	\$ 17,512
Title IV:	\$ 10,000
Total Allocation:	\$158,196
- 1.3 To approve the submission and acceptance of the application for “Individuals with Disabilities Education Act” (IDEA) fiscal year 2024 in the following amounts:

Basic:	\$168,669
Preschool:	\$ 8,733
Total Allocation:	\$177,402

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**B. Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS: SUPERINTENDENT’S  
RECOMMENDATION**

Motion made by Carmine Freda, seconded by Lisa Eller to approve the following business affairs agenda item **2.1** through **2.2**.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

- 2.1 To approve 6/30/23 current expense food and regular account bill list.
- 2.2 To approve the budget transfers as presented.

**C. Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS:**

Motion made by Joseph Kresefsky, seconded by Angela Bridygham, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda item **3.1** through **3.2**.

Motion carried by roll call vote, with abstentions by Mrs. Eller, Mr. Freda, Mr. Howley and Mrs. Vitalos.

*Mrs. Higgins provided Ad-Hoc Superintendent search committee updates, including the reading of several references on behalf of Frank Esposito. She also thanked both Mr. Mantz for his efforts in the process to ensure that the committee was able to present a candidate today ahead of the original timeline schedule as well as the Board’s attorney, Mr. Zaiter, for his efforts; she recognized that they went above and beyond on holidays and personal vacation time. Mrs. Higgins also thanked the Executive County Superintendent, Dr. Lamonte, for her assistance in getting the contract reviewed and approved so quickly. Mr. Howley inquired as to what the reasoning was behind committing to a 5 year employment contract for Superintendent. Mrs. Higgins responded that longevity was the consideration. Mrs. Bridygham included that the committee did not receive a strong pool of available candidates and they wanted to lock in the candidate.*

- 3.1 To approve the appointment of Frank Esposito as the Superintendent of the Washington Boro School District for a term beginning on or about August 15, 2023 and expiring on June 30, 2028 with an initial annual salary of \$163,000, prorated for time worked, and to approve the employment agreement between the Board and the Superintendent, which has been approved by the Executive County Superintendent, and to authorize the Committee Chair and Board Secretary to execute the agreement on behalf of the Washington Boro Board of Education.
- 3.2 To approve Earl Jenkins as the Acting Superintendent of the Washington Boro School District, which has been approved by the Executive County Superintendent, for a term beginning August 1, 2023 and expiring on August 14, 2023 at a stipend amount of \$1,000.

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**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos seconded by Lisa Eller<sub>2</sub> to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectively submitted,

Tim Mantz  
Board Secretary