

**MENDHAM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BROOKSIDE, NEW JERSEY  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA  
SPECIAL SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 @ 6:00 PM**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.

**II. Flag Salute** - Mrs. Mody led the flag salute.

**III. Roll Call of the Board of Education**

Mrs. Joan Mody	President	Present
Dr. Rekha Mandel	Vice President	Present
Mr. Adam Dubeck		Present
Mr. Peter Dumovic		Present
Mr. Thomas Keeling		Present
Mrs. Diana Orban Brown		Present

Also, present: Dr. Salvatore Constantino, Superintendent  
Mrs. Donna Mosner, School Business Administrator  
General Public - None

**IV. Sunshine Law – Mrs. Mody read the following statement -**

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 meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, Mendham Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in the Mendham Township Board of Education Office, sent to the Clerk of Mendham Township, and the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record. This is an official meeting.

**V. Adjourn to Closed EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975, also known as the Sunshine Law, authorizes a public body to meet in executive session under certain limited circumstances, and

**WHEREAS**, said the law requires the board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting before it can meet in such an executive or private session.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Education of Mendham Township that it does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in executive session at this time to discuss candidate interviews. The matters discussed will be made public if and when

confidentiality is no longer required and action pursuant to said discussion shall take place only at a public meeting.

**Moved by Mrs. Orban Brown, seconded by Dr. Mandel to move to Closed Executive Session. The Board adjourned to Closed Executive Session at 6:09 p.m., unanimously carried in a voice vote.**

**VI. Reconvene Open Regular Session Meeting**

Moved by Mr. Dumovic, seconded by Mr. Keeling, to reconvene to the Work Session Meeting at 8:52 p.m., unanimously carried in a voice vote.

**VII. Mendham Township Board of Education Vacancy**

The Board has given public notice of the vacancy and invited qualified persons to submit a written request for consideration of his/her candidacy for the vacancy. In considering candidates who have expressed an interest in a vacancy, the Board of Education has interviewed all candidates.

The Board will vote to appoint a candidate to this vacancy in this public session.

According to Board Policy 0143, a roll call vote will be conducted on candidates in the order the candidates are nominated with a second. The first candidate who receives the votes of a majority of the remaining Board members will be elected to the vacancy. In the event no candidate receives a majority vote of the remaining Board members, another election process shall be conducted between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

The President will now open the floor for nominations.

\_\_\_\_ Kathleen McCallum \_\_\_\_\_ nominated by \_\_\_\_ Mrs. Orban Brown \_\_\_\_\_

seconded by \_\_\_\_ Mr. Keeling \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Orban Brown commented that this was a very difficult decision, with many wonderful candidates. K. McCallum is very understanding and hard-working and would be a nice addition to the BOE.

Mr. Dumovic commented that all of the candidates positively struck him. One thing that stood out to me about K. McCallum was her response to the question of how to handle differences of opinion. She would embrace them, I liked that response.

Dr. Mandel commented that K. McCallum has done so much for our district already, her involvement and commitment have been wonderful.

Mr. Dubeck was impressed with K. McCallum interview, we are very fortunate to have had so many qualified individuals, and I thank her for coming.

Mr. Keeling wanted to thank all 13 candidates, for such strength and quality pool of candidates, I was impressed with K. McCallum.

Mrs. Mody agrees with what everyone has said tonight. Having first-hand experience in seeing K. McCallum's contributions. We are fortunate to have her in this district. I appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness towards all of the candidates.

**Mrs. Orban Brown moved to approve the appointment of Kathleen McCallum to fill the Mendham Township Board of Education vacancy position, seconded by Mr. Keeling and the motion was NOT CARRIED in a roll call vote: Mrs. Orban Brown; yes, Mr. Dubeck; no, Mr. Dumovic; yes, Mr. Keeling; yes, Dr. Mandel; no, and Mrs. Mody, no – motion did not carry.**

The President opened the floor for nominations.

\_\_\_\_\_Elisabeth Carrino Tamasi\_\_\_\_\_ nominated by\_\_\_\_Dr. Rekha Mandel\_\_\_\_\_

seconded by\_\_\_\_Mr. Adam Dubeck\_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Mandel commented on how amazing all of the candidates were. Liz has shown commitment, she is very involved and will be an excellent member of the BOE. We need someone who understands the role since it is only a 16-month term.

Mr. Dubeck agreed with all of that. A big factor is that with all of her experience, I feel that Liz can step into the position with no problem.

Mr. Dumovic commented that it was a pleasure to meet her two years ago when we tried to revitalize the Education Foundation. It was important to get the backup with her historical background and experience. Liz was a key factor of that.

Mrs. Orban Brown - Liz introduced herself here as part of the Education Foundation and it was enormously successful years ago. When it was revived two years ago she was a large part of that and with her talents and drive she could get that back there. My concern is that being back on the BOE she can not do that.

Mr. Keeling commented that Liz is an asset to Mendham and that every voice matters. She is very nice and has many insightful comments.

Mrs. Mody - this decision is very difficult with the richness of all of the candidates. I have a

concern about our budget moving forward and I appreciate the fact that Liz has knowledge of that area and additional revenue stream ideas.

Mr. Dumovic commented that the good thing about our BOE is that we have discussions. I look at Liz a little differently now and agree that she will come up to speed much quicker than other candidates.

**Dr. Mandel moved to approve the appointment of Elisabeth Carrino Tamasi to fill the Mendham Township Board of Education vacancy position, seconded by Mr. Dubeck and the motion was CARRIED in a roll call vote: Dr. Mandel; yes, Mrs. Orban Brown; no, Mr. Dubeck; yes, Mr. Dumovic; yes, Mr. Keeling; yes, and Mrs. Mody, yes – motion carries.**

**VIII. Public Comment - None.**

**IX. Adjournment**

Moved by Dr. Mandel seconded by Mr. Dubeck to adjourn the Special meeting of September 3, 2024. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Mosner  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary