

Minutes of the Ridgewood Board of Education Committee of the Whole Executive Session held on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at 11:00 am.

Present: Mr. Michael Lembo, President; Ms. Hyunju Kwak, Vice President; Ms. Sheila Brogan, Mr. Saurabh Dani, Mr. Cristopher Kaufman.

Also Present: Dr. Daniel Fishbein, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Stacie Poelstra, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Ojetta Townes, Manager of Human Resources; Ms. Antoinette Kelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Absent: None

I. Motion to go Into Executive Session

Mr. Lembo moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a professional services contractual matter. Mr. Lembo stated the minutes of the Executive Session would be released when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Ms. Kwak seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Ms. Brogan, Mr. Dani, Mr. Kaufman, Ms. Kwak, Mr. Lembo
NAYS: None

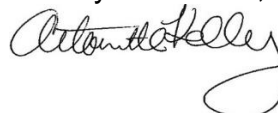
II. General Counsel Interviews/Discussion

The board of education interviewed the following firms Schenck, Price, Smith, & King; Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, & Jacobs; Sciarillo, Cornell, Merlino, McKeever, & Osborne; Porzio, Bromberg, & Newman; and Scarinci Hollenbeck. After the firms were interviewed and firms left the meeting Mr. Lembo asked each cabinet member (Dr. Fishbein, Ms. Kelly, Ms. Poelstra, and Ms. Townes) what their opinions were about each firm that was interviewed and who they would recommend for general counsel. Each cabinet member recommended continuing with the services of Sciarillo, Cornell, Merlino, McKeever, & Osborne. They all expressed concerns about replacing the district's general counsel who has a long history with the district, has successfully negotiated several REA contracts, was successful with all arbitrations with the REA, has been successful counseling and legally defending the RBOE and has established professional relationships with the administration; at the same time Ms. Kelly is leaving the district and Dr. Fishbein is retiring. At this point Mr. Lembo and Ms. Kwak announced that the board would be going to the 2nd floor conference room to discuss the interviews without the cabinet members. Ms. Brogan asked why the discussion would be without the cabinet members. Ms. Kwak responded that the discussion would only be the board members and the board members proceeded to leave the room. The board members returned after a lengthy discussion and announced that they would be selecting Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, and Jacobs as the new general counsel. The firm will be approved at the November 16th, 2020 board meeting.

III. Adjournment

At 3:00pm., on a motion made by Mr. Lembo, seconded by Ms. Kwak and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Antoinette Kelly

Board Secretary