

BERGEN COUNTY  
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY  
WORK SESSION  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2018  
COMMENCING AT 4:36 P.M.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

FREEHOLDERS PRESENT:

- THOMAS J. SULLIVAN, CHAIRMAN
- GERMAINE M. ORTIZ, VICE CHAIRWOMAN
- MARY J. AMOROSO, CHAIRWOMAN PRO TEMPORE
- DAVID L. GANZ
- TRACY SILNA ZUR
- DR. JOAN M. VOSS
- STEVEN A. TANELLI

FREEHOLDERS ABSENT:

NONE

KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.  
P.O. BOX 213  
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213  
201-336-6200

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

ALSO PRESENT:

JAMES J. TEDESCO III  
BERGEN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

LARA RODRIGUEZ  
CLERK TO THE BOARD

LAURIE BIANCHI  
DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD

JULIEN X. NEALS, ESQUIRE  
ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

MITCHELL FAGEN, ESQUIRE  
COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

MICHAEL SHEINFELD  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

STORM WYCHE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

EMMA LUSTIGMAN  
INTERN TO FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR

KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.  
P.O. BOX 213  
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213  
201-336-6200

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

I N D E X

PAGE NO.

4:37 PM PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATIONS  
RE TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

5

Sue McBride, President  
Bergen County Education Association

Joseph Zarra  
Interim Executive County Superintendent

Howard Lerner, Superintendent  
Bergen County Technical Schools/Special  
Services

Christine Esola  
Bergen County Teacher of the Year

Robert Lamorte  
NJEA Executive Committee

4:50 PM PUBLIC COMMENT

13

(No one wishing to comment)

4:51 PM RESOLUTIONS

14

4:52 PM CLOSED SESSION

16

1                   CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I call the meeting  
2 to order at 4:36 p.m.

3                   Before we begin our meeting, I ask that  
4 everyone please take a moment to silence their  
5 phones.

6                   Thank you.

7                   Will the Clerk please read the Sen.  
8 Byron Baer Open Public Meetings Act.

9                   MS. RODRIGUEZ: In accordance with  
10 Section 5 of the Sen. Byron Baer Open Public Meetings  
11 Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been  
12 provided in the Annual Notice Schedule, which  
13 contained the time, date, and location of this  
14 meeting, copies of which Notices were forwarded to  
15 the official County newspapers, to wit: The Herald  
16 News; The Record; and the Star Ledger; and a copy of  
17 which was posted on the bulletin board in the Bergen  
18 County Justice Center and Administration Building,  
19 One Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, New Jersey, and  
20 filed with the Office of the Bergen County Clerk.

21                   CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Will the Clerk  
22 please call the roll.

23                   (At this point in the proceeding roll  
24 call is taken with Freeholders Amoroso, Ganz,  
25 Tanelli, Voss, Silna Zur, Vice-Chairwoman Ortiz, and

1 Chairman Sullivan present.)

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Evidence of a  
3 quorum is present.

4 I would ask that Ms. Emma Lustigman  
5 lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

6 (At this point in the proceeding all  
7 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance,  
8 led by Ms. Lustigman.)

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Before we do  
10 presentations, I just want to welcome Emma, who is  
11 Tracy Zur's new intern. She's a student at Pascack  
12 Hills High School and goes to school with my  
13 daughter.

14 Good choice, Tracy.

15 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ZUR: Thank you.

16 4:37 PM PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATIONS RE TEACHER

17 APPRECIATION WEEK

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Today we are  
19 honored to have various esteemed members of the  
20 education community of Bergen County here with us.  
21 They are here as a celebration of Teacher  
22 Appreciation Week, which the Board will formally  
23 recognize tonight by Resolution #408-18.

24 I would like to welcome the following:  
25 Sue McBride, President of the Bergen County Education

1 Association; Joe Zarra, Interim Executive County  
2 Superintendent; Dr. Harold Lerner, Superintendent of  
3 Bergen County Technical and Special Services Schools;  
4 Ms. Christine Esola, Bergen County Teacher of the  
5 Year.

6 Ms. Esola is a special education  
7 kindergarten teacher at the Valley Program at  
8 Northern Valley Regional High School district.

9 Mr. Robert Lamorte of the NJEA  
10 Executive Committee.

11 Will you all please come forward.

12 County Executive, would you like to say  
13 anything before we pass out the commendations?

14 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: So, Mr.  
15 Chairman, I have the proclamations for the Teacher  
16 Appreciation Week, if you tell me when you want to do  
17 those.

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Let's just do it  
19 together.

20 If you all want to come up, we'll hand  
21 out the commendations and we'll take pictures.

22 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Let me read  
23 from it.

24 I'm not going to read the entire  
25 proclamation, but let me just read the last two.

1 Proclamation in Recognition of Teacher  
2 Appreciation Week.

3 Whereas, we applaud the Bergen County  
4 teachers for their work in making Bergen County  
5 schools among the best in New Jersey and the United  
6 States.

7 And, whereas, on behalf of the nearly  
8 one million residents of Bergen County, I'm proud to  
9 celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week and encourage all  
10 of our residents to thank a teacher who has made a  
11 difference in their lives. And if you talk to  
12 Dr. Joan Voss, that's over thousands.

13 MS. McBRIDE: Absolutely.

14 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Now,  
15 therefore, be it resolved that I, James J. Tedesco  
16 III, Executive of the County of Bergen, in the State  
17 of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim May 7-11, 2018 as  
18 "Teacher Appreciation Week."

19 MS. McBRIDE: Thank you, sir, very  
20 much.

21 On behalf of our 20,000 members in  
22 Bergen County, I thank you and the Bergen County  
23 Freeholders for your resolute and stalwart support of  
24 our schools and of our members. We are the envy of  
25 our NJEA 21 county family. We brag profusely and

1 often about how incredibly dedicated and supportive  
2 all of you are, and we could not be more grateful on  
3 behalf of our teachers, our certificated staff, our  
4 ESPs, and, most of all, the students that we teach  
5 and work with and their families.

6 Thank you very much.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: There's just  
9 one other important note. Out of the success of  
10 today is that while we're honoring Christine, the  
11 Board and the BCIA are actually funding the school  
12 for the purchase, so that now they don't have to move  
13 around but they will have a permanent location.  
14 We're honored, as elected officials, to be able to do  
15 that so that now the program will have a permanent  
16 home.

17 MS. ESOLA: Thank you.

18 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: So,  
19 congratulations, and we look to continue to do more  
20 of those things in concert with the education  
21 community.

22 MS. McBRIDE: Thank you very much.

23 It's an honor. Thank you kindly.

24 (Whereupon, the presentation is made.)

25 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Would any of the



1 Freeholders like to say anything?

2 Freeholder Tanelli.

3 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: I just want to  
4 say, you're saying how you go around the state  
5 telling everybody how lucky you are. We do the same  
6 thing. We go all over telling everybody how lucky we  
7 are, not only to have you guys at the top, but all of  
8 the teachers that represent all the students in all  
9 of our schools. So we just want to say on behalf of  
10 us, thank you very much for everything that you guys  
11 do and all the teachers out there.

12 I was at a retirement dinner two weeks  
13 ago, and the reality is, not only do you teach our  
14 children, but you raise our children. They're with  
15 you longer than they're with us in the course of the  
16 day. And as the teachers are now retiring that my  
17 three sons had, it's a happy occasion but it's also a  
18 sad occasion, because I know the impact that they had  
19 on my children.

20 My son will still be at the stove, he's  
21 26-years-old, working a full-time job, everything is  
22 great, big, burly guy, and all he talks about is his  
23 home ec teachers who taught him how to cook, when  
24 he's banging the pots on the stove. So I just want  
25 to thank you guys for everything you do everyday for

1 our children.

2 MS. McBRIDE: We're grateful. Thank  
3 you very much.

4 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Freeholder Voss.

5 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Well, you know I  
6 think the world of all of you. I love being a  
7 teacher and I will always love being a teacher. And  
8 you know that I like to talk, right?

9 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: No, not you.

10 FREEHOLDER VOSS: I sing your praises  
11 all the time wherever I go, because I think that what  
12 you're doing is the most important work that can be.

13 I'm so proud of Bergen County and I'm  
14 so proud of my fellow teachers. God bless you and  
15 keep up the good work.

16 MS. McBRIDE: Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Freeholder Ortiz.

18 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I just want to  
19 say thank you so much for educating, guiding, and  
20 molding the children of our future, because without  
21 you, I don't know what we would do. You're right,  
22 they spend most of their time with you and not with  
23 us. I still have a daughter in seventh grade. The  
24 best school system is Bergen County. I just want to  
25 say thank you to all.

1                   CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Freeholder Zur.

2                   FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Adding to what  
3 they said, this has been an interesting week on  
4 Facebook. I've gotten to see people posting pictures  
5 of some of their favorite teachers. I've been  
6 thinking of the teachers who made an impact on my  
7 life and encouraged me to ask the annoying questions  
8 that I ask all the time.

9                   CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: No!

10                  FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: But I think, as  
11 we've seen so many of our kids stepping forward and  
12 stepping to the microphone and vocalizing their  
13 opinions on so many issues that are before our  
14 country, the work that you're doing is even more  
15 highlighted, because you have taught these kids to  
16 critically think in an era when alternate facts are  
17 part of what's been digested. So I thank you and  
18 applaud what you're doing every single day, not just  
19 for my kids, not just for all of our kids at the  
20 table, but for all the kids in our county who are so  
21 blessed to really just have the best working for them  
22 every single day. So thank you all for encouraging  
23 that going forward. Thank you.

24                  MS. McBRIDE: Thank you, Tracy.

25                  CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Freeholder Amoroso.

1                   FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: We are so proud of  
2 all of our teachers and proud of our educational  
3 system. I know you guys have weathered some storms  
4 of dishonor, shall we say, but we honor you to the  
5 skies.

6                   I just want to tell one little personal  
7 story.

8                   When I am driving my grandson, Liam,  
9 home from preschool, we somehow start talking about  
10 the Pledge of Allegiance. He knows the whole thing!  
11 He learned that from a teacher. "I pledge allegiance  
12 to the Flag."

13                   You know, you take them from the  
14 littlest, you know, to the biggest, and it's magic,  
15 you turn them into gold.

16                   Thank you.

17                   CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you so much.  
18 You know how I feel, we can never shout it enough how  
19 great education and teachers are, what you do for our  
20 students, for our families. As the husband of an  
21 educator, I know what you do everyday.

22                   MS. McBRIDE: And a BCEA member.

23                   CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Yes, and a BCEA  
24 member.

25                   It's a great partnership. The County

1 Executive has made that his priority and the  
2 Freeholder Board has made it their priority, and we  
3 appreciate you just as much as you appreciate us, but  
4 we all know it's a team. We work together.

5 MS. McBRIDE: Absolutely.

6 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We don't do it for  
7 ourselves, we do it for the betterment of the  
8 children, and maybe some people should really  
9 understand what the final goal is, right?

10 So, just thank you from the bottom of  
11 my heart. Thank you for being here today.

12 MS. McBRIDE: It's an honor, sir.  
13 Thank you very much.

14 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Let's just take a  
15 two-minute recess.

16 (A short recess is held.)

17 4:50 PM PUBLIC COMMENT

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion  
19 to open the meeting to the public?

20 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

21 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

22 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

24 (All present Freeholders respond in the  
25 affirmative.)

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We will now have a  
4 Hearing of the General Public, with a three-minute  
5 time limit in effect, in accordance with the Bergen  
6 County Freeholder bylaws.

7 The Board Attorney will keep the time.  
8 When the time of the speaker expires, the Board  
9 Attorney will announce that the time has expired.

10 Is anyone here wishing to speak?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Seeing no  
13 one, may I have a motion to close the meeting to the  
14 public?

15 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

16 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

18 (All present Freeholders respond in the  
19 affirmative.)

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Carried.

23 4:51 PM RESOLUTIONS

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We will now review  
25 the resolutions to be voted on tonight.

1 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Resolutions #391-18  
2 through #409-18, followed by an Addition List of  
3 Resolutions #410-18 and #411-18.

4 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Mr. Chairman, I  
5 was going to suggest that we do #395 to #409, as well  
6 as #410 -- actually, up to #410 as a Body of the  
7 Whole.

8 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Can you state that  
9 again, Freeholder?

10 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: #395 to #410.

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Up to #410.  
12 Is there any objection?

13 FREEHOLDER VOSS: No.

14 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: No.

15 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: No.

16 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: And, Chairman,  
17 everyone is so excited that we're doing these  
18 appointments. I hear it all over.

19 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Is that right?

20 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: I do.

21 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: There's more  
22 coming.

23 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: It's great.

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Do any of the  
25 Freeholders have any questions on any resolution?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. May I have a  
3 motion to accept the Resolutions on the Consent  
4 Agenda as read by the Clerk?

5 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

6 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

8 (All present Freeholders respond in the  
9 affirmative.)

10 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Roll call.

13 (At this point in the proceeding roll  
14 call is taken and the Resolutions of Unanimous  
15 Consent are passed by a unanimous vote.)

16 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Seven ayes, the consent  
17 agenda passes.

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Are there any  
19 Resolutions of Nonconsent, pulled postponed or  
20 tabled?

21 If so, will the Clerk please read them.

22 MS. RODRIGUEZ: There are none.

23 4:52 PM CLOSED SESSION

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay.

25 We now have go into Closed Session for



1 approximately 20 minutes, and we will return to the  
2 Public Session.

3 Will the attorney briefly state the  
4 matter for which we will be discussing in Closed  
5 Session?

6 MR. FAGEN: The purpose of the Closed  
7 Session is for updates on pending legal matters and  
8 the status of contract negotiations.

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. May I have a  
10 motion to go --

11 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion  
13 to go into Closed?

14 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

15 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Second?

16 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Second.

17 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Point of order. I  
18 have a question, Mr. Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Go ahead.

20 FREEHOLDER GANZ: As to when will the  
21 information gathered from this be disclosed?

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The answer is  
23 never.

24 MR. FAGEN: If this is in Closed  
25 Session, then it's a private discussion, it's never

1 going to be disclosed.

2 FREEHOLDER GANZ: It's going to be.

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The strategy will  
4 never be disclosed.

5 FREEHOLDER GANZ: That's true, Mr.  
6 Chairman, but the question I ask is, when will the  
7 substance of what was said be discussed?

8 MR. FAGEN: It's a Closed Session, so  
9 legally it won't be disclosed.

10 I'm not sure if I understand your  
11 question, if you can disclose?

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I refer it to  
13 County Counsel.

14 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: So  
15 with regard to any particular matters that we do  
16 discuss, if there comes a point in time when the  
17 confidentiality is no longer applicable, in  
18 particular with the contract negotiations, then it  
19 could be disclosed at that point.

20 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Do we have a  
22 motion and a second?

23 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: I moved.

24 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Yes.

25 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

1 (All present Freeholders respond in the  
2 affirmative.)

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We are going into  
6 Closed Session at 4:54.

7 (Whereupon, Closed Session is held.)

8 (Open Session resumes at 5:11.)

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: For the record, the  
10 meeting was reopened to the public at 5:11.

11 There being nothing further to come  
12 before this meeting, may I have a motion to adjourn?

13 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

14 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Second?

15 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

17 (All present Freeholders respond in the  
18 affirmative.)

19 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Carried.

22 The meeting is adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

23 (Whereupon, the Work Session is  
24 adjourned at 5:11 p.m.)

25

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

I, KIM O. FURBACHER, License No. XIO1042, a Certified Court Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter, Certified Realtime Court Reporter, and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the foregoing is a verbatim record of the testimony provided under oath before any court, referee, board, commission or other body created by statute of the State of New Jersey.

I am not related to the parties involved in this action; I have no financial interest, nor am I related to an agent of or employed by anyone with a financial interest in the outcome of this action.

This transcript complies with Regulation 13:43-5.9 of the New Jersey Administrative Code.

---

KIM O. FURBACHER, CRCR, CCR, RMR  
License #XIO1042, and Notary Public  
of New Jersey

My Commission Expires:  
7/11/19