

**EMERGENCY MEETING
MAY 31, 2017-MINUTES**

**HEMPSTEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
EMERGENCY MEETING
MAY 31, 2017
MINUTES**

The Hempstead Public Schools Board of Education emergency meeting was held in the high school board room, 201 President Street, Hempstead, New York 11550. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. All of the Board Members were present. The meeting was continued in the little theater due to crowd control.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maribel Touré	President
Gwen Jackson	Vice President
Melissa Figueroa	Trustee
Dr. David G. Gates	Trustee
LaMont E. Johnson	Trustee

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Fadhilika Atiba-Weza	Interim Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Rodney Gilmore	Associate Superintendent for Human Resources
James Clark	Assistant Superintendent for Secondary C & I
Regina Armstrong	Assistant Superintendent for Elementary C & I
Patricia Wright	District Clerk
Richard Hamburger	Labor Counsel

Trustee Figueroa moved, seconded by Trustee Jackson to call to order at 7:05 P.M.

MOTION	YES 5	MOTION CARRIED
To call to order		

Trustee Jackson moved, seconded by Trustee Figueroa to convene to executive session at 7:06 P.M. for advice of legal counsel, personnel and special counsel discussion.

MOTION	YES 5	MOTION CARRIED
To convene to executive session		

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Trustee Jackson moved, seconded by Trustee Figueroa to reconvene to open session at 8:23 P.M.

MOTION	YES 5	MOTION CARRIED
To reconvene to open session		

Trustee Figueroa moved, seconded by Trustee Jackson to approve the appointment of special counsel for the purpose of an investigation as stated below.

- 1. IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the firm of Raiser & Keniff, P.C. is hereby appointed as special counsel for the Board of Education of the Hempstead UFSD, for the purpose of investigating allegations concerning the unlawful disclosure of personnel information, and to take further action at the discretion of the Board, at the hourly rate of \$235.00 per hour for attorneys and between \$100.00 and \$200.00 per hour for other professionals and paralegals. The retainer between the district and the firm dated May 31, 2017 is hereby approved. The President of the Board is authorized to execute the retainer on behalf of the District.

MOTION	YES 3	MOTION CARRIED
To approve the appointment of special counsel		
	NO 2 (Trustee Gates & Johnson)	

Trustee Jackson moved, seconded by Trustee Figueroa to approve resolution # 2 as written.

- 2. WHEREAS**, the Board of Education (“Board”) of the Hempstead UFSD (the “District”) has employed Dr. Fadhilika Atiba-Weza (“Dr. Atiba-Weza”) as Interim Superintendent of Schools pursuant to an employment agreement dated June 29, 2016 (the “Interim Superintendent’s Contract”); and

WHEREAS, the Interim Superintendent’s Contract will expire by its terms on June 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Board has retained Dr. Shimon A. Waronker. (“Dr. Waronker”) to fill the position of Superintendent of Schools for the period July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2021, pursuant to a contract dated May 11, 2017 (the “Superintendent’s Contract”); and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that, having thus filled the position of Superintendent of Schools, notwithstanding the faithful service of Dr. Atiba-Weza as Interim Superintendent, it is in the best interests of the District for Dr. Waronker to begin his term as Superintendent as soon as possible so that he will have time, prior to commencement of the 2017-2018 school year, to familiarize himself with the District and its personnel, facilities, policies and practices and be better prepared for the commencement of the academic year in order to ensure a seamless and efficient transition of District leadership,

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NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY

RESOLVED, that the Interim Superintendent's Contract is hereby terminated, effective as of June 1, 2017, with the gratitude and appreciation of the Board to Dr. Atiba-Weza for his service to the District; and it is further

RESOLVED, that Dr. Atiba-Weza shall immediately be paid all salary and benefits to which he is entitled pursuant to the terms of the Interim Superintendent's Contract as if he had continued in employment as Interim Superintendent until the expiration of the Interim Superintendent's Contract on June 30, 2017; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the First Amendment to the Superintendent's Contract, dated as of May 24, 2017, advancing the commencement date of the Superintendent's Contract from July 1, 2017, to June 2, 2017, is hereby approved by the Board, and the President of the Board is hereby authorized to execute such First Amendment.

MOTION	YES 3	MOTION CARRIED
To approve resolution # 2 as written	NO 2 (Trustee Gates & Johnson)	

Trustee Gates for the record: "According to the education law 1711 the services of such Superintendent may be discontinued at any time by the majority vote of the Board of Education and upon sixty (60) days of notice in writing to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent had not been notified 60 days prior although it has been stated the contract is due to expire on June 30, 2017. But I also want to go on the record that this contract with Dr. Warnoker had already been pre disposed, because it was agreed upon a week ago, so a week ago the Board knew that they were going to terminate the Superintendent. So at the end of the day, want to go on record stating that this is a travesty to our community, we're twenty days into the end of a school year, the disruption of a school term, we have graduations, we have parents, we have children that have worked hard, and no to cast this cloud on the district against our children and the advancement that they made it is tragic , it is such a tragedy and what it speaks, it speaks of wicked, evil devises, and at the end of the day my vote is absolutely NO."

Trustee Jackson moved, seconded by Trustee Figueroa to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 P.M.

MOTION	YES 3	MOTION CARRIED
Meeting adjourned	NO 2 (Trustee Gates & Johnson)	

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia Wright
District Clerk