

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

1-27-2022 #1053

CALL TO ORDER/MEETING PLACE

The Board of Education President, Mr. Drew Hazelton, called the special meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at Oak Park High School Presentation Room, G9, 899 N. Kanan Road, Oak Park.

FLAG SALUTE

Drew Hazelton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

BOARD PRESENT

Mr. Drew Hazelton, President, Mr. Derek Ross, Vice President, Mrs. Denise Helfstein, Clerk, and Mrs. Tina Wang, Member.

BOARD ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Jeff Davis, Superintendent, Mrs. Ragini Aggarwal, Executive Assistant and Communications Coordinator, Mr. Jay Fernow, Legal Counsel.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On motion of Derek Ross, seconded by Tina Wang, the Board of Education adopted the agenda as presented. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Ross, Wang. No - 0. Absent – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were 18 public comments submitted via an online form on Agenda Item A.1 Interview and Selection of Candidate for Provisional Appointment to Fill Board Vacancy.

A. OPEN SESSION

1. [Interview and Selection of Candidate for Provisional Appointment to Fill Board Vacancy](#)

Board President, Drew Hazelton read the 18 public comments that were submitted via an online form.

Mr. Hazelton welcomed the candidates and reviewed the interview process with the Board members and the four candidates. The interview order was determined by alphabetical order of first names. Candidates were interviewed one at a time and the other candidates were requested to wait in the adjoining room out of earshot before their interview. Each candidate was asked nine questions and a timer was used to ensure that no candidate received more than 3 minutes per question.

The candidates were interviewed in the following order:

1. Carmen Rosenberg
2. Deet Ezra
3. Nicholas Johnson
4. Soyon Hardy

After the interviews concluded, Board President thanked all four candidates and opened up the discussion deliberations and asked each board member to share and talk about their top pick.

Drew Hazelton and Derek Ross picked Nicholas Johnson and Denise Helfstein and Tina Wang picked Soyon Hardy.

Board President asked for a motion for either of the two candidates. Derek Ross made a motion to appoint Nicholas Johnson and Drew Hazelton seconded the motion. Board members Denise Helfstein and Tina Wang stated their reasons for not approving the motion in favor of the appointment of Nicholas Johnson. The motion failed as there were no additional yes votes for this motion.

Candidate Nicholas Johnson requested if he could address the Board. The Board President after consultation with the District's Legal Counsel regarding protocols agreed and stated that he would be providing this opportunity to the other three candidates as well if they wished to address the Board. Nicholas Johnson thanked all the candidates and the Board and then announced that he was formally withdrawing his candidacy and application. Soyon Hardy addressed the Board and thanked Nicholas Johnson for his graciousness. Carmen Rosenberg addressed the Board as well and requested that the Board make the decision based on the best fit.

Mr. Hazelton thanked all the candidates and requested the Board for a motion to appoint any other candidates.

On motion of Denise Helfstein, seconded by Tina Wang, the Board approved the appointment of Soyon Hardy as the provisional Board member to fill the Board Vacancy. Motion carried Aye: Hazelton, Helfstein, Ross, Wang. No - 0. Absent – 0.

2. Swearing-In of Newly Appointed Board Member if Appointed

Dr. Davis administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Board Member Soyon Hardy

There being no further business before this Board, the Special meeting held on January 27, 2022 is declared adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Date

President of the Board

Date

Clerk or Secretary of the Board