

The meeting was called to order by Board President Kathy Kolupanowich at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Amy Antelis
Ms. Michele Arminio
Mr. Marvin Braverman
Mr. Kenneth Chiarella
Mr. Lew Kaufman
Ms. Kathy Kolupanowich
Mr. Thomas Nothstein
Mr. Anthony Prezioso

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Doug Poye

JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

Mr. Robert Czarneski

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Cori Haider
Ms. Francesca Speranza

STAFF

Dr. Kenneth R. Hamilton, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael C. Gorski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Dr. Jeff Gorman, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - 83

After the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call, the Board President read the following statement:

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the Monroe Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted February 15, 2014:

1. At all Schools,
2. Home News Tribune,
3. Cranbury Press, and
4. Filed with the Clerk of the Municipality.

Ms. Kolupanowich, Board President stated that in accordance of bylaw No. 0167 the public participation in tonight's meeting will be limited. Each member who wishes to speak during the first public forum will have one opportunity to do so and will be limited to 3 minutes. There will be a one hour time limit on the public forum. The Board will listen to comments from the

public but will not have a response at this time. Ms. Kolupanowich requested that everyone maintain a reasonable decorum and be respectful of all speakers.

PUBLIC FORUM-

Ira Tessler 11 Elliot Drive – thanked the Board of Education, Administration and public for coming out this evening. Mr. Tessler stated that during the public forum of the February 10, 2014 Board of Education Meeting he raised his hand in order to speak at the same time as another member of the public and made a half way hand jester then put his hand down in order to let someone else go first, at the conclusion of the meeting he was having a conversation with Mark Klein and Lou Masters when Mr. Prezioso interrupted them and made a Nazi hand jester with his hand and said “your Jewish you shouldn’t raise your hand like that”. Mr. Tessler stated that it was inappropriate and disrespectful for a public official to make a comment like that. Mr. Tessler stated that had this comment been made by a staff member or student disciplinary actions would be taken. Mr. Tessler requested a public apology from Mr. Prezioso by the end of tonight’s meeting.

Richard Gibbons 415 Schoolhouse Road – stated that it appears that when some people can’t get what they want they go to the lowest common denominator in this case the race card was thrown down. Mr. Gibbons stated that he has known Mr. Prezioso for 4 years and has never known him to issue a racial slur.

Jill Demaio 48 Linwood Drive – stated that she is very disturbed by the comment made by Mr. Prezioso. Ms. Demaio stated that like parents, members of the Board of Education must set the example for all children in their words and actions and they must represent the best for the sake of all the children.

Alan Kahn 11 Crenshaw Court – stated that he was disturbed to hear of the Boards actions. He has known Mr. Prezioso for years and knows he has a true concern for the children of this community. He added that he was hurt by hearing that the professional staff was trying to drum up action against him.

Lou Masters 9 Makalya Court – informed the Board that he is very offended that he witnessed a very nasty act of racism. Mr. Masters stated that what matters here is what was said, this isn’t politics, this is someone making a hurtful racially insensitive statement to another human being. Mr. Masters added that the Board needs to consider if this is an ethics violation, if this is a policy violation and if this is a good example that Mr. Prezioso is setting for our children. Mr. Masters also stated that he received an email which he was referenced in that contained a lot of information that appeared to be confidential and he was curious as to where it was coming from.

CLOSED SESSION – RESOLUTION

Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Township of Monroe hereby moves to go into Closed Session, in accordance with Sunshine Law, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 through 10:4-21), to discuss the following subject(s):

- The Board will retire to closed session to discuss a matter falling within the attorney-client privilege, specifically the comments allegedly made by a Board member to a member of the public subsequent to the adjournment of the Board of Education meeting on February 10, 2014 and the unauthorized release of confidential information, and to receive attorney advice on the aforementioned matters.

A motion was made by Ms. Antelis and seconded by Mr. Kaufman that the members of the Board of Education go into closed session. Motion Carried

Adjourned to Closed Session at 7:13 p.m.

Returned to Public Meeting at 9:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Nothstein and seconded by Ms. Arminio that members of the Board of Education hold in abeyance the matter involving Board of Education Member Anthony Prezioso's alleged comments to a member of the public subsequent to the close of the Board of Education Meeting on February 10, 2014 and the matter of the alleged release of confidential information pending further action of the Board at its meeting scheduled for March 17, 2014 in order to provide Anthony Prezioso an opportunity to consult with an attorney be approved by consent roll call. Ms. Antelis stated that she will be voting no adding that she doesn't believe it was a malicious action by Mr. Prezioso but she does believe it was a very bad choice. Nazism, Hitler the Holocaust is not a joke and anybody who thinks that it is a joke is wrong. Roll Call 4-3-0-1 Motion Carried with Ms. Antelis, Mr. Braverman, Ms. Kolupanowich voting No. The vote did not include that of the Jamesburg Representative or Mr. Prezioso.

PUBLIC FORUM -

Lisa Weinthal 10 MacFarlane Circle – Ms. Weinthal stated that Mr. Prezioso's remark was disgusting and offensive, also stating that leaders are to know how to filter their words at a minimum, and are expected to stand up against anti-Semitism. Ms. Weinthal further stated that she turns to the Board of Education who has the obligation to implement the Zero-Tolerance Policy, ethical requirements for Board members as well as the Code of Conduct required of the students under the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy to except zero tolerance regarding this matter.

Don Nicita 80 Riviera Drive – stated that maybe there is an underlying view in this situation, maybe some people don't care for Anthony's points of view. Mr. Nicita asked the Board to look at all sides in this matter because if Anthony is no longer on the Board it would be like overturning an election and would be saying his vote doesn't count.

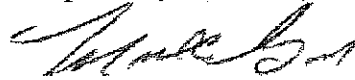
NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Ms. Kolupanowich stated that the next public meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Education will convene at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman and seconded by Mr. Nothstein that the meeting be adjourned. Motion Carried Unanimously. The public meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Gorski", written in a cursive style.

Michael C. Gorski, CPA
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

423 Buckelew Avenue
Monroe Township, NJ 08831
(732) 521-1500
Fax (732) 521-1628

MICHAEL C. GORSKI, CPA
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary

Vision Statement

“The Monroe Township Board of Education commits itself to all children by preparing them to reach their full potential and to function in a global society through a preeminent education.”

Mission Statement

“The Monroe Public Schools, in collaboration with the members of the community, shall ensure that all children receive an exemplary education by well trained, committed staff in a safe and orderly environment.”

AGENDA
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014
7:00 P.M.
MONROE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

(PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS DURING THE MEETING)
(Recording Board Meetings)*

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**

BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Amy Antelis
Ms. Michele Arminio
Mr. Marvin Braverman
Mr. Ken Chiarella
Mr. Lew Kaufman
Ms. Kathy Kolupanowich
Mr. Thomas Nothstein
Mr. Doug Poye
Mr. Anthony Prezioso

JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE **

Mr. Robert Czarneski

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Cori Haider

Ms. Francesca Speranza

4. STATEMENT (BOARD PRESIDENT)

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1. At all schools,
2. Home News Tribune,
3. Cranbury Press, and
4. Filed with the Clerk of the Municipality.

5. PUBLIC FORUM***

6. CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Township of Monroe hereby moves to go into Closed Session, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 through 10:4-21), to discuss the following subject(s):

- The Board will retire to closed session to discuss a matter falling within the attorney–client privilege, specifically the comments allegedly made by a Board member to a member of the public subsequent to the adjournment of the Board of Education meeting on February 10, 2014 and the unauthorized release of confidential information, and to receive attorney advice on the aforementioned matters.

The discussion conducted in closed session can be disclosed to the public at such time as the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

7. PUBLIC FORUM***

8. NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, March 17, 2014 7:00 P.M. Monroe Township High School

9. ADJOURNMENT

* Any member of the public may record the proceedings of a public meeting of the Board in a manner that does not interrupt the proceedings, inhibit the conduct of the meeting, or distract Board Members or other observers present at the meeting.

The Board will permit the use of tape recorders, still or movie cameras, or videotape cameras only when notice of such intended use has been given to the Board Secretary one day in advance of the meeting. No more than three cameras may be in use at any time, and all cameras must be operated in an inconspicuous location in the meeting room.

The presiding officer shall determine when any recording device interferes with the conduct of a Board meeting and may order that an interfering device be removed.

** The Jamesburg Representative shall be eligible to vote on only those matters specifically designated in N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.1, as follows:

- (1) Tuition to be charged the sending district by the receiving district and the bill lists or contracts for the purchase, operation or maintenance of facilities, equipment and instructional materials to be used in the education of the pupils of the sending district.
- (2) New capital construction to be utilized by sending district pupils.
- (3) Appointment, transfer or removal of teaching staff members providing services to pupils of the sending district, including any teaching staff member who is a member of the receiving district's central administrative staff; and
- (4) Addition or deletion of curricular and extracurricular programs involving pupils of the sending district.

To the extent the Jamesburg Representative inadvertently votes on any other matter, his vote shall not be counted.

*** Public discussion is confined to this portion of the Agenda unless permission is granted by the Board President prior to the start of the meeting or when the Board is considering a Special Agenda Item that the Board deems appropriate for public participation. Anyone wishing to address the Board is requested to stand and state his/her name and address.