

THE TINTON FALLS SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
**January 7, 2025**  
REGULAR MINUTES  
**MAHALA F. ATCHISON SCHOOL**  
961 Sycamore Avenue, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724  
**7:30PM Public Session**

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:30 p.m.**

2. **STATEMENT READ by Mr. Daniels**

Statement is hereby made that adequate notice of this meeting was provided by:

- The prominent posting of said notice on the District's website;
- The mailing and/or faxing of said notice to the Asbury Park Press;
- The delivery to the Clerk of the Borough of Tinton Falls and the Clerk of Shrewsbury Twp;
- The posting of said notice on the main doors of each school and the Administration Office.

3. **OATHS OF OFFICE**

Mr. Vin Daniels read election results. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-2.1, Mr. Daniels will administer the Oath of Office to the following newly elected Board Members:

Toni Ann Alfano	3 year term - Tinton Falls Borough
Frank Lomangino	3 year term - Tinton Falls Borough
Michele Ruscavage	3 year term - Tinton Falls Borough

4. **ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE**

**Tinton Falls Board of Education**

**Board Members for 2024-2025 as of 01/7/25**

**Term Expires:**

Jason Puleio	2026
Kelly Jarvis	2026
Sophia Lent	2026
Frank Lomangino	2027
Toni Ann Alfano	2027
Michele Ruscavage	2027
John Livingood	2025
Lora Smith-Staines	2025
Christopher Theobald	2025

5. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Mr. Daniels**

6. **DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT read by Mr. Daniels**

Rooted in community and led by the Pillars of Character, the Tinton Falls School District will prepare our students academically, socially, and emotionally to become productive contributors to society. In a safe and positive environment, children of every ability will be provided with innovative learning experiences to reach and expand their greatest potential. We celebrate diversity while promoting equity and inclusion so that every child feels valued, supported, and represented.

7. **REORGANIZATION NOMINATIONS**

- a. Moved by Ms. Ruscavage, seconded by Mr. Lomangino to have the Board Secretary open nominations for Board President.

Vote: All in favor, Motion Carried.

*Ms. Alfano nominated Mr. Puleio, seconded by Mr. Lomangino*

Vote: All in favor, Motion carried.

- b. Moved by Mr. Lomangino, seconded by Mr. Puleio to close Nominations for Board President by the Board Secretary.

Vote: All in favor, Motion Carried.

- c. Moved by Mr. Lomangion, seconded by Ms. Alfano to elect **Jason Puleio** as the new Board President of the Tinton Falls Board of Education.

Vote: All in favor, Motion Carried.

**NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT ASSUMES THE CHAIR AT THIS TIME**

- d. Moved by Mr. Lomangion, seconded by Ms. Alfano to have the newly elected President open nominations for Vice President.

*Mr. Livingood nominated by Mr. Lomangion, seconded by Ms. Alfano*

Vote: All in favor, Motion Carried.

- e. Moved by Ms. Alfano, seconded by Mr. Lomangino to close Nominations for Board Vice President by the President.

Vote: All in favor, Motion Carried.

- f. Moved by Mr. Lomangion, seconded by Ms. Alfano to approve to elect **Mr. Livingood** as Board Vice President.

Vote: All in favor, Motion Carried.

- g. Moved by Dr. Smith-Staines, seconded by Ms. Jarvis to approve that the Board approve the following Board of Education Standing Committees/Liaison for the 2024-2025 school year as listed below:

Curriculum	Facilities/Operations	Finance	Personnel/Negotiations
Public Engagement (Liaison)	Policy/Governance	Transportation	Special Education

Vote: All in favor, Motion Carried.

- h. Moved by Ms. Alfano, seconded by Dr. Smith-Staines the determination of Committee Assignments.

Vote: All in favor, Motion Carried.

- i. Moved by Mr. Livingood, seconded by Ms. Lent to approve the following **Doctrine of Necessity:**

**WHEREAS**, the School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21, 22 et seq. was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence in school Board Members and Administrators and to provide ethical standards to guide their conduct; and

**WHEREAS**, questions have arisen regarding how a Board should invoke the Doctrine of Necessity when a quorum of a Board of Education has conflicts of interest on a matter required to be voted upon; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Ethics Commission has provided some guidance in Public Advisory Opinion A03-98 (April 1, 1998) but finds that there is a need to repeat and clarify its opinion; and

**WHEREAS**, the opinion set forth that, when it is necessary for a Board to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity, the Board should state publicly that it is doing so, the reason that such action is necessary and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

**WHEREAS**, in keeping with the Legislative purposes as set for in the N.J.S.A. 18A:12-22(a) the School Ethics Commission views public disclosure of conflicts of interest to be paramount when it is necessary to invoke the Doctrine of Necessity;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the School Ethics Commission hereby requires Boards of Education that must invoke the Doctrine of Necessity to adopt a resolution setting forth that they are invoking the Doctrine, the reason for doing so and the specific nature of the conflicts of interest; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education that invokes the Doctrine are directed to read the resolution at a regularly scheduled public meeting, post it where it posts public notices for 30 days and provide the commission with a copy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission shall distribute this Resolution to the Executive County Superintendents for distribution to the school districts, the New Jersey School Boards Association, the NJ Principals and Supervisors Association, the NJ Association of School Administrators, the NJ Association of Business Officials and the NJ Education Association.

Vote: All in favor, Motion Carried.

- j. Moved by Dr. Smith-Staines, seconded by Ms. Jarvis to approve that the Board of Education readopt the existing bylaws, policies and regulations governing the actions of the Tinton Falls Board of Education, as on file in the office of the Board Secretary/Business Administrator.

Vote: All in favor, Motion Carried.

- k. Moved by Mr. Livingood, seconded by Dr. Smith-Staines to approve the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that to the extent that any Board Member is in conflict due to personnel, travel, reimbursement, personal or family member associations, his/her vote is to be an abstention for the 2024-2025 school year.

Vote: All in favor, Motion Carried.

- I. Moved by Mr. Lomangino, seconded by Ms. Ruscavage to approve to authorize the President to be empowered to sign papers and the Vice President to be empowered to sign papers in the absence of the President.

Vote: All in favor, Motion Carried.

- m. Moved by Mr. Livingood, seconded by Ms. Jarvis to approve the NJSBA Code of Ethics as the Official Code of Ethics for the Tinton Falls Board of Education and that the School Ethics Act and Code of Ethics for School Board Members has been received and discussed and that Policies and Procedures regarding training of district board of Education members has been adopted, and that each Board of Education member acknowledges receipt of the Code of Ethics training and slides for School Board Members and has become familiar with Code of Ethics.

### **NJSBA CODE OF ETHICS**

1. *I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.*
2. *I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.*
3. *I will confine my board action to policy-making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.*
4. *I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.*
5. *I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the Board.*
6. *I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.*
7. *I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow Board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.*
8. *I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.*
9. *I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.*
10. *I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.*

Vote: All in favor, Motion Carried.

- n. Moved by Ms. Lent, seconded by Dr. Smith-Staines to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLVED** that the Tinton Falls Board of Education, pursuant to Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 (Open Public Meetings Act) does hereby proclaim the public meetings of the Board of Education will be held in the Mahala Atchison School Cafeteria, 961 Sycamore Avenue, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724 at 7:30PM, as set forth below unless indicated otherwise; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the purpose of the Regular Meetings shall be the normal conduct of business of the Board of Education and any other items brought to the Board's attention by the Board Members, Board Attorney, Superintendent and Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education does hereby designate the Asbury Park Press and The Coaster as official newspapers to advertise notices of meetings, legal ads and all other necessary public notifications; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that notices of Board meetings will be posted in the Tinton Falls District Schools and Administration Office and posted on the District website; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education reserves the right to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time to discuss such matters that may be considered in closed session. However, the Board will first adopt a resolution stating the general nature of the subject to be discussed, and as precisely as possible, the time and circumstances under which disclosure to the public will be made; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, in order to conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board shall require the following procedures pertaining to public participation at Board meetings:

- Any individual desiring to speak shall give his or her name, address and the group if any, that is represented during Recognition of Public.
- The presentation shall be as brief as possible, but no more than five (5) minutes per individual.
- The Board vests in its president, or other presiding officer, authority to terminate the remarks of any individual if deemed to be in the best interest of those present to do so.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education will meet at the Mahala Atchison School Cafeteria, 961 Sycamore Avenue, Tinton Falls, on the following dates for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year:

**Meeting Schedule:**

Tuesday, January 7, 2025 (Board Member Reorganization)

Thursday, January 23, 2025 (Regular)

Thursday, February 20, 2025 (Regular)

Thursday, March 20, 2025 (Regular & Possible Preliminary Budget)

Thursday, April 17, 2025 (Regular & Public Budget Hearing)

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 (Workshop & Business Reorganization)

Thursday, May 22, 2025 (Regular)

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 (Regular)

PLACE: Workshop & Regular Meetings will be held at:

**Mahala Atchison School** 961 Sycamore Ave., Tinton Falls, NJ

TIME: Executive Session 6:30 PM – Closed Session

Public Session 7:30 PM – Open to Public

Vote: All in favor, Motion Carried.

8. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Dr. Goldey wished everyone a Happy New Year and congratulated the newest Board members.
- Dr. Goldey thanked the Board Members for all the work that they do and the time that is put in voluntarily. The Board will be honored at the next Board meeting for School Board Member Recognition Month (Jan. 23rd Meeting) .

9. **RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC (limited to 5 minutes per person) (1) person**

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Move to approve to hold a closed Executive Conference at \_\_\_PM as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., (the “Act”) provides that the Tinton Falls Board of Education may hold an “Executive Session” from which the public is excluded to discuss matters that are confidential or are one of the nine (9) subject matters listed Section 12(b) of the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recommended by the Superintendent that the Tinton Falls Board of Education go into Executive Session on this date to discuss matters that are permissible for discussion in Executive Session; and

**WHEREAS**, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be sixty (60) minutes after which the public meeting of the Board shall reconvene and proceed with business; and

**WHEREAS**, that the Board hereby declares that its discussion of the following subject(s) will be made public at a time when the public’s interest in disclosure is greater than any privacy or governmental interest being protected from disclosure.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tinton Falls Board of Education that the Board shall go into Executive Session to discuss the following items:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Confidential Matters per Statute or Court Order
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Impact Rights to Receive Federal Funds
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Unwarranted Invasion of Individual Privacy
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Collective Bargaining
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Acquisition of real Property of Investment of Funds
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Public Safety Procedures
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Litigation or Contract Matters or Attorney/Client Privilege
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Personnel Matters
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Imposition of Penalties upon an Individual

***ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY RESULT IN BOARD ACTION WHEN THE BOARD RECONVENES TO PUBLIC SESSION.***

11. **ADJOURN**

- a. Moved by Mr. Livingood, seconded by Dr. Smith-Staines to adjourn at 8:01PM.

Vote: All in favor (6) Motion Carried.