



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023 WESTFIELD ANNUAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

The meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Clara Harelik at 10:34am. The following were in attendance via zoom: Chair Clara Harelik, Esq.; Secretary / Commissioner of Registration James Foerst, Esq.; Commissioner Richard Fortunato, Esq.; Commissioner Dennis Kobitz; Commissioner Raymond Szpond; Commissioner Debra Varnerin; and Administrator Nicole DiRado.

The Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read by Chair Harelik.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Board counted Mail-In Ballots voted in the Westfield Annual School Board Election.

The Board adjudicated certain Mail-In Ballots.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made to enter Executive Session by Commissioner Kobitz. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fortunato. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.

- Potential Litigation: US Department of Justice v. Union County, NJ

A motion was made to return to the Regular Meeting by Commissioner Kobitz. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Varnerin. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION

- Approval of the Consent Decree, Order and supporting documents in the matter of the US Department of Justice v. Union County, New Jersey.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fortunato to approve the Consent Decree, Order and supporting documents in the matter of the US Department of Justice v. Union County, New Jersey. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All members present voted in the affirmative.

Chair Harelik thanked Deputy Attorneys General Susan Scott and George Cohen for their aggressive defense of the Board of Elections in this matter.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Ms. DiRado advised the Board that the County has advised that the BOE would be relocated to a corporate complex in New Providence. The Board discussed the effects on staff in terms of child care and gas and mileage. But, ultimately, the building needs a lot of rehabilitation work and this is the best case scenario.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Foerst to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.