

**Atlantic City Board of Education**  
**Public Hearing**  
**June 28, 2021 – 6:00pm**

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**Call To Order** Mr. Steele, President

**Roll Call** Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Byard, Mr. Chowdhury, Mr. Devlin Mr. Herbert, Mr. Hossain, Mr. Islam, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Steele.

**Also Present** Mr. Caldwell, Ms. Morris, Ms. Yahn, Mrs. Ricketts, Ms. Saunders, Mrs. Riley, Mrs. Brown, Ms. Wallace.

**Statement of Notice**

A notice of the public hearing was published in the Press of Atlantic City, mailed to the City Clerk, and posted on the bulletin board of the Citi Center Building at 1300 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401 on June 18, 2021.

**Flag Salute** Mrs. Brown led those assembled in the flag salute.

**Vision & Mission Statement**

**Vision:** The Atlantic City District recognizes the urgency to provide resources to improve instruction through exemplary and diverse practices which are monitored and analyzed through student achievement data. The District has the expectation that all students will achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards at all grade levels.

**Mission:** In order to meet the needs of all students, the District is committed to increasing student learning and improving teaching in the core academic subjects by using instructional strategies aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards at all grade levels. Parents will be active partners and key stakeholders with the Atlantic City School District to support their student's intellectual, emotional, physical and social growth.

**Superintendent Report** – Superintendent Caldwell thanked the students, teaching staff and parents for their hard work during the last year and a half and advised of the light at the end of the tunnel. Mr. Caldwell provided the H.I.B report for the last part of the school year with 7 being reported – Pennsylvania Avenue – 1; Texas Avenue – 1; Atlantic City High School – 3; New York Avenue – 1; Uptown Complex – 1. With seven reports, six were unfounded and one was founded and affirmed.

**Public Comments** – Mr. Tom Forkin, AC resident advised that on June 30<sup>th</sup> at 9am surfing and safety lessons would occur, two students were shot to death, warned when the middle school programs were ended bad things would happen and someone should be held accountable. Mr. Forkin stated Mr. Caldwell is not a certified teacher, his contract should not be renewed, questioned why the superintendent search was ceased, the fact we are losing children due to politics and nonsense. Lastly Mr. Forkin advised he may be a good and nice person but is not qualified to captain the ship. Mrs. Bailey advised the board voted to keep the middle school programs but they were cancelled. Ms. Joyce Mollineaux, AC resident, said she was happy to be back, advised she told Mr. Caldwell she was not ready for him to leave until the projects were done and questioned the status of the trailers. Mr. Caldwell advised the Chelsea Heights trailers will be auctioned off it has been 2.5 years looking for a new permanent administration home, 10 properties visited with nothing coming to fruition, the inability to go above the appraised value and the possibility of tearing down the New Jersey Avenue School and building a permanent administration building. Mr. Caldwell discussed in September will be district will be opening with full staff and students, complimented Ms. Hennelley, Mr. Rose and the nurses for a great job done during the Covid 19 pandemic. Mr. Herbert advised he was not involved with the superintendent's renewal, the contract extension, 12% substantial raise, the superintendent search cancelled due to going after another board members regarding free and reduced lunch applications when all kids were given free and

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reduced lunches. Mr. Herbert discussed the need for a new administration building, the questions he asked about the places looked at, the budget, the lists of specs and his request being ignored, nepotism in the district, the chain of command is a family tree, others have not received a raise, the an ALJ ruling of the board members voting rights, the abolishment of policy #7430 which is a fundamental policy. Ms. Saunders advised the policy is no longer needed and will be replaced with policies 2431, 243.1, 7432, 7420, 7440 and 8420. Mr. Caldwell discussed after school programs, funding for students, before and after school care, sports, great stepping up programs, fun days and the lack of board members showing up and reading to them. Mr. Steele asked everyone to please respect each other and give everyone the same courtesy to speak one at a time. Mr. Devlin discussed the superintendent search, the RFP process, the vendor selected and paid \$25,000, cancelled at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, a minority of the board participating in the search, advised if the superintendent cancelled he has an issue with it and all the hours spent on the search with more than one public discussion being held. Mr. Hossain discussed the fact he was vice president last year, chairperson of the personnel committee, the spending of \$25K spent on the superintendent search, John Devlin, Kazi Islam, Farook Hossain and Subrata Chowdhury being on the committee, questioned why a new superintendent had not been hired. Mr. Islam advised he supported the superintendent search 100% and asked who and why it was cancelled. Mr. Steele asked if the district can move forward without a superintendent. Ms. Morris, State Monitor, advised the district must have a chief school administrator, the assistant superintendent does not have anything in her contract or certification, laws are in place in the State that the contract for the superintendent are yearly not month-to-month. If Mr. Caldwell leaves in 30 or 60 days it is my understanding there will be an agreeable exit date. Mr. Caldwell advised he will gladly walk away once a new superintendent is in place. Mr. Steele advised he is respectful of the time and energy put into the superintendent search, discussed the current ongoing litigation, a tainted process, Mr. Hossain not being able to be involved in the process, Dr. McCarthy may be under scrutiny due to him being the monitor in the District when Kayan Frazier worked in the district. Mr. Devlin asked how Mrs. Riley, Solicitor come across the information about Farook Hossain. Mrs. Riley advised the discussion was very off topic

**PERSONNEL**

1. Approve the contract extension for Superintendent Mr. Barry Caldwell for the period 7/1/2021 – 6/30/2022, in the amount of \$220,000. (Executive County approval 6/24/2021).

**Noted for the record:** Mrs. Riley advised based on the fact we were notified today that the Ventnor representative is being replaced and a new member is being appointed on Wednesday, June 30, 2021, we will continue this meeting without further advertisement for the extension of the Superintendent contract on Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 6:00pm. This will allow the new Ventnor member an opportunity to vote on this important position for the district.

**Adjourn** On a motion made by Mr. Steele and seconded by Mrs. Bailey, the meeting ended and will be continued on June 30, 2021 at 6:00pm. Time ended was 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Brown  
Board Secretary