

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GLASSBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GLASSBORO, NEW JERSEY

Special School Board Meeting  
April, 12, 2017

Call to Order: President Calvo opened the meeting at 5:00pm at the Glassboro High School and thanked all for attending.

Statement of Public Notice of Meeting in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act: President Calvo announced that public notice of the meeting has been made in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Laws of 1975.

Notice included the time, date and place of the meeting and to extent known, the agenda.

Members Present: Mr. Calvo, Mr. Fanfarillo, Mr. Esgro, Mr. Halter, Mrs. Jones, Dr. Redondo, Ms. Volz, Superintendent Silverstein and Mr. Henry, Board Secretary

Members Absent: Mr. Keith and Mrs. Longley

Visitors: 65

Flag Salute: The flag salute was given by all present.

President Remarks: Mr. Calvo stated that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the evacuation of Glassboro Intermediate School on April 6, 2017. The Board needs to get to the cause of the issues and make sure the same problems do not happen again. Mr. Calvo provided details of the incident and asked board members for any comment on the motion to have the Board approve a resolution (attached) requiring Carbon Monoxide detectors in all school buildings.

Board Member Comments: Mrs. Jones requested the NJ Department of Labor and Department of Health be contacted to request a review of safety procedures.

Motion to Amend the Resolution: Mr. Calvo moved, seconded by Mrs. Jones to amend the Requiring Carbon Monoxide Resolution to include review by the New Jersey Detectors in All School Buildings Department of Labor and Department of Health.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion to Approve the Resolution Requiring Carbon Monoxide Detectors in All School Buildings

Mr. Calvo moved, seconded by Mrs. Jones to approve the Resolution Requiring Carbon Monoxide Detectors in All School Buildings  
The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Silverstein thanked EMS, Glassboro Public safety, district staff and nurses for their quick and professional response to the emergency.

Dr. Silverstein provided a detailed time line of the events of April 6, 2017. He acknowledged communication to parents in this type of situation needs to be reviewed and improved.

Opportunity for Public to Address the Board:

In accordance with the Public Participation in Board Meetings, In Board Bylaw No. 0167, the Chair shall limit discussion from each individual, or group representative, to five (5) minutes.

Public Comment:

A resident stated communications need to improve because it took 5 hours between evacuation and notification from the school. Human error is not acceptable to keep students in school after odor was detected.

A resident asked several technical questions such as:

Who replaced the belt?

Was an air quality test performed?

Was an incident report prepared?

Mr. Calvo encouraged the resident to submit his questions to Mr. Henry for response.

A resident stated that she cannot understand why it took 2 hours to evacuate the building. The building should have been evacuated immediately and parents notified. She also stated her son was threatened with a write up if he went to see the nurse.

A resident thanked the Board for the resolution requiring carbon monoxide detectors in schools. She stated that communication was an issue and needs to be improved. She was disappointed there has not been any communication from administration since the initial e-mail. She also stated that parents receive so many School Messenger notices that some are ignored.

Mr. Calvo acknowledged communication issues exist and the administration and Board will work to improve.

A resident expressed concern for GIS teachers. It was stated that the staff should have been tested sooner. She also stated a member of central administration should have been at the hospital coordinating the situation

A resident expressed concern about the excessive time between detecting the odor and evacuation. She was also concerned about the lack of communication.

A resident expressed frustration and concern about the lag time between evacuation and parent notification. Parents should have been notified immediately.

A resident thanked all staff for their response to the emergency. Her son was sent home ill on April 5, how do we know that CO was not present then?

CO should not be a by-product of combustion  
Would like to see maintenance records

A resident stated she was disappointed in the lack of transparency in the investigation into what caused the CO leak. She would like all findings shared with the public. What training is planned to improve crisis responses?

Mr. Calvo stated that communication procedure and systems should be tested monthly to ensure they are functioning properly.

A resident suggested a district wide training on crisis management.

Every teacher should have an emergency folder in their room and take it with them when evacuated.

A resident expressed concern over the lack of communication and lag time between odor detection and evacuation.

A resident asked a series of technical questions

Mr. Calvo encouraged him to submit questions in writing to Mr. Henry.

Mr. Calvo authorized establishing a committee on school safety including parents and other interested stakeholders.

A signup sheet was circulated.

A resident stated the School Messenger system is over used. Parents get messages about Zumba Night but no additional communication about evacuation.

A resident asked why no answers to questions asked?  
Technical questions were not anticipated.  
We will respond to them when we get them in writing.

Expressed concern about the lack of communication.

A resident asked why the Principal did not make a statement and that an apology would go a long way.

A GIS student gave details of her experience. She was scared but thanked the staff and we need to fix the problem.

A parent stated that he will not pay for medical costs.

A resident stated a child was sent home from the intermediate school today with CO exposure symptoms. They went to the hospital and was found to have elevated levels of CO.

A resident thanked all district nurses and EMS. They also thanked the Board for the resolution.

Several residents expressed concern over CO levels in the Intermediate School presently. Mr. Esgro suggested Glassboro Fire Department go to the Intermediate School and take a reading.

Chief Smith agreed he would send the Glassboro Fire Department to school to take readings.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm