

**WYANDANCH UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES OF
SPECIAL SESSION
HELD ON DECEMBER 17, 2021
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1445 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BOULEVARD
WYANDANCH, NEW YORK 11798**

THIS MEETING WAS RECORDED AND CONDUCTED HYBRID (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL) VIA LIVESTREAM ON ZOOM.

The meeting was called to order by President Walker at 5:10PM and asked for a moment of silence.

- Roll Call:** Performed by Christian D. Code, District Clerk

- Trustees Present (In Person): Nancy Holliday, Jarod B. Morris, Charlie B. Reed
Shirley Baker, Latesha S. Walker

- Trustees Present (Virtually): Yvonne Robinson

- Trustees Who Arrived Later (In Person): Charlie Reed

- Trustees Who Were Excused: James Crawford

- Others Present (In Person): Dr. Gina Talbert, Carl Baldini, Rich Snyder, Shamika Simpson, Christian D. Code and Community

- Others Present (Virtually): Lisa Hutchinson, Esq., Al Chase and Community

ADOPT THE AGENDA

Motion by Morris, second by Baker to adopt the agenda. Motion carried 5-0-0

Trustee Reed joined the meeting at 5:35PM.

**WELCOME BY BOARD
PRESIDENT**

President Walker welcomed everyone to the Special Session and thanked everyone for attending a productive meeting. She also read a prepared statement:

Over the last 48 hours the Wyandanch school district and greater Wyandanch community learned of an egregious act taken by the majority of the Board of Education where they voted to remove me from my post as President of the Board of Education for the 2021-2022 school term, followed by a resolution they approved.

Precedence in case law, see *George Motoyama from Action of the Board of Education of School District #1 of the Town of Hempstead*, Dec. No. 8630 (1973), demonstrates the Commissioner of Education found that the action taken by the Board of Education was illegal because public officers holding office for a stated term may be removed **only** for cause and in accordance with any applicable statutory provisions and a concept of due process of law.

Because I am at the helm of the WUFSD governance team, it is my responsibility to inform stakeholders that the actions that took place on December 15, 2021 is contrary to law, neglected to give me prior notice of the resolution, had no specific charges against me and violated my rights to a hearing regarding the matter.

My oath to represent Wyandanch children and families is a duty and responsibility I do not take lightly.

Every room I sit in, I take this community.

Every relationship I form, is to strengthen this community.

Every time I open my mouth, I speak life into this community.

I will continue to uphold my commitment to this neighborhood, being boot on the ground and deeply entrenched in making Wyandanch a healthier, more respected place to live and work for ALL.

I have a great level of respect and admiration for the Superintendent of Schools, her Cabinet, her building leaders, teachers and support staff. We are mission driven at WUFSD, rooted in equity as we continually cultivate diversity and inclusion as key elements in our school culture.

The direction is clear: FORWARD. On to progress.

My name is Latesha S. Walker, your President and Chair for the 2021-2022 term. It is my honor to serve before you and with you.

You have a partner in me, so let's get back to work.

The statement was followed by comments, the President put the Board meeting in recess at 5:15PM.

Motion by Morris, second by Baker to resume the meeting at 5:21PM.

Motion carried 6-0-0

**READING OF THE
MISSION STATEMENT**

President Walker asked everyone to stand and recite the mission statement:

“Inspire the passion for learning and educating all students to achieve their full potential.”

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Morris, seconded by Reed to move into Executive Session at 5:22PM to discuss the employment of particular persons, contracts and pending litigation.

Motion carried 6-0-0

RECONVENE

Motion by Baker, second by Reed to reconvene at 7:35PM

Motion carried 6-0-0

**SUPERINTENDENT’S
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Talbert presented the Personnel Resolutions for review.

**PERS #7-A-1
District Wide Appointment**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The candidate named herein is recommended for an appointment to the position indicated.

RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves the appointment of the candidate named herein to the position upon the terms and conditions set forth in a written Agreement between the parties, subject to review by counsel, and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board.

DISTRICT WIDE APPOINTMENT

- A. Joshua Okpala, Director of School Safety, at an annual salary of \$127,000.00, with a twenty-six week probationary period, effective January 3, 2022.

Motion by Morris, second by Reed

Motion Carried 6-0-0

**PERS #7-A-2
Benefits Agreement**

RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and after having been reviewed by General Counsel, that the Board of Education approves the Employment Agreement for Christine Jordan, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administration & Instructional Accountability, and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to sign the referenced agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

**Motion by Morris, second by Walker
Reed, Holliday abstaining**

Motion **FAILED 3-0-2**

**PERS #7-A-3
District Wide Appointment
AMENDED**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The candidate named herein is recommended for an appointment to the position indicated.

RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves the appointment of the candidate named herein to the position upon the terms and conditions set forth in a written Agreement between the parties, subject to review by counsel, and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board.

DISTRICT WIDE APPOINTMENT

- A. Rascheda O. Wallace, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, at an annual salary of \$175,000.00, effective January 3, 2022.

The Board reached a consensus of changing the title of Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources to Assistant to the Superintendent for Human Resources.

Motion by Morris, second by Reed to approve the amended resolution.

Motion carried 6-0-0

**RECONSIDERATION OF
RESOLUTION**

**PERS #7-A-2
Benefits Agreement
RESCINDED**

RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and after having been reviewed by General Counsel, that the Board of Education approves the Employment Agreement for Christine Jordan, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administration & Instructional Accountability, and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to sign the referenced agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

Motion by Morris, second by Walker to rescind

Motion carried 6-0-0

**PERS #7-A-2
Benefits Agreement**

RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and after having been reviewed by General Counsel, that the Board of Education approves the Employment Agreement for Christine Jordan, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administration & Instructional Accountability, and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to sign the referenced agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

**Motion by Baker, second by Walker
Reed, Holliday abstaining**

Motion carried 4-0-2

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Reed, second by Morris to adjourn the meeting at 7:50PM.

Motion carried 6-0-0

**Minutes Recorded and Transcribed
By District Clerk**

**Date of Meeting: December 17, 2021
SPECIAL SESSION**

Christian D. Code