

Special Board Meeting Minutes  
Board of Education ♦ Niles Township High Schools ♦ District 219 ♦ Cook County, Illinois  
April 29, 2019

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Board President Ko called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Board Members Present at Roll Call: Naema Abraham, Richard Evonitz, Linda Lampert, Joseph Nowik, Mark Sproat and David Ko.

II. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

IV. Acknowledgment of Canvass of Votes for School Board Members

Dr. Ko read the following:

The Cook County Clerk's office, after having completed a canvass of all votes cast for the high school Board of Education Niles Township High School 219, certifies that the listed candidates received the following vote totals:

Candidates	Votes
Rebecca Abraham	4,096
Dr. David Ko	3,708
Jill Manrique	3,783
James Specker	3,645

Niles Township High School District 219 welcomes the newly elected Board members:

Rebecca Abraham  
Dr. David Ko  
Jill Manrique  
James Specker

It was moved by **EVONITZ** and seconded by **SPROAT** that the Board of Education acknowledges the new elected Board of Education members: Rebecca Abraham, Dr. David Ko, Jill Manrique, and James Specker:

**A roll call vote was taken.**

**Voting Aye:** Abraham, Evonitz, Lampert, Nowik, Sproat and Ko.

**Absent:** Novak

**The motion carried.**

Dr. Isoye then thanked retiring Board Members Linda Lampert, Brian Novak, and Mark Sproat for their service on the D219 Board of Education. In appreciation for their work and dedication to D219, he presented them with a gift.

Ms. Lampert read the following statement:

*"I want to thank all of my fellow board members, including Carlton Evans and Ruth Klint for helping me learn how to be an efficient and open minded-board member. I am not going to lie, this will be an adjustment. When you are used to working with a small group for so many years to suddenly having some time for yourself.....I will let you know how it goes. I want to thank my family and close friends for keeping me somewhat sane during my term. I just want to say that the board has spent the past four years correcting the past and steering the ship to the right course. Now, it's time for a new group to take the helm. I couldn't be happier and feel this new board is the right group to move the ship forward. Thank you to an amazing administration who works tirelessly on behalf of the students of this district."*

Mr. Sproat read the following statement:

*As my time as a school board member comes to a close, I would like to say a few things. I will do my best to keep it under three minutes, but no promises. When I first became a board member, I never realized how much there was to learn. That you are being taught on a daily basis. Whether it is school policy, financials, education, student safety or student needs, to name a few things. Had I made mistakes...definitely. Had I learned...without a doubt. This learning and education could not be possible if it weren't for the dedicated professionals in district 219. To my fellow board members. Although we did not always see eye to eye, I will not forget the passionate discussions, the tough decisions, the laughter we shared or the turkey sandwiches. For that I am grateful. Although not so much on the turkey sandwich part. To Dr. Isoye, the administrators, principals, teachers, support staff, security, maintenance and sponsors. Thank you for allowing me to see, learn and be part of who you are, and how you do your jobs. Most of all, thank you for your friendship. I have met some amazing people. Most people do not get the opportunity to see behind the curtain. They are not privy to the long hours, energy, and passion these individuals put in daily to make district 219 one of the best in the country. To the students. Words cannot express what amazing individuals you are. Every time I saw you were able to achieve something, I would think "How can they top that?", and to my amazement, you come back and top it. I will always remember the breakfasts with the board, hearing your stories, having deep conversation and discussing your feelings on changes you would like to see happen. I will never forget listening to the students being recognized during board meetings, and what great achievements they attained. The last four years has been a whirlwind of emotions. As President for the first two years, we as a board had the dubious task of changing the culture of the district. Looking into past practices that needed change. Getting the financials of the district in order. I am proud that we were able to achieve those tasks, hire a new superintendent (we had a total of five superintendents – three interim and two permanent in the first year alone) and get the district going on a positive track. Then as a board member, purchase a building for the buses, lower taxes for the district, among other things, and most recently (hopefully with the approval of the Lincolnwood board) get a home for the bridges program. A few personal things I am proud of. After seeing the ping pong club practicing on lunch room tables, I reached out to some of my contacts and was able to have ping pong tables donated to this group. As well as starting the student recognition at the board meetings, wanting to show what amazing students we have. I do have to give a huge thank you to Coach Rosen, Coach Ramsyer, last years varsity softball team, Kira Hoffman and the Hoffman family, for the support and love shown to Casey during a dark time. Kira and the Hoffman family orchestrated getting Casey to one of their home games. We showed up to the game and all the team members and coaches were wearing hair ties in the color of thyroid cancer ribbons. Casey had no idea what was going on. Coach Ramsyer made an announcement over the PA system, that the game was being dedicated to a former player and team mate who is fighting the battle with cancer. After the announcement the players ran over to Casey. This is something that my family will never forget, and are eternally grateful for your kindness. Finally, to my family. I want to thank you for putting up with the long hours, and many days of meetings needed for the board. Thank you for being there during the good as well as the tough times. I want to apologize that my being a board member did not allow you the same rights as others. To Casey for being strong, going from being bullied to fighting and winning the battle with cancer. You are a warrior. And to June (who is everything to me), Michelle, Casey and Emily I am extremely blessed for*

*having you in my life. I love you all very much. As my final act as a board member, I ask the new board to work with my wife June and I, in creating a safe zone within the schools for the students. Creating a place where the students can go and speak confidentially with a person/group that is not affiliated at all with the schools. Who will listen to their concerns and if needed be an advocate for them. After hearing from many students, this place does not exist, and is desperately needed. Once again thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve this district.*

Following their statements, both retiring Board members took a seat in the audience.

#### V. Seating of New Board Members, Taking of Oath

Vice-President Nowik then administered the oath of office to all newly elected and re-elected Board Members - Ms. Rebecca Abraham, Dr. David Ko, Ms. Jill Manrique, and Mr. James Specker.

#### VI. Appointment of President Protem

President Ko stated that our practice has been for the Vice President to serve as the President Protem and run the next part of the meeting. President Ko handed the meeting over to Mr. Nowik.

#### VII. Election of President

The President Protem read the following:

The process for the election will be as follows. I will call for nominations for an office. You will be asked to raise your hand and not call out names. The first hand up, I will ask for the name of the person you are nominating. I will then ask if there are any additional nominations. I will continue the process until all nominations have been provided. If two or more hands go up and there is no determination of who was first, names of the nomination will be placed in a container and drawn at random for the order of the nominations.

Once the nominations have been closed we will proceed by making a motion, with a second, and voting for the first nominee by raise of hand. The recording secretary will then record the vote, and the President Protem will declare if the motion passed or not. It is important to understand that by Board policy 2:220 a vote of abstain is not counted in determining whether a measure has been passed by the Board. In other words, the approval of a nominee is based on the majority of those voting. In other words, 4 approve and 3 opposed would be an approval; 2 approve and 5 opposed would not be an approval; 3 approve and 2 oppose and 2 abstaining would be an approval based on the majority of those voting. The best practice is to vote either approving or opposing the candidate.

If there is a majority approval vote for the first candidate, that person is approved by the Board to be the officer. There will not be any further voting for the other nominees.

If the first nominee does not receive a majority of yes votes of those voting, the motion fails and a new motion will be presented for the next nominee.

If there are no other nominees or all motions fail, a call for nominations will reopen.

Policy 2:210 requires that the Board elect a temporary secretary for the purpose of electing officers.

However, if a Board uses a recording secretary that is a district employee, in this case, the Superintendent's administrative assistant, that person may act as the recording secretary throughout the election

All officers will serve for two years according to Board policy 2:110.

At this time we will begin.

By raise of hand the President Protem called for the nominations for the office of Board President.

Several hands went up.

Ms. Manrique nominated Dr. Ko.

Ms. Naema Abraham nominated Mr. Evonitz.

There were no additional nominations for President. Vice President Nowik declared the nominations over. Since both Ms. Manrique and Ms. Naema Abraham raised their hands at the same time, both nominees were put into a hat and the Board's Recording Secretary, Ms. April Stallworth, picked out a name to determine who gets voted on first. Ms. Stallworth picked, Mr. Evonitz.

**It was moved by NAEMA ABRAHAM and seconded by REBECCA ABRAHAM that Mr. Evonitz be elected and serve as Board President**

**Voting Aye: Naema Abraham, Rebecca Abraham, Evonitz**

**Voting Nay: Ko, Manrique, Nowik, Specker**

**The motion did not pass**

**It was moved by SPECKER and seconded by MANRIQUE that Dr. Ko be elected and serve as Board President**

**Voting Aye: Ko, Manrique, Nowik, Specker**

**Voting Nay: Naema Abraham, Rebecca Abraham, Evonitz**

**The motion carried. Dr. Ko has been elected President of the Board for two years.**

Dr. Ko took over the rest of the meeting.

#### VIII. Election of Vice President, Secretary, and Secretary Protem

##### **Office of Vice President**

By raise of hand the Board President called for the nominations for the office of Board Vice-President.

Mr. James Specker nominated Ms. Manrique

There were no additional nominations for Vice-President.

**It was moved by NOWIK and seconded by SPECKER that Ms. Manrique be elected and serve as Board President**

**All were in favor**

**The motion carried. Ms. Manrique has been elected Vice-President of the Board for two years.**

**Office of Secretary**

By raise of hand the Board President called for the nominations for the office of Board Secretary

Mr. Evonitz nominated Ms. Rebecca Abraham

Dr. Ko nominated Mr. Nowik

There were no additional nominations for Secretary.

**It was moved by EVONITZ and seconded by NAEMA ABRAHAM that Ms. Rebecca Abraham be elected and serve as Board Secretary**

**Voting Aye: Naema Abraham, Rebecca Abraham, Evonitz**

**Voting Nay: Ko, Manrique, Nowik, Specker**

**The motion did not pass**

**It was moved by MANRIQUE and seconded by SPECKER that Mr. Nowik be elected and serve as Board Secretary**

**Voting Aye: Ko, Manrique, Nowik, Specker**

**Voting Nay:**

**Abstain: Naema Abraham, Evonitz**

**The motion carried. Mr. Nowik has been elected Board Secretary for two years.**

**Office of Secretary Protem**

By raise of hand the Board President called for the nominations for the office of Secretary Protem

Ms. Manrique nominated Mr. Specker

There were no additional nominations for Secretary Protem

**It was moved by NOWIK and seconded by MANRIQUE that Mr. Specker be elected and serve as Secretary Protem**

**All were in favor**

**IX. Adjournment**

**It was moved by NOWIK and seconded by NAEMA ABRAHAM to adjourn the meeting.**

**All were in favor**

**The motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

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**President**

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**Secretary**