MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION Minutes of the Tuesday, January 3, 2017 7:00 P.M. Organization Meeting

These minutes have not been formally approved and are subject to change or modification.

The Montgomery Township Board of Education held an organization meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 in the Upper Middle School media center.

ORGANIZATION MEETING

School Election Results

Ms. Wells announced the results of the annual election of November 8, 2016.

Three Candidates (Three-year Term)	Number of Votes
Dharmesh Doshi	4,842
Phyllis Bursh	5,356
Shreesh Tiwari	4,099

Board Oath

Newly-elected board members, Mr. Doshi, Ms. Bursh, and Mr. Tiwari, all of whom had signed and executed the state required oath for school board members, were sworn into the board by Ms. Wells.

Roll Call - The following Board members were present: Phyllis Bursh, Richard Cavalli, Minkyo Chenette, Dharmesh Doshi, Dale Huff, Charles Jacey, Jr., Amy Miller, Shreesh Tiwari and Christine Witt

Also Present:

Nancy Gartenberg, Superintendent

Deborah Sarmir, Assistant Superintendent Annette M. Wells, Business Administrator/

Board Secretary

Ms. Wells then read the following Statement of Open Meeting and Public Participation – In accordance with the State's Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing notice of meeting on January 7, 2016 and December 21, 2016. Notice was provided to Board of Education Members, Montgomery Township Clerk, Rocky Hill Borough Clerk, Public Library, Township Posting, School Postings, PTSA Officers, Courier News, Princeton Packet, Trenton Times, and The Star Ledger.

Ms. Wells then led everyone in the Salute to the Flag.

Ms. Wells welcomed all to the organization meeting.

Election of Officers

Acting as temporary chairperson, Ms. Wells opened nominations for president of the board of education.

Mr. Doshi nominated Ms. Witt. Ms. Witt accepted the nomination.

Ms. Chenette nominated Mr. Cavalli for President. Mr. Cavalli accepted the nomination.

A motion was made by Mr. Jacey and seconded by Mr. Huff to close nominations for president.

Upon call of the roll, Mr. Cavalli was voted as president with five members voting in favor of him and four members voting in favor of Ms. Witt.

Ms. Wells turned the meeting over to the newly-elected president.

President Cavalli announced that nominations were open for vice president of the board of education.

Ms. Bursh nominated Ms. Miller for vice president of the board of education. Ms. Miller accepted the nomination.

Ms. Witt nominated Mr. Jacey for vice president of the board of education. Mr. Jacey accepted the nomination.

A motion was made by Mr. Doshi and seconded by Ms. Witt to close nominations for vice president.

Upon call of the roll, Ms. Miller was voted as vice president with five members voting in favor of her and four members voting in favor of Mr. Jacey.

A motion was made by Ms. Witt and seconded by Ms. Miller that the Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

<u>Appointment of Board Secretary</u> - approve the appointment of Annette M. Wells as Board Secretary and that the Board Secretary is authorized to invest district funds and make all deposits for the district.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

A motion was made by Mr. Tiwari and seconded by Ms. Miller that the Board of Education adopt the following resolutions:

Official Newspapers for Publication of Legal Notices - approve the designation of the The Courier News and/or The Star-Ledger as the newspapers to publish legal notices for the Board of Education.

Official Newspapers for Publication of "Open Public Meeting Law" Notices - approve the designation of The Princeton Packet, The Star-Ledger, The Courier News and The Trenton Times as the newspapers to receive notices of Board of Education meetings under the "Open Public Meetings Law."

TD Bank and Santander Bank Designated as Bank Depository - adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That TD Bank be designated as the Depository of some of the funds of the Montgomery Township Board of Education in the various accounts for the ensuing year. For investment purposes, other institutions may be used at the discretion of the School Business Administrator. The following accounts are held with TD Bank:

General
Payroll
Agency
Food Service
Capital Reserve
Flexible Spending Account
Unemployment Trust
Vision Account
Summer Enrichment Account
Summer Payroll
Athletic Account

All Activity Accounts for each School

RESOLVED: That Santander Bank be designated as the Depository of some of the funds of the Montgomery Township Board of Education in the various accounts for the ensuing year. For investment purposes, other institutions may be used at the discretion of the School Business Administrator. The following accounts are held with Santander Bank:

Investment Account 2016 Referendum Account Emergency Reserve Account

<u>Persons Designated to Sign Checks for the Ensuing Year</u> - adopt the following resolution authorizing check signatures:

RESOLVED: That the general account and food service account in the name of Montgomery Township Board of Education be opened or kept with TD Bank for the deposit in said Bank to the credit of these accounts from time to time of any and all moneys, checks, drafts, notes,

acceptances or other evidences of indebtedness, whether belonging to these accounts or otherwise, which may be or thereafter come into its possession, and that the said Bank be and is hereby authorized to make payments from the funds on deposit with it upon and according to the checks, drafts, notes or acceptances of these accounts, to be signed with the following three signatures:

Richard T. Cavalli

Annette M. Wells

Charisse D. Gutierrez

President

Secretary

Treasurer of School Moneys

In the event the President is unable to sign, Amy Miller., Vice President, will sign the checks.

Check signatures for the Summer Enrichment; Salary Account; and Agency Account: Treasurer of School Moneys

Check signatures for the Flexible Spending Account: Treasurer of School Moneys and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Check signatures for School Activity Accounts: Administrator and Secretary

Check signature for Athletic Account: Athletic Director and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

<u>Petty Cash Funds</u> - It is recommended that the Board, in accordance with NJSA 18:A19-3 authorize the Board Secretary to establish the following imprest-type petty cash funds for 2017-2018:

Board Office	\$ 225
Montgomery High School	250
Montgomery Middle School (Upper Campus)	250
Montgomery Middle School (Lower Campus)	150
Orchard Hill School	100
Village School	100

and that the maximum single expenditure which may be made from each fund shall be \$25; and that the following individuals will be responsible for the proper disposition of each fund:

Annette Wells	Board Office
Paul Popadiuk	Montgomery High School
Cory Delgado	Montgomery Middle School (Upper Campus)
Michael Richards	Montgomery Middle School (Lower Campus)
Susan Lacy	Village Elementary School
Kathleen Scotti	Orchard Hill Elementary School

Regular Board Public Meetings - adopt the attached calendar of Board of Education Meetings. Workshop Meetings will generally be held the second Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Business Meeting will generally be held the fourth Tuesday of the month beginning at

7:30 p.m. The meetings will be held in the Media Center of Montgomery Upper Middle School. During July, August and December one Board meeting a month is scheduled (see Page 21).

Readoption of Curriculum and Courses of Study - It is recommended that the Board readopt the existing curriculum and courses of study.

RESOLVED, that all current written curriculum and courses of the District, as on file in the Office of the Superintendent, be adopted for the period from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year, unless modified upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

<u>Readoption of Textbooks</u> - It is recommended that the Board readopt the existing textbooks for the 2017-2018 school year.

<u>Readoption of Job Descriptions</u> - It is recommended that the Board readopt the existing job descriptions:

RESOLVED, that all current written job descriptions in the District, as on file in the Office of the Superintendent, be adopted for the period from the date of this Organization Meeting until the Organization Meeting in the next calendar year, unless modified upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

Existing Board Policies Adopted for Ensuing Year - It is recommended that the Board adopt the existing policies of the Board of Education for the ensuing year with the understanding that revision of Board policy can be made at any time by Board action.

<u>Code of Ethics</u> - It is recommended that the Board adopt the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) Code of Ethics as it appears in the district's policy manual (Bylaws 0142):

I. NJSBA Code of Ethics for School Board Members

- A. I will uphold and enforce all laws, state board rules and regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- B. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will strive for public schools which can meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.
- C. I will confine my board action to policymaking, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- D. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.
- E. I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action, which may compromise the board.

- F. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
- G. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools, which if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. But in all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board member, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.
- H. I will vote to appoint the most qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- I. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- J. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

Upon call of the roll, the motions carried with a unanimous vote recorded.

President Cavalli suggested that the following two resolutions be tabled until the next meeting. Mr. Cavalli asked each member to email him a list of the committees that they are interested in serving.

Appointments – The Board President will make the following committee assignments for 2017:

- Members of the Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction Committee (ACI);
- External Affairs/Communications Committee (EAC):
- Members of the Operations, Facilities and Finance Committee (OFF);
- Members of the Human Resources and Negotiations Committee (HRNC);
- Members of the Policy Committee;
- Legislative Liaison for the purpose of receiving materials:
- Board liaisons to the Montgomery Township PTSA;
- Liaison to the Montgomery Township-Rocky Hill Municipal Alliance Committee;
- Voting member and alternate to the New Jersey School Boards Association;
- Member and alternate to the Executive Committee of the Somerset County School Boards Association;

President Cavalli suggested that the following resolution be tabled until the next meeting. Mr. Cavalli asked each member to email him if they are interested in serving as the delegate to the Somerset County Educational Services Commission.

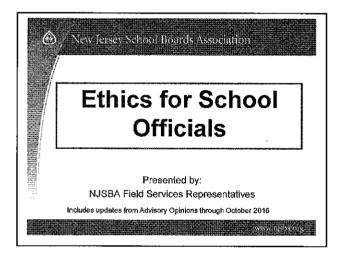
<u>Election of Delegate</u> - It is recommended that the Board of Education elect _____ as delegate to the Somerset County Educational Services Commission and _____ as alternate delegate.

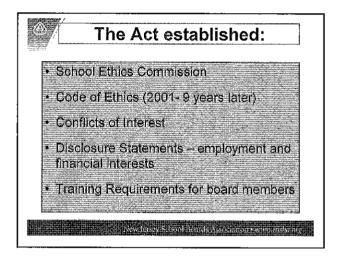
BOARD/PUBLIC COMMENTS

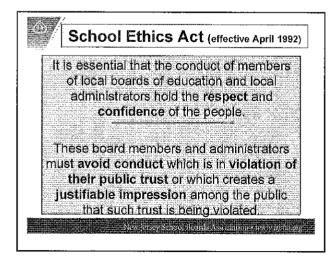
None

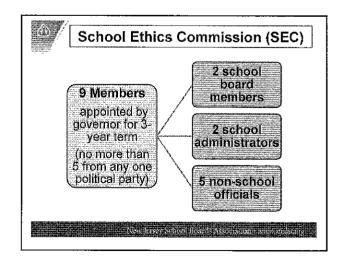
PRESENTATION

Ms. Gwen Thornton, a Field Service Representative of the New Jersey School Boards Association, gave the following presentation on School Official Ethics:











SEC Jurisdiction

Advisory Opinions

A school official may request an advisory opinion to determine if any proposed activity or conduct by a school official would constitute a violation of the Act.

Ethics Complaints

Acts upon complaints filed by anyone alleging a violation of the School Ethics Act or Code of Ethics took place.

New Jersey School Boards Associations agreements for an



Code of Ethics (continued)

c. I will confine my board action to policy making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.

DON'T become involved in the administration, organization or implementation of the policy and the goals. That's the role of the professional educators.

New Jersey School Boards Association (inmerigling)

(6)

Code of Ethics N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1

a. I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.

Uphold and enforce all laws, state board rules and regulations, court orders and local board policy when making decisions,

DON'T bend the rules, ask others to bend the rules, or think that you can accomplish anything as an individual that compromises the legal guidelines established by the board.



Hypothetically....

- A board member wants the board to adopt an "opt-out" policy for state assessments including PARCC.
- The Board directing the CSA to develop a process that engages staff, community and parents in a strategic planning initiative?
- A board personnel committee of 3, without consulting and consent of CSA, decides to interview all new teacher candidates.

Code of Ethics (continued)

b. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.

Make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.

DON'T base your decisions on special interest agendas or on what is best for your own child.

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Code of Ethics (continued)

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d. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.

Your responsibility is to work as a board to see that the schools are well run.

DON'T think that your role is to be involved in the day-to-day running of the schools that is the administrators' job.

New Jersey School Doneds Association (1986) of Sharring



Code of Ethics (continued)

e. I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.

Only the full board has the right to make decisions.

DON'T make personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the hoard.



Code of Ethics (continued)

g. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its school.

Insist that the board keep the community informed on the progress and needs of the district, DON'T discuss confidential matters with anyone but the board.

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Consider....

New Jersey School Boards Association curverselsharing

- The personnel committee, in response to complaints from parents, sends the elementary school principal a negative evaluation of a 3rd grade teacher, along with a note that they have grave concerns about her.
- A board member visiting schools to check on the technology upgrades?
- A board member creates a Facebook page and invites parents and staff to join and air their concerns and questions about the district. She says this will promote two-way communication with stakeholders.

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Hypothetically...

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- A board member asks to serve as an 'advocate" for his brother and sister-in-law when they meet with the child study team to discuss their daughter's IEP...
- Can a board member represent his/her child's interest?
- A candidate running for his first term on the board promises in his campaign that he will do everything in his power to have the district start an ice hockey team next year.
- The Board president asking the guidance counselor why her neighbor's child didn't get into National Honor Society.

Rew Jersey School Boards Association - with higher ere



Code of Ethics (continued)

f. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.

Make decisions based on district goals and policies.

DON'T be swayed by special interest or partisan political groups.



Code of Ethics (continued)

h. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.

Consider the recommendation of the CSA on all matters pertaining to education.

DON'T undermine a decision of the board. (18A:27-4.1)

New Joseph School Board: Association engineeristicine



Code of Ethics (continued)

 i will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.

Support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.

DON'T violate the chain of command or publicly criticize staff members.



Conflicts of Interest- N.J.S.A.18A: 12-24

Recuse yourself if there is a benefit to you as a school official or a member of your immediate family (or others) due to a:

- Business interest
- Use of the position to secure unwarranted privileges
- Financial involvement
- Gift, favor, etc. that was offered with the intent to influence
- · Personal involvement that creates a benefit
- Service or employment that may prejudice independent judgment



Code of Ethics (continued)

New Jersty School Boards Association - Newtonjobiling

j. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

Refer all complaints to the superintendent. DON'T make any promises to "help" or act on citizen complaints until they reach the board level after failure of an administrative solution.



Nepotism Policy - N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2

New Jersey School Boards Association Convergeboon

Nepotism regulation definition of Immediate Family Member:

- · spouse, child, parent, sibling
- residing in same household
- (no dependency requirement)

In recent advisory opinions the SEC has adopted the Nepotism definition of immediate family members which is more expansive than the SEC definition – spouse or dependent child residing in the same household.



Can we do this...?

New Jersey School Bornels Associations aroung the me-

- A board member's unfriendly neighbor is recommended for a 3rd grade teaching position. This board member votes "no."
- A board member who criticizes the Athletic Director.
 on the soccer field, to neighbors, at social gatherings or on member's Facebook page...
- The Board's personnel committee sets up a process for teaching staff members to bring issues directly to them to clear the air and improve morale.
 - "Just because you can do something...
 doesn't mean you should!"

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Nepotism Policy

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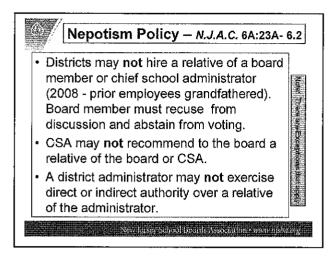
Definition of relative is more expansive:

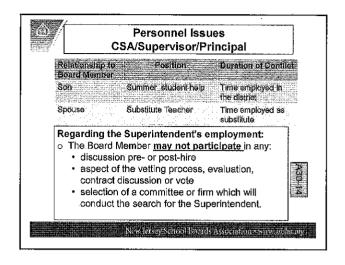
- · Spouse/civil union or domestic partner
- Parent/stepparent
- · Grandparent, grandchild
- Child/stepchild and son/daughter-in-law
- · Siblings, stepbrother/sister, half brother/sister
- Aunt/uncle, niece/nephew

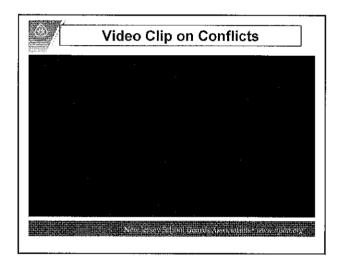
Whether related to individual or spouse/partner by blood, marriage or adoption.

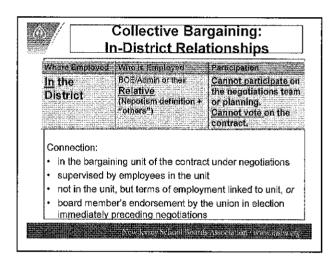
Recent opinions expanded this definition to include "other" such as first cousin, co-habitating partner, ex-spouse, etc.

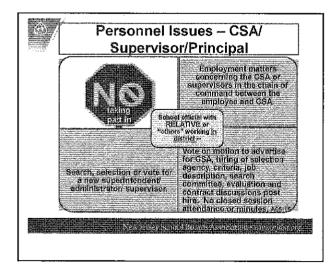
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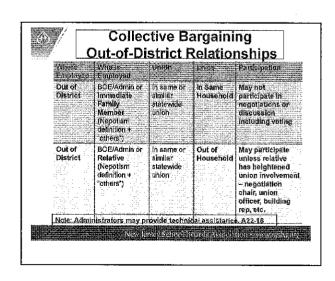














Collective Bargaining

A13-15 (10/27/2015) - A Board member who is employed in another district as an administrator and represented by an administrators union may negotiate with the in-district local NJEA affiliate when there is absolutely no linkage, in either district, between the respective NJEA affiliates and the administrators union which represents the Board member.

Consider A09-14 (Similar unions).

New Jersey School Bourds Association - was waisha, over



Interview Committees

- A31-15 (1/26/2016)-The Commission does not encourage Board members involvement in interviews for positions other than that of Superintendent, except the narrow circumstances in which this activity is permissible, all subject to approval of the Superintendent.
- See A04-12 for further expansion on participation guidelines.



Volunteerism

Recent Advisory Opinions do not ban in-district volunteering but do place restrictions on contact with students, staff, and parents that is inconsistent with the role of a Board member.

Acceptable:

- One-time, infrequent, non-executive in-district volunteer activities such as reading to a class on Dr. Seuss Day or chaperoning a class trip.
- Volunteer activities in outside organizations that are selfgoverning, wholly independent of board member's role and board of education oversight -e.g. education foundations, PTAs, student activity booster clubs, local recreation organizations (Do have to recuse on voting)



Interview Committees

New Jersey School Boards Association Caroningsbalory

While participation in interview committees is not encouraged, should the Board decide to have an interview committee with Board members, A04-12 provides guidelines:

 A04-12 (4/17/12) - Board member's participation on interview committee for high level administrative and supervisory positions would not violate the School Ethics Act. One or two board members; administrative staff coordinates participation - observations and assessments; CSA recommendation.

A15-10 - Exit Interviews - No!

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1 (c) (d) "not to administer..."

Retracted A01-15 from public advisory status



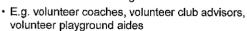
Volunteerism

Associated about the Association

Advisory Opinions A32-14, A10-15, A17-15 find the following Board member volunteer actions to be an Ethics **violation**:

- Supervision, management and direction of school personnel and funds
- · Regular contact with students, parents and staff
- · Active day-to-day presence
- · Enmeshed in the building







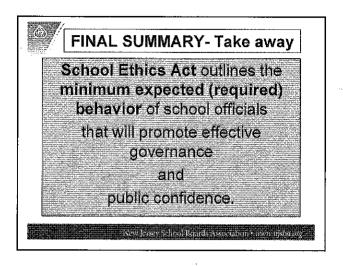
Points to Consider...

New Jusey School Boards Association Alexanophrage

- In light of the recent SEC Advisory Opinions, NJSBA recommends boards consider developing inventory lists of board members and administrators with their respective relative who are in statewide unions
- 2. Keep list updated and note areas of conflict i.e. Collective Bargaining; Personnel...
- Continue to check School Board Notes to keep abreast of newly released advisories



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Time was allowed for questions and comments from the board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Cavalli thanked Ms. Witt and Mr. Jacey for their efforts last year in acting as the president and vice president for the board of education. He stated that he will reach out to them for guidance and counsel.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Doshi and seconded by Ms. Chenette to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Upon call of the question, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette M. Wells

School Business Administrator/

Board Secretary

APPROVED SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS

Following is the <u>APPROVED</u> meeting schedule for the Montgomery Township Board of Education for the year 2017. Generally the Board will meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month except in those cases where this date is a holiday and schools are closed. Then an alternate day shall be utilized. For the months of July, August, and December one meeting has been scheduled. The meeting place will be the Montgomery Middle School Upper Campus media center. The public portion of the meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVED: At the Montgomery Township Board of Education Organization Meeting of January 3, 2017.

Tuesday	Workshop/Business	January 10, 2017
Tuesday	Business	January 24, 2017
Tuesday	Workshop/Business	February 14, 2017
Tuesday	Business	February 28, 2017
Tuesday	Workshop/Business	March 14, 2017
Tuesday	Business	March 28, 2017
Tuesday	Workshop/Business	April 11, 2017
Tuesday	Business	April 25, 2017
Tuesday	Workshop/Business	May 9, 2017
Tuesday	Business	May 23, 2017
Tuesday	Workshop/Business	June 13, 2017
Tuesday	Business	June 27, 2017
Tuesday	Workshop/Business	July 18, 2017
Tuesday	Workshop/Business	August 15, 2017
Tuesday	Workshop/Business	September 12, 2017
Tuesday	Business	September 26, 2017
Tuesday	Workshop/Business	October 10, 2017
Tuesday	Business	October 17, 2017
Tuesday	Workshop/Business	November 7, 2017
Tuesday	Business	November 21, 2017
Tuesday	Workshop/Business	December 19, 2017
Tuesday	Organization and Business	January 4, 2018