

**SOUTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business/Public Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2020 – 6:00 P.M. – Middle/High School Cafeteria**

Mr. Conrad, Board President called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Frascella, called the roll:

Present: Mr. Albarran, Mr. Conrad, Ms. Conway, Mr. Dragotta Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Kasics, Ms. McLaughlin, Mrs. Taggart, Mr. Walsh
Absent: None
Also Present: Peter Frascella, Board Secretary; Jorge E. Diaz, Superintendent; Mr. Silvestro, Board Attorney, Mr. Pena, Student Representative

On a motion by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Kasics that the Board adjourned into Closed Session at 6:02 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Frascella read the following Closed Session Notice:

BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the Sunshine Act, N.J.S. 10:4-12 and 13, the South Amboy Board of Education will now meet in closed session to discuss items falling under Attorney/Client Privilege, Student Related Matters, Personnel Matters, and negotiations.

The aforesaid subjects are within the exemptions permitted to be discussed in closed session in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-13. Information regarding the Board’s closed session discussion will be disclosed to the public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer exists. The Board will reconvene in public session at the conclusion of the closed session in approximately 30 minutes.

On a motion by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Taggart that the Board reconvened into the public portion of the meeting at 7:05 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Frascella read the following Public Notice:

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon.

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, the South Amboy Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting setting forth the time, date, and location to be submitted for publication to the Home News Tribune and posted at the Board Office, Middle/High School, Elementary School, City Hall, Library and Senior Citizens Center Bulletin Boards at least 48 hours in advance of this meeting. Members of the public who wish to address the Board will be given the opportunity before the Board adjourns for the evening.

Mr. Conrad led all assembled in the Flag Salute.

Review/Comment/Approval of Agenda Items (Committee Chairs)

MINUTES

Motion Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Kasics to accept the minutes of the following meetings as submitted:

January 27, 2020	Business-Public Meeting
January 27, 2020	Closed Session/Business Meeting

Ayes: Albarran, Conrad, Conway, Dragotta, Gonzalez, Kasics, McLaughlin, Taggart, Walsh
Nays: None
Abstention: None
Absent: None

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

1. CURRICULUM REVISION/2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the following revised curriculum subject areas for the 2019-2020 school year, as presented, and as recommended by the Superintendent.

US History 1, 2

Board Discussion:

None

Public Comment:

None

A motion was made by Mrs. Conway and seconded by Mrs. Kasics to approve motion One of the Education and Curriculum section of the Business/Public Meeting Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Albarran, Conrad, Conway, Dragotta, Gonzalez, Kasics, McLaughlin, Taggart, Walsh
Nays: None
Abstention: None
Absent: None

POLICY

1. FIRST READING/WORKPLACE HARASSMENT POLICY #4119.3, 4219.3

That the Board of Education approves the first reading of the Workplace Harassment Policy #4119.3, 4219.3, as attached and recommended by the Superintendent with amendment to change Principals to Administrators. (Attachment A)

2. REVISION/NONDISCRIMINATION, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY #4111.1/4211.1

That the Board of Education approves the revision of the Nondiscrimination, Affirmative Action Policy #4111.1, 4211.1, as attached and recommended by the Superintendent. (Attachment B)

3. REVISION/MARRIED/PREGNANT AND LACTATING PUPILS POLICY #5134

That the Board of Education approves the revision of the Married/Pregnant and Lactating Pupils Policy #5134, as attached and recommended by the Superintendent. (Attachment C)

Public Comment:

Brian Murphy – Lactation provisions in policy need to be consistent.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kasics and seconded by Mr. Walsh to approve motions One through Three of the Policy section of the Business/Public Meeting Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Albarran, Conrad, Conway, Dragotta, Gonzalez, Kasics, McLaughlin, Taggart, Walsh
Nays: Gonzalez (#1)
Abstention: None
Absent: None

PERSONNEL

1. REVISION/PART-TIME PARAPROFESSIONAL/JESSICA COSTANTINO

That the Board of Education approves Jessica Costantino as a Part-Time Paraprofessional in the Elementary School for the 2019-2020 school year effective January 2, 2020 as recommended by the Superintendent. Her salary (Step 4) will be as reflected in the negotiated agreement between the Board of Education and the South Amboy Education Association. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal History Background Check (Policy #4111/4211) and Physicals for Employees (Policy #4212.4).

2. APPROVE/PART-TIME PARAPROFESSIONAL/CHELSEA RUSSELL

That the Board of Education approves Chelsea Russell as a Part-Time Paraprofessional in the Middle High School for the 2019-2020 school year effective February 25, 2020 as recommended by the Superintendent. Her salary (Step 2) will be as reflected in the negotiated agreement between the Board of Education and the South Amboy Education Association. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal History Background Check (Policy #4111/4211) and Physicals for Employees (Policy #4212.4).

3. HOME INSTRUCTOR/2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individual as a Home Instructor for the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. The stipend for this position will be in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the Board of Education and the South Amboy Education Association:

MIDDLE /HIGH SCHOOL
Catherine Housman

4. APPROVE/VOLUNTEER COACH/2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following volunteer position in our district for the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

- Softball Varsity Volunteer Coach Raymond Perez

5. REVISION/ATHLETIC/INTRAMURAL POSITION/2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR /CHERYL ANDERSON

That the Board of Education approves the revision of Cheryl Anderson previously approved as HS Assistant Softball Coach to the Middle School Softball Coach for the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. The stipend for this position will be in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the Board of Education and the South Amboy Education Association.

6. RESIGNATION/KATHRYN MILLER

That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Kathryn Miller, Mathematics Teacher at the Middle High school, effective April 18, 2020, or sooner if a suitable replacement is found.

7. RESIGNATION/JANICE COLACCI

That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Janice Colacci, Custodian at the Middle High school, effective February 14, 2020.

8. APPROVE/CUSTODIAN/PHILIP LAMANNA

That the Board of Education approves the employment of Philip Lamanna as a Full-Time Custodian for the 2019-2020 school year effective February 25, 2020 until June 30, 2020 as recommended by the

Superintendent. His prorated salary (Step 2), with benefits, will be as reflected in the negotiated agreement between the Board of Education and the South Amboy Education Association.

9. APPROVE/PART TIME CUSTODIAN-MAINTENANCE/JENNIFER JAMISON

That the Board of Education approves the employment of Jennifer Jamison as part time Custodian Maintenance for the 2019-2020 school year effective February 25, 2020 through June 30, 2020 as recommended by the Superintendent. Her salary will be \$16.00/hr., no benefits. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal History Background Check (Policy #4111/4211) and Physicals for Employees (Policy #4212.4).

10. APPROVE/SUBSTITUTE REMOVAL/IRENE NEMSER

That the Board of Education approves the removal of Irene Nemser from the substitute teacher list as recommended by the Superintendent effective February 19, 2020.

A motion was made by Mrs. McLaughlin and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez to approve motions One through Ten of the Personnel section of the Business/Public Meeting Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Albarran, Conrad, Conway, Dragotta, Gonzalez, Kasics, McLaughlin, Taggart, Walsh
Nays: None
Abstention: None
Absent: None

OTHER MOTION

1. ACCEPTANCE OF HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION & BULLYING (HIB) INCIDENT REPORT/FEBRUARY 2020

That the Board of Education accepts the Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying (HIB) Incident Report for HIB incidents reported to the Board of Education on February 24, 2020. (Attachment D)

A motion was made by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Taggart to approve motions One of the HIB Report of the Business/Public Meeting Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Albarran, Conrad, Conway, Dragotta, Gonzalez, Kasics, McLaughlin, Taggart, Walsh
Nays: None
Abstention: None
Absent: None

BUDGET AND FINANCE

1. BUDGETARY TRANSFERS

The Board of Education approves the attached transfers for January 2020 in conjunction with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8-1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10. (Attachment E)

2. EXPENDITURES FOR 1/28/2020-02/24/2020 (Attachment F)

The Board of Education approves the following expenditures for 01/28/20-02/24/20

Bills For	Amount
Regular Bills	620,601.97
01/15/19 Payroll	492,552.24
01/30/19 Payroll	474,696.78
TOTAL	\$1,587,850.99
January Agency	667,879.83

3. ACCEPT THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT – JANUARY 2020 (Attachment G)
 BE IT RESOLVED that the South Amboy Board Secretary, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, does hereby certify that as of the date of the reports, no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (a); the monthly financial reports of the Secretary and the Treasurer; and further recommends, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 4, that the Board of Education certifies that no major account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (b), and that as of this report sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligations for the remainder of the year.

4. ACCEPT THE JANUARY 2020 ORGANIZATIONAL FUND BALANCES
 The Board of Education accepts the attached January 2020 Organizational Fund Balances. (Attachment H)

5. ACCEPT THE JANUARY 2020 ATHLETIC FUND BALANCES
 The Board of Education accepts the attached January 2020 Athletic Fund Balances. (Attachment I)

6. APPROVE TRAVEL AND REIMBURSEMENT
 The Board of Education approves the following under the “Travel and Reimbursement Policy” of the South Amboy - Board of Education as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

Staff/Board Member	Program Date	Program Title or Event	Fees	GAAP Account
Georgann Tice	March 20, 2020	NJ Annual Gifted Conference	\$199	20-270-100-300-00-00-00-060

7. FIELD TRIP REQUESTS
 The Board of Education approves the attached field trip requests for the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. (Attachment J)

- Trip # MHS-20024-20026**
- Trip # ES-20011-20014**

8. APPROVE TUITION ADJUSTMENT DUE FOR 2018-2019 – CPC HIGH POINT SCHOOL
 The Board of Education approves the audited tuition adjustment of \$20,639.74 to be paid to CPC High Point School by the South Amboy Board of Education for tuition paid during the 18-19 school year.

A motion was made by Ms. Gonzalez and seconded by Mrs. Kasics to approve motions One through Eight of the Budget and Finance section of the Business/Public Meeting Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

- Ayes: Albarran, Conrad, Conway, Dragotta, Gonzalez, Kasics, McLaughlin, Taggart, Walsh
- Nays: None
- Abstention: Kasics (Motion 5)
- Absent: None

OTHER MOTION

1. WAIVER OF POLICY #5118

That the Board of Education approves the waiver of Board Policy #5118 with respect to Student #72866424545 and authorizes that the student remains enrolled through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Walsh to approve motions One of the Other Motion Section of the Business/Public Meeting Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Albarran, Conway, Dragotta, Gonzalez, Kasics, Taggart
 Nays: Conrad, McLaughlin, Walsh
 Abstention: None
 Absent: None

A. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Pena – Discussed Athletics senior nights for both boys’ and girls’ basketball as well as cheerleading. He thanked the administration for the Seal of Biliteracy.

B. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

Mr. Diaz – Discussed the Seal of Biliteracy and how 13 took the test and 13 passed. He also informed the Board and the public that the sports cooperative program with Sayreville was not approved by the NJSIAA but he and the Sayreville Superintendent were appealing the decision

Mrs. Gonzalez – Inquired as to if a decision will be made prior to this year.

Mr. Walsh - I would like to congratulate Rafael Albarran, Abe Calderon, and Mary Ann Walsh on all qualifying for states this Saturday at Sectionals. Also, congrats to the entire track team on an amazing season, training 6 days a week and really showing the state what small town grit can do. It was a pleasure volunteer coaching this season and look forward to Spring Track.

South Amboy’s application to the NJSIAA for the co-opt agreement with Sayreville was recently denied after being passed at every other level of the process including both the Sayreville and South Amboy board of education. The determination was made based on the policy that the co-opt should mutually benefit both schools and that it wouldn't benefit Sayreville to have our students participate in their program. Despite our school doing everything we can to appeal this decision, I just want to note some notable football athletes that lived in South Amboy based on where their colleges list their hometowns.

Linwood Crump, Class of 2016, Starter at Temple that played in 45 games

Nick Krimin, Class of 2016, Starter at Rutgers that played in 15 games

Jordan Wells, Class of 2018, plays for Muhlenberg College and was All-conference in High School

Elmar Stout- Class of 1950- First Team College All American at Texas A&M

Marques Townes- Class of 2014, played basketball in college but was being recruited for football by Penn State, Maryland, and Rutgers

Mathew Smith- Class of 2017- Played and started for both Wrestling and Football at BGA.

These are just the few athletes that had the privilege and opportunity to go to a private school, that can cost up to \$17,000 a year, and show their talent. The reality is, we live in a middleclass town and private school is not an option for a lot of our students. Every one of these players would have benefitted any high school team in the state. Imagine how many more names I would have listed if this co-opt program was instilled a

decade ago. We have cost too many kids opportunity and possible scholarships for too long. I call on the NJSIAA to give our students the opportunity to play. I know our administration will be doing everything it can to appeal this decision for the students.

Transparency to the city is the most important element to a board of education. I have spoken to members of the community that asked me about my vote regarding the superintendent's contract in the last meeting cycle based on narrative put on social media. I call on my fellow board members as well as the board president to take steps towards making these meetings as transparent as possible so that people can have the facts. Last year, I asked that we video record and/or live stream these meetings and was denied, but I ask in public that this is reconsidered. I also ask the president to consider having our respective committee chairs read out the notes that we take every month within our respective committees so we have more transparency. Before, I voted, I planned on saying a few points of why I am going to vote the way that I did regarding the contract but elected not to because not many people were still in attendance and I'm sure not many people read the minutes, but I was wrong and should have.

The board had a negotiation committee that goes back and forth with the superintendent on the terms and salary (if any) of his next contract. The board members that were on the committee of the contract that was voted on last month were Amy McLaughlin, Shannon Gonzalez, Lynn Kasics, and overseen by Anthony Conrad (BOE President).

Being the terms of the contract were already negotiated and agreed mutually between the negotiation committee and Mr. Diaz. It was the board's job to vote on whether we would want to continue with Mr. Diaz as superintendent or not. In my opinion it is bad practice to vote no based on micro details of the contract being it was already negotiated. A no vote would not necessarily mean that negotiations get reopened, because that is not guaranteed, but that we are going a different way. The valuation that was voted yes on last month, was still below the superintendents' salaries of similar sized and local districts such as South River, Dunellen, and Spotswood.

When voting on something as crucial as a superintendent, it's important to look at where the district was before we hired him three years ago. When you look at the programs that have been brought in including expanding our special education program, the trend of our graduation rate which has gone up from 88% in 2017 to 96% in 2019, our chronic absenteeism going from 12% in 2017 to 7.5% in 2019, the school passing QSAC for the first time in over a decade in 2019, a bi-weekly newsletter that updates the community on the district, and a five year strategic plan so that the district has an in writing direction. These changes are thanks to the combination of our teachers as well as Mr. Diaz's leadership of our district. These changes have not come without bumps in the road and there are still many things that need to be improved, but Mr. Diaz is leading the change that I feel is going to continue to improve our district so we can have a school system that always puts the students first.

Ms. McLaughlin – Asked the policy committee to revisit doing residency checks for all students every year. She thanked Mrs. Kemprowski, Mr. Bikowski, and Mr. Gennero for their work with the cafeteria and noted that they should have been in the ribbon cutting picture. She also asked about site managers.

Mr. Conrad – Discussed committee members reading minutes during meetings. He also discussed the process for the Superintendent's new contract.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Diane Smocovich – Discussed student council food survey, senior night for track, and Shrek Musical.

Thomas Seig – Discussed creating a wrestling club as opposed to coop with Sayreville. He also discussed a bus incident.

Brian Murphy – Was disappointed to hear about NJSIAA decision. He had questions about the HIB report and field trips.

Erin Mulligan – Recess was denied to 5th grade because of behavior issues. Students were told field trips would be taken away. She also had questions about the HIBs.

Farah Horrigan – Suggested using parent volunteers for lunch supervision.

Connie Holzart – Asked for the Elementary School Code of Conduct for parents to review. She also asked about Elementary School Health Classes and home-economics.

Mrs. Gonzalez – Does the Elementary School curriculum have health class in it?

Mrs. McLaughlin – Asked if a special certification was required to teach suicide prevention.

Mr. Walsh – Discussed the Curriculum Committee’s desire to include more mental health information regarding the curriculum.

Linda Dorello – Is there an expulsion process for the children who are misbehaving.

Mrs. McLaughlin – Asked if the Code of Conduct was being followed.

Erin Mulligan – Asked about loss of recess report and parent contacts.

Dr. Patrick McCabe – Congratulated Mr. Pena for his nomination for the PSA Award.

D. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Anthony and seconded by Mr. Walsh there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 9:07pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Frascella

Business Administrator/Board Secretary