

SOUTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business/Public Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.
Open Meeting & immediately go into Executive/Closed Session
Public Meeting Agenda begins at 6:30 P.M.
Virtual Meeting using AT&T Conferencing (Call toll free 1-866-390-1828. Enter
access code 9392521#. To enter the conference, press #)

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

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. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Conrad that the Board adjourned into Closed Session at 6:05 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. Walsh and seconded by Mrs. Taggart that the Board reconvened into the public portion of the meeting at 7:30 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.

1. Presentations:

- **STUDENT SAFETY DATA SYSTEM/HIB REPORT (Attachment A)**
(September 2019-December 2019 Period 1)
Sean Dunphy, Elementary School Principal
Dr. Patrick McCabe, Middle High School Principal
- **NJSLA – 2019 Science Assessment Results (Attachment B)**

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

MINUTES

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

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

March 16, 2020	Business-Public Meeting
March 16, 2020	Closed Session/Business Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Kasics to approve motion One 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: None
 Abstention: None
 Absent: None

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

4. CURRICULUM APPROVAL/2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the following curriculum subject area for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented, and as recommended by the Superintendent.

Life Skills (HS)

POLICY

5. REVISED/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICY #4111.2, 4211.2

That the Board of Education approves the revision of the Domestic Violence Policy #4111.2, 4211.2, as attached and recommended by the Superintendent. (Attachment C)

6. REVISED/HEALTH POLICY #5141

That the Board of Education approves the revision of the Health Policy #5141, as attached and recommended by the Superintendent. (Attachment D)

Public Comment:

A motion was made by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Kasics to approve motion One 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: None
 Abstention: None
 Absent: None

PERSONNEL

7. REHIRE OF NON-TENURED PERSONNEL

That the Board of Education approves the reemployment of the attached list of non-tenured personnel for the 2020-2021 school year as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Salaries and steps will reflect negotiated agreements with the Board of Education. Due to reorganization and budget

constraints, and consistent with contractual and certification requirements, personnel may be transferred to any position subject to approval by the Board of Education. ([Attachment E](#))

8. REHIRE OF NON-TENURED FULL-TIME/PART-TIME PARAPROFESSIONAL STAFF, PART-TIME/FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE STAFF AND OTHER STAFF LISTED

That the Board of Education approves the reemployment of non-tenured full-time/part-time paraprofessional staff, part-time/full-time custodian/maintenance staff and other staff listed for the 2020-2021 school year as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Salaries and steps will be as reflected in the negotiated agreement between the Board of Education and the South Amboy Education Association. Due to reorganization and budget constraints and consistent with contractual and certification requirements, personnel may be transferred to any position subject to approval by the Board of Education. ([Attachment F](#))

9. APPROVE/ADDITIONAL SUBSTITUTE/2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following substitute in our district for the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Rate listed below, per diem, without benefits. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal History Background Check (Policy #4111/4211) and Physicals for Employees (Policy #4212.4).

- Brittany Robinson Teacher Sub Daily Rate: \$85.00 per diem

10. RETIREMENT/ELLEN PETERSON

That the Board of Education approves the retirement of Ellen Peterson, Elementary School Teacher, effective June 30, 2021, with sincere appreciation for her years of dedicated service to our district as recommended by the Superintendent.

11. APPROVE DESIGNATION/HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER/JORGE E. DIAZ

That the Board of Education approves the designation of Jorge E. Diaz, Superintendent of Schools as the Human Resources Officer as required under the Domestic Violence Policy #4111.2,4211.2.

12. HIB Reports

No HIB cases to report

BUDGET AND FINANCE

13. BUDGETARY TRANSFERS

The Board of Education approves the attached transfers for March 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 G](#))

14. EXPENDITURES FOR 3/17/2020-04/27/2020 ([Attachment H](#))

The Board of Education approves the following expenditures for 03/17/20-04/27/20

Bills For	Amount
Regular Bills	604,899.93
03/15/20 Payroll	504,207.22
03/30/20 Payroll	471,048.15

TOTAL	\$1,580,155.30
March Agency	505,069.41

- 15. ACCEPT THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT – MARCH 2020** ([Attachment I](#))
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.
- 16. ACCEPT THE MARCH 2020 ORGANIZATIONAL FUND BALANCES**
The Board of Education accepts the attached March 2020 Organizational Fund Balances. ([Attachment J](#))
- 17. ACCEPT THE MARCH 2020 ATHLETIC FUND BALANCES**
The Board of Education accepts the attached March 2020 Athletic Fund Balances. ([Attachment K](#))

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MOTIONS AND OTHER ITEMS

Emma Schaffer – Below average science scores and release of a science teacher doesn't make any sense and has to raise questions.

Angus McDougal – Test scores are low, keep the science teacher.

Brian Murphy – Thanked staff and students for commitment to the students. Agreed with delaying Prom and Graduation. Talked about recognizing honor roll students in a better way. Re-opening school with safety in mind is paramount.

Diane Smocovich – Would the name be added back if there was a majority that voted for it.

Carrie Kenny – Thanked Mr. Conrad for kind words about the teachers. She stated that parents should reach out to teachers as opposed to posting critical comments on social media.

Alisha Herron – Concerned that releasing science teacher is not good when education is a priority.

Mae Schaffer – Dismayed to hear that a science teacher was being let go.

Emma Schaffer – Life Skills being mixed with B.D. students is not fair to the Life Skills students.

Marcia Mercado – Thanked staff and students for their hard work in new environment.

Angus McDougal – Does the non-reappointment have anything to do with professionalism?

APPROVE ALL ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Walsh to approve of the consent agenda of the regular public meeting of April 27, 2020 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

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

Abstention: Dragotta (Motion 7), Kasics (Motion 5), McLaughlin (Motion 7 – K.S.)
 Absent: None

*Mr. Dragotta, Mrs. McLaughlin, Mrs. Taggart, Mr. Walsh noted that they would have liked to see another name on the re-hire list.

A. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Pena – Thanked staff for working w/ students regarding Prom and Graduation. Students expressed unhappiness w/ non-reappointment of teacher. He feels she is a tremendous teacher.

B. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

Mr. Walsh – I would like to offer my thoughts and prayers to any staff, student, or community member that are either directly or indirectly affected by this pandemic. I'd also like to thank everyone who has played a role in helping out the school and community during such unprecedented times. I'd also like to thank the grab and go lunch staff for all the work they have done.

I'd also like to thank our teachers for all their efforts during this time of virtual learning and I would like to commend the teachers for taking the time to send selfies of themselves with a note to their students. I know watching that video made me smile as an alumni and brother of a current senior in the school and I can only imagine the impact that this had on our students.

On the same token, I would like to just commend Amanda Hayes and all the students and parents that made the student response video possible where students took selfies with them holding notes that expressed their love and appreciation for their teachers.

In these unprecedented times, these creative gestures make a monumental impact on not only our school but the entire community. So, thank you to everyone for their efforts to keep spirits high during such an uncertain time.

I would also like to echo Mr. Diaz's prior point that the board and administration will do everything we can to make critical milestones like prom and graduation happen by any means necessary.

I would like to congratulate Mrs. Peterson on retirement and I just want to wish her nothing but happiness, health, and prosperity in the next chapter of her life.

Just want to make a couple notes regarding the board of education's Athletics and Activities committee. I welcome any other board chair to also share their notes from the committee that they are the chair of in order to continue to be as transparent as possible to the community.

- Esports Tournament - Interest email went out today. Ask about implementing an Esport policy with other ADs.
 - I would like to make a note that I feel there should be policies surrounding online gaming.
- College Sign - Will set a date after virus lifts. Will be recognized at the graduation ceremony.
- Sportsmanship, Athlete of the Year and NJSIAA Award will still be given out
- Spring
- Sports will be looked into on May 15th

Thank you for your time tonight and I hope everyone and your families stay, happy, healthy, and safe during these times.

Mrs. Conway – Discussed C&I Committee and the importance of Life Skills and creating a robust curriculum for students grades. CST is still providing services. She thanked everyone for their hard work.

Mrs. McLaughlin – Asked about the three snow days left over from winter. Discussed that she did not hear back from the Superintendent regarding an email she wrote. Are Zoom Meetings being monitored by the Principals? She commented on the student lunch program and if we could offer to the community. She commented that the Superintendent did not contact community members who reached out to him for donations to families. She about using non-certified teachers as long-term substitutes.

Mr. Diaz rebutted the comments made by Mrs. McLaughlin and indicated the comments were not accurate. Mr. Diaz responded to Mrs. McLaughlin's comments regarding "not contacting community members who reached out for donations." Mr. Diaz stated the "community members" she was referring to was indeed, Mrs. McLaughlin, and that Mr. Diaz was busy coordinating the district meal service that had already feed over 1600 meals and any comment to suggest that Mr. Diaz does not care about the community was ridiculous.

Mrs. Kasics – Are teachers required to do virtual classrooms two times a week?

Mrs. Taggart – Is there a way to do athletics Decision Day virtually?

Mr. Dragotta – Thanked everyone and sent out his condolences to staff members who lost people during the pandemic.

Mrs. Gonzalez – Noted the number of people that participated and thanked everyone for signing in to take part in the meeting.

C. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Mrs. Kasics and seconded by Mrs. Taggart there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 9:40pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

[\(Click to view Presentation\)](#)

Convene to Public Hearing

On a motion by Mrs. Kasics and seconded by Mr. Walsh the Board convenes to the public hearing portion of the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

OPENING REMARKS

Jorge E. Diaz, Superintendent of Schools

SLIDE PRESENTATION

Mr. Frascella, SBA will review the slide presentation.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS (BUDGET)

A. Board of Education

Mrs. Taggart – Are there vape detectors in the budget? Why is transportation continuing to rise in cost?

Mr. Conrad – Asked about e-rate and State Aid.

Ms. Conway – Asked about concern regarding funds from the State.

B. Public Comment

1. ADOPTION OF THE 2020-2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Amboy Board of Education hereby readopts the following budget for the 2020-2021 school year, as originally approved by the Middlesex County Executive County Superintendent and as recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee and the Superintendent of Schools.

The proposed budget includes sufficient funds to provide curriculum and instruction which will enable all students to achieve Educational Standards, and is in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A and N.J.A.C. Title 6 and 6A.

Appropriations

General Current Expense \$17,147,853

Revenue

Budgeted Fund Balance	\$ 192,396
Local Tax Levy	\$10,014,354
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 115,796
State Aid	\$ 6,782,860

		SEMI	\$ 41,447
		Interest from Cap Reserve	\$ 1,000
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 1,681,653	State Restricted Entitlements	\$ 0
		Pre School Early Childhood	\$ 993,345
		Federal Restricted Entitlements	\$ 688,308
Repayment of Debt	\$ 605,215	Local Debt Service Tax Levy	\$ 593,439
		Budgeted Fund Balance	\$ 11,776
Total Appropriations:	\$19,416,925	Total Revenues:	\$19,416,925

2. APPROVAL OF TAX LEVY PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR 2020-2021

The Board of Education approves the following tax levy payment schedule to be presented to the City of South Amboy for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021:

Due Date	Total Due
July 5, 2020	\$883,986.00
August 5, 2020	\$883,982.00
September 5, 2020	\$883,982.00
October 5, 2020	\$883,982.00
November 5, 2020	\$883,982.00
December 5, 2020	\$883,982.00
2020 Total	\$5,303,896.00
January 5, 2021	\$883,987.00
February 5, 2021	\$883,982.00
March 5, 2021	\$883,982.00
April 5, 2021	\$883,982.00
May 5, 2021	\$883,982.00
June 5, 2021	\$883,982.00
2021 Total	\$5,303,897.00
2020-2021 Total	\$10,607,793.00

APPROVE BUDGET AND FINANCE MOTIONS

On a motion by Mr. Conrad and a second by Mrs. Kasics the South Amboy Board of Education approves motions One through Two of the Public Hearing on The Budget section of the regular public meeting agenda of April 27, 2020 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

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

D. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Mrs. Kasics and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 10:30 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Frascella

Business Administrator/Board Secretary