

SOUTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business/Public Meeting Minutes
May 18, 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

On a motion by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Conrad 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. Walsh and seconded by Mrs. Taggart that the Board reconvened into the public portion of the meeting at 6:40 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

1. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

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

April 27, 2020
April 27, 2020

Business-Public Meeting
Closed Session/Business Meeting

Mrs. McLaughlin objected to the minutes being approved as written because she felt three of her major points were left out.

A motion was made by Mrs. McLaughlin and seconded by Mrs. Taggart to table motion One of the Minutes section of the Business/Public Meeting Agenda.

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

PERSONNEL

1. APPROVE / BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TEACHER / ALEXANDER ZULEWSKI

That the Board of Education approves the employment of Alexander Zulewski as a Business/Technology Teacher in the Middle High School for the 2020-2021 school year. His salary (Step 9), with benefits, 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 Background Check (Policy#4211) and Physicals for Employees (Policy#4212.4)

HIB Reports

No HIB cases to report

OTHER MOTIONS

2. APPROVE THE DRIVE-IN THEATER CEREMONIES

That the Board of Education approves the Drive-in Theater Graduation format to be hosted at the MHS parking lot on June 19, 2020, for the moving-up and senior graduation ceremonies.

3. APPROVE THE USE OF UNUSED EMERGENCY DAYS

That the Board of Education approves the use of unused emergency days to close schools on 5/29/20, 6/5/20, 6/12/20 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

4. BUDGETARY TRANSFERS

The Board of Education approves the attached transfers for April 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 A](#))

5. EXPENDITURES FOR 4/28/2020-5/18/2020 ([Attachment B](#))

The Board of Education approves the following expenditures for 04/28/20-05/18/20

Bills For	Amount
Regular Bills	430,927.11
04/15/20 Payroll	480,677.90
04/30/20 Payroll	468,723.25
TOTAL	\$1,380,328.26

April Agency 686,661.70

- 6. ACCEPT THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT – APRIL 2020** ([Attachment C](#))
 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.
- 7. ACCEPT THE APRIL 2020 ORGANIZATIONAL FUND BALANCES**
 The Board of Education accepts the attached April 2020 Organizational Fund Balances. ([Attachment D](#))
- 8. ACCEPT THE APRIL 2020 ATHLETIC FUND BALANCES**
 The Board of Education accepts the attached April 2020 Athletic Fund Balances. ([Attachment E](#))
- 9. 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
Alanna Zeller	May 5, 2020	Dyslexia Training (Virtual)	\$279	20-270-100-300-00-00-060
Joy LaVigne	June 22-26, 2020	Orton Gillingham Training (Virtual)	\$1,000	20-231-200-300-01-00-00-060

- 10. RESOLUTION FOR FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT RENEWAL/ADDENDUM AGREEMENT 2020-2021**
 The Board of Education adopts the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the City of South Amboy, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, has determined the need for Food Service Management for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose, and

WHEREAS, the conditions of the Public School Contract Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5a (22) have been met, **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the City of South Amboy, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey is hereby authorized and directed to renew a contract for food service management with Maschio’s Food Services for the 2020-2021 school year for \$20,800. (Management Fee); Maschio’s Food Services guarantees an unlimited return to the South Amboy Board of Education in the amount of \$40,000.
- 11. APPROVE THE SUBMITTAL OF SAFETY GRANT THROUGH NJSIG**
 That the Board of Education approves the Submittal of the Safety Grant through NJSIG in the amount of \$8,622.84.

BOARD COMMENT ON ANY MOTIONS

Mrs. McLaughlin – Asked about the SAEA involvement in the use of make-up days. She asked why the administration was making the decision over the SAEA based purely on numbers of staff effected.

Mrs. Kasics – Asked if diplomas will be handed out or will the by on a table so there is no physical contact.

Mr. Walsh – Thanked Mr. Diaz for meeting with parents regarding the graduation.

Mrs. McLaughlin – Asked if the date for the graduation could be moved.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MOTIONS AND OTHER ITEMS

Kerry Schaefer – Discussed the rescinding of retirement not being approved and her disappointment regarding that. She spoke about her experience of the years in South Amboy. The entire Board thanked her for her service to the district.

Brian Murphy – Asked about 8th grade graduation, why school could not end on the 16th? He also asked about timing of locker cleanouts and thanked Mrs. Schaefer.

Jared Gonzalves – Thanked Mrs. Schaefer for the impact she had on him as a student.

APPROVE ALL ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Gonzalez to approve of the consent agenda of the regular public meeting of May 18, 2020 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Albarran, Conrad, Conway, Dragotta, Gonzalez, Kasics, McLaughlin, Taggart, Walsh
Nays: McLaughlin (#3), Walsh (#3)
Abstention: Kasics (Motion 8)
Absent: None

A. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

N/A

B. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

Mr. Walsh – Updated everyone on the Athletics/Activities Committee. Discussed Prom, graduation, and 8th grade formal. Wished everyone a Happy Mother’s Day and a Happy Teachers’ Day. Discussed GMC Sportsmanship Award, and college discussions on readiness by college students from South Amboy that have graduated.

Mrs. Conway – Discussed C&I Committee and the MHS end of year grading. She also discussed standards-based report cards.

Mrs. McLaughlin – Asked why she wasn’t told that the district was going to expand food distribution to all students and said she had previously asked about this. A revised agenda was put out over the weekend, but no one was informed. She discussed not having AP Bio and if there were certain policies and procedures regarding this. She stated that we should be continuing to do more residency checks.

Mr. Diaz indicated that Mrs. McLaughlin's initial question regarding the meals was regarding left-over meals and whether they can be donated to the City. Mr. Diaz further indicated that the district's expansion of the meals program was possible through a USDA grant application submitted by Mr. Diaz and the Business administrator and not related to her initial question. Mr. Diaz stated that the agenda was revised as per Mrs. McLaughlin's recommendation and that the agenda was posted 48 hours in advance.

Mr. Diaz – Provided the following district statistics.

- We've sent over 315,650 emails.
- There are over 240 active Google Classroom classes currently, our highest to date, and teachers are averaging over 247 posts per day in both schools combined
- We've conducted 2,124 Google Meets averaging 29 minutes each. That's a 234% increase in the last 30 days
- 98% of our K-8 students have accessed Google Classroom over this time period and spend an average of 194 minutes daily.

Food Distribution:

- Averaging 103 meals per day
- Have served 3643

Average Daily Attendance

- March-District 95.5
- April-District 97.4
- May 1 - May 15-District 96.9

Mr. Diaz commended the staff for the work being done to reach and engage students as outlined by the statistics provided. Mr. Diaz further discussed that while some decision may not be the most popular, his decisions are always made in the best interest of students. The recommendation to utilize the 3 snow days will provide more time for students and families help students catch-up on missed assignments. He further stated that attempts to utilize board topics to cause a wedge between relationships will not be entertained. Mr. Diaz discussed the importance of the board working to support the superintendent and administrative team to carry out the goals of the district and not fall for one-sided personal agendas designed to derail relationships and deviate from serving our students.

Mr. Conrad – Thanked all the teachers for their hard work, and discussed how proud he is of all our students.

C. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Mrs. Gonzalez and seconded by Mrs. Kasics that there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:05 pm. 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		Revenue	
General Current Expense	\$17,147,853	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