

SOUTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business/Public Meeting Minutes
September 28, 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 6:04pm.

Mr. Frascella, called the roll:

Present: Mr. Albarran, Mr. Conrad, Ms. Conway, Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Kasics, Ms. McLaughlin, Mrs. Taggart, Mr. Walsh

Absent: Mr. Dragotta

Also Present: Peter Frascella, Board Secretary; Jorge E. Diaz, Superintendent; Mr. Silvestro, Board Attorney

On a motion by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Ms. Gonzalez 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 Ms. Conway and seconded by Ms. Gonzalez 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.

Salute to the Flag

Presentation – 2020 Graduation Data (Jorge E. Diaz, Superintendent)

Mr. Conrad – Congratulated the district on the high graduation rate.

Ms. Conway – Thought that it was an indication that things are moving in a positive direction.

MINUTES

1. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

August 24, 2020
August 24, 2020

Business-Public Meeting
Closed Session/Business Meeting

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

2. APPROVE/DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM/MIDDLESEX COUNTY COLLEGE/2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the Dual Enrollment Program, Middlesex County College, for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented, and as recommended by the Superintendent. (Memorandum of Agreement is on file in the Board Office)

POLICY

~None~

PERSONNEL

3. STAFF ROSTER/2020-2021

That the Board of Education approves the attached staff roster for the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. The salaries and steps will reflect negotiated agreements with the Board of Education. (Staff Roster 2020-2021)

4. BUS DRIVER/2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR/MICHAEL MARTINO

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Michael Martino as a Bus Driver for the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. His hourly rate of pay is \$21.50. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal Background Check (Policy#4211) and Physicals for Employees (Policy#4212.4)

5. PART TIME SECRETARY/2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR/MATTHEW KAEFER

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Matthew Kaefer as a Part-Time Secretary for the Curriculum and Instruction/Pupil Personnel Services Department for the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. His hourly rate of pay is \$25.00, no benefits. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal Background Check (Policy#4211) and Physicals for Employees (Policy#4212.4)

6. ATHLETIC/INTRAMURAL POSITIONS/2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals to Athletic & Intramural positions for the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. The

stipend for these positions will be in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the Board of Education and the South Amboy Education Association:

Boys Soccer – (Varsity)	Tony Gonsalves
Boys Soccer Volunteer Coach	Anthony Conrad
Boys Soccer – (MS)	Conrad Grygoriew
Girls Tennis- (Varsity)	Brian Wohlt
Cross Country – (Varsity)	Anthony Mecca
Girls Soccer – (Varsity)	Kelsey Schipske
Girls Basketball- (MS)	Darci Carnevale

7. EXTRA-CURRICULAR POSITIONS/2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals to Extra-Curricular positions for the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. The stipend for these positions will be in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the Board of Education and the South Amboy Education Association:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	
Yearbook Advisor (ES) (co-advisors)	Jen Williams/Kimberly Gundrum
Early Act Club/RAK (Random Acts of Kindness)	Kimberly Gundrum
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	

Debate Advisor	Geeta Nisraiyya
Yearbook Advisor (MHS)	Andrew Heady
Student Council (HS)	Shane Hughes
Student Council (MS)	Diane Smocovich
6th Grade Advisor (co-advisors)	Brittany Robinson/Grace Amari
7th Grade Advisor (co-advisors)	Nicole Eardley/Lori Joseph
8th Grade Advisor (co-advisors)	Nicole Vancil/Jessica Grasso
9th Grade Advisor (co-advisor)	Elisabeth Doherty/Tara Vona
10th Grade Advisor	Julieann Jimenez
11th Grade Advisor (co-advisors)	Colleen Palmeri/Maureen Strzykalski
Science League Advisor	Geeta Nisraiyya
Band (co-advisors)	Lorraine Cotter/Veronica Alcuri
Chorus (co-advisors)	Lorraine Cotter/Veronica Alcuri

Custodian Athletic Fund	Gary Kuhn
Custodian Gen. Org. Fund	Gary Kuhn
National Junior Honor Society	Martina Torretta
National Honor Society	Nancy Kovacs
National Art Honor Society	Colleen Palmeri
Gay/Straight Alliance (co-advisors)	Tara Vona/Elisabeth Doherty
Interact Club	Cathy Housman
Set Director	Daniel Seitz
School Play Co-Directors	Nicole Navarria/Lorraine Cotter
Choreographer	Nicole Navarria
Music Director	Lorraine Cotter
12th Grade Advisor	Nicole Navarria/Diane Smocovich

8. **APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION / DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**
That the Board of Education approves the job description for the Director of Early Childhood Education position.
9. **APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION / FAMILY LIAISON**
That the Board of Education approves the job description for the Family Liaison position.

10. FAMILY LIAISON /2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR/VALERIE MEJIA

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Valerie Mejia as a Family Liaison effective October 13th, 2020, as recommended by the Superintendent. Her salary of \$48,000.00, will be prorated accordingly, and funded through the Pre-School Expansion Grant. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal Background Check (Policy#4211) and Physicals for Employees (Policy#4212.4)

11. APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT MERIT GOAL ACHIEVEMENT/2019-20

WHEREAS, the South Amboy Board of Education ("the Board") approved Merit Goals for the Superintendent for the 2019-2020 school year consisting of two (2) quantitative merit goal and three (3) qualitative merit goals (collectively referred to as the "Merit Goals") and submitted the Merit Goals to the Executive County Superintendent for approval in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C . 6A:23 A-3.1; and

WHEREAS, upon the continued evaluation of the Superintendent's performance, the Board has determined that to date, the Superintendent has achieved the following

- Quantitative Goal #1 (ELA Benchmarks) Partially Achieved
- Quantitative Goal #2 (Math Benchmarks) Partially Achieved
- Qualitative Goal #1 (District Newsletter) Partially Achieved
- Qualitative Goal #2 (Teacher Manual) Fully Achieved,

thereby entitling the Superintendent to a bonus of 8.781776% of his annual salary,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby certifies that the Superintendent, Jorge E. Diaz, has partially achieved (2) Quantitative Goals, partially achieved one (1) Quantitative goal, and fully achieved one (1) Qualitative merit goal for 2019-2020 and requests approval from the Executive County Superintendent for payment.

11A. APPROVE SIDEBAR AGREEMENT WITH SAEA – FALL SPORTS

That the South Amboy Board of Education approves the sidebar agreement with The South Amboy Education Association regarding fall sports during the 2020-2021 school year.

Ms. Kasics – What is the custodial stipend for \$733? What is the in-service stipend?

Ms. Taggart – What is the stipend for the Facilities Supervisor?

Ms. McLaughlin – Since items 9 and 10 go hand why are we approving item number 8 a month after the position was approved?

Ms. Conway – Asked about Family Liaison position falling under the Director of Early Childhood Education.

Ms. Taggart – What about a sidebar for winter sports?

Mr. Walsh – Asked Mr. Diaz to discuss his merit goals.

Ms. McLaughlin – Asked if goals were part of the contract or annual? She aske for the dollar amount of the goals. She asked if teachers received merit goals/pay or if it was just the Superintendent.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

1. BUDGETARY TRANSFERS

The Board of Education approves the attached transfers for August 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)

13. EXPENDITURES FOR 8/25/2020-9/28/2020 (Attachment)

The Board of Education approves the following expenditures for 8/25/20-9/28/20. **Check #21496 was pulled from the agenda.**

Bills For	Amount
Regular Bills	930,056.13
08/15/20 Payroll	133,402.84
08/30/20 Payroll	87,776.90
9/1/20 Wire Transfer	485,307.50
TOTAL	\$1,636,543.37
August Agency	125,628.16

14. ACCEPT THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT – AUGUST 2020 (Attachment)

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.

15. ACCEPT THE JULY/AUGUST 2020 ORGANIZATIONAL FUND BALANCES

The Board of Education accepts the attached July/Aug 2020 Organizational Fund Balances. (Attachment)

16. ACCEPT THE JULY/AUGUST 2020 ATHLETIC FUND BALANCES

The Board of Education accepts the attached July/Aug 2020 Athletic Fund Balances. (Attachment)

17. 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
KRISTEN LAMAGNA	OCTOBER 5 & 6, 2020	PECS LEVEL 1 TRAINING	\$399	20-270-200-300-01-00-00-060
ASHLEY SOSA MARCI OKS	NOVEMBER 17, 2020 – MARCH 16, 2021 (TIMES/DATES VARY)	TOOLS OF THE MIND TRAINING	\$2,500 EACH	20-218-100-321-00-00-CO-060
KIM BARNA DR. MARTIN GURCEZSKI SEAN DUNPHY KIMBERLY BARNA MARCI OKS ASHLEY SOSA LAUREN STRUMWASSER KAREN LAINO STEPHANIE PETRUZZI MICHELLE MASELLA ALANA ZELLER	DECEMBER 2, 2020 OCTOBER 5 – DECEMBER 11, 2020	TOOLS OF THE MIND TRAINING eMODULE PYRAMID MODULE TRAINING	\$1,500 \$255 EACH	20-218-100-321-00-00-CO-060 20-218-100-321-00-00-CO-060

DR. MARTIN GURCEZSKI	WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 21, 2020	2020 PIRT SEMINAR	\$225 EACH	20-218-100-321-00-00-CO-060
SEAN DUNPHY				
KIMBERLY BARNA				
MARCI OKS				
ASHLEY SOSA				
LAUREN STRUMWASSER				
KAREN LAINO				
STEPHANIE PETRUZZI				
MICHELLE MASELLA				
ALANA ZELLER				

18. APPROVAL OF JOINT TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT WITH SAYREVILLE BOE – 2020-2021

The Board of Education approves the Joint Transportation Agreement between the South Amboy Board of Education and the Sayreville Board of Education for the 2020-2021 school year (Copy of contract is on file in the Board Office).

19. APPROVAL OF NJCARES EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANT – AMENDMENT #1

That the Board of Education approves amendment #1 for the NJCARES Emergency Relief Grant to allocate additional funds to facilities/maintenance supplies for the 20-21 school year. (Attachment)

20. APPROVE NONRESIDENT CONTRACT FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

The Board of Education approves the contract agreement consistent with board policy #5118 for nonresident students listed below:

State ID
#6376344141

21. APPROVE CONTRACT SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH ESCNJ – 1:1 FULL-TIME AIDE

That the Board of Education approves the service agreement between the South Amboy Board of Education and the ESCNJ for the services of a 1:1 full-time aide. (Copy of contract is on file in the Board Office).

OTHER MOTIONS

HIB Reports

22. ACCEPTANCE OF HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION & BULLYING (HIB) INCIDENT REPORT/SEPTEMBER 2020

That the Board of Education accepts the Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying (HIB) Incident Report for HIB incidents reported to the Board of Education on September 28, 2020. (HIB Report)

Mr. Diaz discussed the next phase of the reopening plan.

A. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MOTIONS AND OTHER ITEMS

Brian Murphy – He thinks it's a good idea for the Board Committees to give updates. The committees and their members should be posted on the website. What was Mr. Diaz's third qualitative goal? Is there an update on the Chromebooks? There are HIBs despite the fact the students aren't in school. Mr. Diaz responds.

Erin Mulligan-Pierre – Merit pay bonus should not for the newsletter or for increasing test scores because that is part of the Superintendent's job. Administration should meet prior to the Board meeting so there is not a response that the administrators need to meet to discuss an issue. Wants more information regarding the re-entry plan and changes to it.

Ms. Taggart – Asked if disposal of property needed to be approved by the board. Asked if Sale of property needed to be approved by the board. Asked if lending of property needed to be approved by the board. Districts desks were lent to the YMCA. How many desks and chairs were lent?

Ms. McLaughlin – Is there are written agreement with the YMCA? How many of our student are there?

Ms. Gonzalez – Asked Mr. Conrad how many children are at the YMCA? Asked if our students were getting discounts because of the desks?

Ms. McLaughlin – Stated that it was \$270 a week for a full-time student.

Ms. Gonzalez – Has any other equipment been lent out in the past?

Laurie Guthrie – Re-start committee, how to get involved or is it too late? Thinks its great that the YMCA and the BOE is developing a strong partnership. Commended fourth grade team for all they are doing for the students as well as the speech teachers.

Ms. Gonzalez – The issue with the desks is that the Board was not notified.

Ms. McLaughlin – Asked about the lack of parents on the re-start committee.

Erin Mulligan-Pierre – Last time the re-entry plan was updated was August.

Brian Murphy – Commended South Amboy on virtual learning. Compared to Vocational Schools, South Amboy is doing great.

Laurie Guthrie – Thanked Mike Elson for all his help acknowledging that his is dealing with technology for the district on his own.

Mr. Walsh – Thanked Mr. Elson for all his hard work.

APPROVE ALL ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Albarran to approve of the consent agenda of the regular public meeting of September 28, 2020 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Albarran, Conrad, Conway, Gonzalez, Kasics, McLaughlin, Taggart, Walsh
Nays: None
Abstention: Conrad (#6 A.C.), Conway (#8), Kasics (#16)
Absent Dragotta

B. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

N/A

C. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

Mrs. McLaughlin – Would like the policy committee to look at a 48-hour RICE notice policy.

Mr. Walsh – Welcomed back students and staff back to the 2020-2021 school year. Thanked them for their efforts during these unprecedented times. Despite the concept of virtual vs. in-person learning being very politicizing, there was only one public school district in Middlesex county, not including vocational schools, that decided to have in-person learning for the start of the school year. Since that opening, unfortunately, this school district has had multiple COVID-19 cases and were forced to close their doors. The goal is to provide a safe environment for all. Thanked the Rotary Club for hosting the classic car parade. The athletics and activities committee meet regarding the process and procedures that the coaches will have to follow for the fall as well as registration. Despite low number upon the close of registration, the Administration was flexible with the date to allow women’s soccer to field a full team. Thanked the City of South Amboy for another great annual 9/11 memorial event. It was great to see so many of our current students and alumni there. He also encouraged everyone to exercise their right to vote in November.

Ms. Conway – Discussed the Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting including course request forms, remote learning surveys, professional development needed for teacher’s in-service, i-ready diagnostics, Naviance, benchmark assessments, Preschool, and tutoring programs.

Mr. Conrad – Thanked staff for continuing to make learning happen during such difficult times. Thanked everyone for helping students with virtual learning. Stated that the YMCA is a wonderful organization and that he is thrilled that the district and the South Amboy YMCA have such a good relationship.

D. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Ms. Conway that there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully,

Peter Frascella

Peter Frascella
Board Secretary

