

SOUTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business/Public Meeting Agenda February 22, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
(Open Meeting & Interview & Go to Executive/Closed Session)
Virtual Meeting: (Call 732-447-9901, then enter the access code 826077)

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

Mr. Frascella, called the roll:

Present: Mr. Albarran, Ms. Conway, Ms. Kasics, Mr. Dragotta, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Taggart, Mr. Walsh

Absent: None

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

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. Walsh led all assembled in the Flag Salute.

CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED IN OPEN PUBLIC

- [Interview Questions](#) (Each Board Member has an assigned question)

Mr. Walsh and Mr. Silvestro introduced the Board Vacancy interview process. The candidates were interviewed in the following order:

1. Robert Astuni
2. Anthony Conrad
3. Laurie Guthrie
4. Ana Yvette Moriera
5. Donald Newton
6. Tyler Simko

On a motion by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Ms. Kasics that the Board adjourned into Closed Session at 7:45 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 Mr. Albarran that the Board reconvened into the public portion of the meeting at 8:28 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Walsh called for nominations for Board Seat #1 for the 2021 year.

Mr. Dragotta nominated Mr. Conrad for Board Vacancy #1.

Hearing no further nominations, a motion was made by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Dragotta to close nominations for Board Vacancy #1. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Dragotta, second by Mr. Walsh to elect Mr. Conrad.

Mr. Conrad was elected by the following roll call:

Ayes: Albarran, Conway, Dragotta, Kasics, Walsh
Nays: Murphy, Taggart
Abstention: None
Absent: None

Mr. Conrad was elected for Board Vacancy #1 for the 2021 Calendar Year.

Mr. Walsh called for nominations for Board Seat #2 for the 2021 year.

Mr. Murphy nominated Mrs. Guthrie for Board Vacancy #2.
Mrs. Kasics nominated Mrs. Moriera for Board Vacancy #2.

Hearing no further nominations, a motion was made by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Murphy to close nominations for Board Vacancy #2. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Dragotta, second by Mr. Walsh to elect Board Vacancy #2.

Mrs. Guthrie was elected by the following roll call:

Guthrie: Dragotta, Murphy, Taggart, Walsh
Moriera: Albarran, Conway, Kasics
Abstention: None
Absent: None

Mrs. Guthrie was elected for Board Vacancy #2 for the 2021 Calendar Year.

Presentation:

**2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR AUDIT REPORT
Robert Allison, CPA, RMA, PSA
Audit Firm of Holman Frenia Allison PC**

MINUTES

1. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

January 25, 2021

Business-Public Meeting ([Attachment](#))

January 25, 2021

Closed Session/Business Meeting

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM ITEMS & REPORT (Joan Conway)

Ms. Conway discussed the committee meeting including the health of students due to virtual learning during the pandemic. Social-emotional learning and the rap study were major topics from the committee meeting.

POLICY ITEMS & REPORT (Rafael Albarran)**2. RESOLUTION/RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS ([Resolution](#))****3. SECOND READING/BOARD MEMBER USE OF INTERNET, SOCIAL NETWORKS, AND OTHER FORMS OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION POLICY # 9271.1 ([Policy](#))**

That the Board of Education approves the second reading of the Board Member Use of Internet, Social Networks, and Other Forms of Electronic Communication Policy #9271.1, as attached and recommended by the Superintendent.

4. SECOND READING/PUBLIC AND EXECUTIVE SESSIONS POLICY #9322 ([Policy](#))

That the Board of Education approves the revision of the Public and Executive Sessions Policy #9322, as attached and recommended by the Superintendent.

PERSONNEL (Lynn Kasics)**5. RETIREMENT/LINDA FLYNN**

That the Board of Education approves the retirement of Linda Flynn, Elementary School Teacher, effective February 1, 2022, with sincere appreciation for her years of dedicated service to our district, as recommended by the Superintendent.

6. MATERNITY/CHILD REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE & FMLA /SHAYLA DEJESUS

That the Board of Education approves the Maternity/Child Rearing Leave of Absence for Shayla DeJesus, Accounts Payable/Transportation at the Board Office during the 2020-2021 school year effective March 29, 2021 until May 28, 2021; Unpaid FMLA June 1, 2021 until September 27, 2021, as recommended by the Superintendent.

7. MATERNITY/CHILD REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE/NICOLE DOWNS

That the Board of Education approves the Maternity/Child Rearing Leave of Absence for Nicole Downs, Elementary School Teacher during the 2020-2021 school year effective March 22, 2021 until May 17, 2021; Unpaid FMLA May 17, 2021 until June 1, 2021 as recommended by the Superintendent.

8. APPROVE/TEACHER/Francinea Quino

That the Board of Education approves the employment of Francine Aquino as a teacher in the Elementary School for the 2020-2021 school year effective March 1, 2021 until June 30, 2021 as recommended by the Superintendent. Her salary (BA, Step 1), 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 History Background Check (Policy #4111/4211) and Physicals for Employees (Policy #4212.4).

9. ATHLETIC/2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals to Athletic 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:

Daniel Poulsen	Varsity Boys Baseball
Justin Hornlein	JV/Varsity Asst. Boys Baseball
Lindsay Durant	Varsity Girls Softball
Brian Truchan	MS Boys Baseball
Tony Gonsalves	Varsity Boys Tennis
Anthony Mecca	Spring Track (HS)

BUDGET AND FINANCE ITEMS & REPORT

10. BUDGETARY TRANSFERS

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

11. BUDGETARY TRANSFERS

The Board of Education approves the attached transfers for January 2021 in conjunction with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8-1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10. [\(Attachment\)](#)

12. EXPENDITURES FOR 01/26/2021-02/22/2021 [\(Attachment\)](#) [\(Attachment\)](#)
[\(Attachment\)](#)

The Board of Education approves the following expenditures for 01/26/21-02/22/21

Bills For	Amount
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Regular Bills	260,012.45
01/15/21 Payroll	480,688.06
01/31/21 Payroll	489,165.02
TOTAL	\$1,229,865.53
January Agency	514,179.69

13. ACCEPT THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT – JANUARY SECT 2020
[\(Attachment\)](#)

JANUARY TRES 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-1.10 (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.

14. ACCEPT THE JANUARY 2021 ORGANIZATIONAL FUND BALANCES [\(Attachment\)](#)

The Board of Education accepts the attached January 2021 Organizational Fund Balances.

15. ACCEPT THE JANUARY 2021 ATHLETIC FUND BALANCES [\(Attachment\)](#)

The Board of Education accepts the attached January 2021 Athletic Fund Balances.

16. APPROVAL OF 2021-2022 PEEA BUDGET

That the Board of Education approves the submission of the 2021-2022 PEEA Budget [\(Attachment\)](#).

17. CARES ACT AMENDMENT #1

That the Board of Education approves the submission of Amendment #1 to the FY21 CARES ACT Grant. [\(Attachment\)](#)

18. ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2019-2020 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

That the Board of Education accepts the 2019-2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and noted there were no audit recommendations for the 2019-2020 audit.

19. ACCEPTANCE OF 2020-2021 TUITION CONTRACT - RUTGERS DAY SCHOOL

That the Board of Education approves the 20-21 tuition contract from Rutgers Day School for student # 8714834853 from January 5, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$42,810.

OTHER MOTIONS

HIB Reports

20. AFFIRM HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION & BULLYING (HIB) INCIDENT REPORT 2021

That the Board of Education affirms the Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying (HIB) Incident Report for HIB incidents reported to the Board of Education. ([HIB Memo for February 2021](#)).

ATHLETICS REPORT (Brian Murphy)

Mr. Murphy informed the public that they should contact Mr. Zalocki and check the district website for athletics updates. There were three teams that were under quarantine due to COVID-19 contact tracing. Senior night would allow the parents of the senior to come to the games on senior night only. The district has decided that they will not allow spectators at the games, Mr. Murphy did not agree with that position. He discussed the bridge year for students as well as the yearbook and pictures.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT (Paula Taggart)

Mrs. Taggart discussed the state of the district facilities. She talked about the work the custodians have done sanitizing the buildings as well as the various projects the maintenance team was working on. She discussed the issues with the roofs at both school and the future need for a referendum to address the districts needs from a facilities standpoint.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Murphy – Discussed the declaration of racism. The committee discussed it but the rest of the Board was not involved. He stated he would support the resolution but he could not assert that South Amboy and the school district has racism as health crisis. He also commented on the policy regarding electronic participation in Board Meetings for reasons other than COVID. This gives Board Members an out not to have to attend meetings.

Mr. Walsh – There is data showing that racism is a major issue rising to the level of a health crisis. The policy committee did review the resolution and did not feel that it required any changes.

Mrs. Taggart – Thanked applicants for their interest and congratulated Mr. Conrad and Mrs. Guthrie on becoming Board Members. She thanked Mrs. Flynn for her service and congratulated her on retirement. Believes that having this resolution on racism is a proactive way to look at racism and education.

Mr. Dragotta – Wished Mrs. Flynn the best in retirement.

Mrs. Kasics – Thanked Mrs. Flynn and noted that she was a great teacher.

Mr. Conrad – Asked about the PEEA budget, as well as State Aid. He noted that he supported the resolution regarding racism.

Mr. Walsh – Thanked Mrs. Flynn for her service.

Mr. Diaz – Congratulated teachers of the year and ESP of the year at each school. Discussed the March 1st return to hybrid learning.

Mrs. Guthrie – Asked if a decision to go back to school for 5 days a week would be determined by school or by grade?

A. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MOTIONS AND OTHER ITEMS

Kelly Hays – Thanked Mr. Diaz, Dr. McCabe, and the guidance department for helping with her son.

Sheri Mahoney – Asked if kids opting to stay all virtual will be able to enter school at a later date.

James Dembrowski – Thanked SABOE for taking the resolution for racism seriously and hopes it leads to others districts doing the same.

Rev. Donna Stewart – Noted that she was a member of the NAACP and thanked the Board for taking on this resolution.

Mrs. Bennet – Commended the Board for taking this resolution seriously and discussed the continued focus the community, and all communities need to put on racism as a health crisis.

Thomas Seig – Asked about mandatory COVID-19 testing for staff and athletes. Asked if athletes from other districts are required to get tested prior to games with our teams.

APPROVE ALL ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Albarran to approve of the consent agenda of the regular public meeting of February 22, 2021 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Albarran, Conway, Dragotta, Kasics, Murphy, Taggart, Walsh, Guthrie, Conrad
Nays: Murphy (#2 & #3)
Abstention: None
Absent: None

OTHER BUSINESS

NJSBA Delegate Nominations:

Mr. Walsh calls for the following nominations:

NJSBA Delegate Assembly Representative

Mr. Murphy nominated Mrs. Taggart.

Hearing no further nominations, Mr. Walsh closed the nomination for NJSBA Delegate Assembly Representative.

Motion by Mr. Walsh, second by Mrs. Kasics to elect Mrs. Taggart as NJSBA Delegate Assembly Representative.

Ayes: Albarran, Conway, Dragotta, Kasics, Murphy, Taggart, Walsh, Guthrie, Conrad
Nays: None
Abstention: None
Absent: None

B. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Mercado – COVID-19 testing, excited for the return of in-person education. Asked if there will be a time where all students are required to be tested.

C. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

Mr. Conrad – Thanked everyone for voting for him.

Mr. Murphy – Thanked teachers for what they are doing for the students. Thanked all candidates for applying and congratulated those selected. Hopes all candidates run in November election. Wants in-person meeting and people at sporting events.

Mrs. Guthrie – Thanked the Board for her selection and is eager to get started.

Mrs. Conway – Congratulated new board members. All applicants were great.

Mrs. Taggart – Congratulated the teachers and ESPs of the year.

Mr. Albarran – Congratulated new members and teachers of the year.

Mrs. Kasics – Welcomed new board members and thanked all that applied.

Mr. Dragotta – Congratulated those selected. Asked about COVID testing.

Mr. Walsh – Congratulated teachers of the year, welcomed new board members and looking forward to working with them.

D. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mrs. Taggart that there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 10:13 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully,

Peter Frascella

Peter Frascella
Board Secretary