

SOUTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business/Public Meeting Agenda March 22, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
(open Meeting & immediately go into Executive/Closed Session)
Public Meeting Agenda begins at approximately 6:30 P.M.
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, Mr. Conrad, Ms. Conway, Mr. Dragotta, Mrs. Guthrie, Ms. Kasics, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Walsh

Absent: Mrs. Taggart

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

On a motion by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Ms. Kasics that the Board adjourned into Closed Session at 6:01 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. Kasics that the Board reconvened into the public portion of the meeting at 8:28 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. Walsh led all assembled in the Flag Salute.

Presentation by Jorge E. Diaz, Superintendent

STUDENT SAFETY DATA SYSTEM/HIB REPORT
(September 2020-December 2020 Period 1)
Sean Dunphy, Elementary School Principal ([Period 1 Report](#))
Dr. Patrick McCabe, Middle High School Principal ([Period 1 Report](#))

MINUTES**1. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

February 22, 2021

February 22, 2021

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

Closed Session/Business Meeting

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM ITEMS & REPORT (Joan Conway)

Ms. Conway discussed the Education and Curriculum Committee Meeting where professional development, rap study, grant programs, Naviance, and student support materials were all discussed.

2. CURRICULUM REVISION/2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

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

- Elementary Music 3-5

POLICY ITEMS & REPORT (Rafael Albarran)**3. FIRST READING/MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICY #5141.5 ([Policy](#))**

That the Board of Education approves the first reading of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy #5141.5, as attached and recommended by the Superintendent.

PERSONNEL (Lynn Kasics)**4. RESIGNATION/CARRIE GRAIFER**

That the Board of Education approves the resignation of Carrie Graifer, Assistant to the Business Administrator, effective April 24, 2021, or sooner as requested and as recommended by the Superintendent.

5. RESCIND TEACHER POSITION APPOINTMENT/2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education rescinds the appointment of Francine Aquino as Preschool Disabled Teacher in the Elementary School for the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

6. APPROVE/TEACHER/MARIA SWEENEY

That the Board of Education approves the employment of Maria Sweeney as a teacher in the Elementary School for the 2020-2021 school year effective March 29, 2021 until June 30, 2021 as recommended by the Superintendent. Her salary (MA, Step 2), 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).

7. APPROVE/FMLA/2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR/SARAH SPINAPONT

That the Board of Education approves the request for an unpaid FMLA of Sarah Spinapont for a period of March 1, 2021 until March 29, 2021 as recommended by the Superintendent.

8. APPROVE/LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE/ANDREW COOPER

That the Board of Education approves the employment of Andrew Cooper as a Long-term Social Studies substitute teacher in the Middle High school for a period of March 1, 2021 until March 29, 2021, as recommended by the Superintendent. His daily rate will be \$130, per

diem, without benefits. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal History Background Check (Policy #4111/4211) and Physicals (Policy #4212.4).

9. APPROVE/LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE/CALLAN CONKLIN

That the Board of Education approves the employment of Callan Conklin as a Long-term Elementary School substitute teacher in the Elementary school for a period of March 22, 2021 until June 1, 2021, as recommended by the Superintendent. Her daily rate will be \$130, per diem, without benefits. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal History Background Check (Policy #4111/4211) and Physicals (Policy #4212.4).

10. RESIGNATION/EXPIRATION OF POSITION/GAYLE MARTINEZ

That the Board of Education approves the resignation of Gayle Martinez, Teacher Coach in the Middle High school, effective March 19, 2021. (Note: Hired as an independent contractor under the business section)

11. 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:

Boys Baseball Volunteer Coach – (HS)	Tim Kales
Softball Coach - (MS)	Gina Martinez
Softball Volunteer Coach - (MS)	Tom Bikowski

12. APPROVE / SUBSTITUTE DAILY PAY RATE

That the board of education approves the substitute daily pay rate increase to \$100 per day for all active teacher substitutes currently employed within the district. Rate is effective March 22nd, 2021.

BUDGET AND FINANCE ITEMS & REPORT

13. BUDGETARY TRANSFERS ([Attachment](#))

The Board of Education approves the attached transfers for February 2021 in conjunction with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8-1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10.

14. EXPENDITURES FOR 02/23/21 - 03/22/21 ([Attachment](#))

The Board of Education approves the following expenditures for 02/23/21 - 03/22/21

Bills For	Amount
Regular Bills	\$ 501,656.84
02/15/2021 Payroll	\$ 484,811.82
02/28/2021 Payroll	\$482,434.77
TOTAL	\$ 1,468,903.43
February Agency	\$501,246.94

- 15. ACCEPT THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT – FEBRUARY 2021** [\(Attachment\)](#)
 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.
- 16. ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY 2021 ORGANIZATIONAL FUND BALANCES** [\(Attachment\)](#)
 The Board of Education accepts the attached February 2021 Organizational Fund Balances.
- 17. ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY 2021 ATHLETIC FUND BALANCES** [\(Attachment\)](#)
 The Board of Education accepts the attached February 2021 Athletic Fund Balances.
- 18. 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
MICHELLE MASELLA	MAY 5 & 6, 2021	POWERFUL STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE SEL (BUREAU OF	\$595	20-270-100-300-00-00-00-060

		EDUCATION & RESEARCH)		
ELENI TSOUKAS	APRIL 13, 2021	ACCELERATE ELL STUDENTS' LEARNING IN PRE-K AND K (BUREAU OF EDUCATION & RESEARCH)	\$279	20-270-100-300-00-00-060

19. FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

The Board of Education approves the attached field trip requests for the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. ([Attachment](#))

20. ACCEPTANCE OF 2020-2021 TUITION CONTRACT - ESCNJ - CENTER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

That the Board of Education approves the 20-21 tuition contract from ESCNJ Center for Lifelong Learning for additional services for student #3944564593 from January 25, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$21,696.

21. ACCEPTANCE OF 2020-2021 TUITION CONTRACT - ESCNJ - ACADEMY LEARNING CENTER

That the Board of Education approves the 20-21 tuition contract from ESCNJ Academy Learning Center for student #574260697 from January 25, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$30,188.

22. APPROVAL OF 2021-2022 REVISED PEEA BUDGET

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

23. SUBMISSION OF THE 2021-2022 TENTATIVE BUDGET

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-6, school districts must prepare an itemized budget and submit the budget to the Executive County Superintendent - Middlesex County for review and approval, and

WHEREAS, the South Amboy Board of Education has prepared an itemized budget for the 2021-2022 school year in compliance with statute, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the tentative budget be approved for the 2021-2022 School Year using the 2021-2022 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

Appropriations

General Current Expense \$17,577,554

Revenue

Budgeted Fund Balance	\$	424,552
Local Tax Levy	\$	10,214,641
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$	90,000
State Aid	\$	6,802,860

		SEMI	\$	44,501
		Interest from Cap Reserve	\$	1,000
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 2,891,359	State Restricted Entitlements	\$	1,219,994
		Federal Restricted Entitlements	\$	1,671,365
Repayment of Debt	\$ 604,265	Local Debt Service Tax Levy	\$	600,605
		Budgeted Fund Balance	\$	3,660
Total Appropriations:	<u>\$21,073,178</u>	Total Revenues:		<u>\$21,073,178</u>

and to advertise said tentative budget in Home News Tribune in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the online remotely, on April 26, 2021 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2021-2022 School Year.

24. MAXIMUM TRAVEL AMOUNT

The South Amboy Board of Education establishes a district-wide maximum for travel expenditures of \$60,000.00 for the 2021-2022 school year. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record travel expenditures to ensure that the maximum travel expenditure amount is not exceeded.

25. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT - GAYLE MARTINEZ, LLC

That the South Amboy Board of Education agrees to the Independent Contractor Agreement with Gayle Martinez, LLC from March 22, 2021 to June 30, 2021 to provide Instructional and Supervisory Consulting Services not to exceed \$25,000.

OTHER MOTIONS

HIB Reports

26. 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 March 2021](#)).

ATHLETICS REPORT (Brian Murphy)

Mr. Murphy discussed winter sports awards and the upcoming spring season registrations

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT (Peter Frascella)

Mr. Frascella discussed the Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting. At that meeting, topics included cleaning procedures, maintenance and budgeted items for the 21-22 school year.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Mr. Mercado – Discussed how the transition back to school went well. Talked about people coming out to play Spring Sprots.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Murphy – Asked if the next meeting would be in person. Stated if kids are going back to school so should the Board. Enjoy Spring Break.

Mr. Dragotta – Feels we should be going back to in-person

Mrs. Guthrie – Was in favor of in-person meetings. Asked how we could accommodate those who wanted to listen at home.

Mr. Diaz – Raised various concerns that need to be taken into consideration regarding in-person meetings.

Ms. Conway – Stated that our meetings are being heard by more people in current format.

Mrs. Kasics – Asked how many people were on the meeting? (65)

Mr. Silvestro – In-person meetings are allowed, but all people must be masked and socially distanced.

Mr. Walsh – Welcomed the students back to school, thanked the staff and parents for their hard work.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MOTIONS AND OTHER ITEMS

Betty Bean – Son is a junior at the MHS. Item #3 regarding social emotional learning. How is it changing? Please discuss the Educational Consultant and the need for the position?

Erin Mulligan-Pierre – Asked about social emotional learning, PEEA Budget and Director position, Educational Consultant. She asked about the Superintendent Goals, the gifted and talented program and bullying in classes and on-line. Mr. Diaz responds.

Erin Mulligan-Pierre – Stated that Mr. Diaz did not answer her questions regarding the PEEA Budget and the Educational Consultant.

APPROVE ALL ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ayes: Albarran, Conway, Dragotta, Kasics, Murphy, Taggart, Walsh, Guthrie, Conrad
Nays: None
Abstention: Kasics (#17)
Absent: Taggart

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mrs. Kasics 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