

**SOUTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Business/Public Meeting Agenda April 26, 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)**

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**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 (6:02), Mrs. Guthrie, Ms. Kasics, 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

On a motion by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Walsh 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. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Kasics 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. Walsh led all assembled in the Flag Salute.**

A motion was made by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mrs. Taggart to amend agenda item #4 to eliminate 45-minute maximum public comment section.

Discussion: Mr. Murphy discussed the idea of going back to public comment after each section as in the past during live meeting. He suggested the policy comment review the policy going forward.

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

**MINUTES**

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

March 22, 2021 Business-Public Meeting ([Attachment](#))  
 March 22, 2021 Closed Session/Business Meeting

**EDUCATION & CURRICULUM ITEMS & REPORT (Joan Conway)**

Ms. Conway discussed opening day 21-22 professional development planning, extended school year program, and an elective course survey done at the MHS.

**2. APPROVE/FIELD EXPERIENCE/2021-2022**

That the Board of Education approves the Field Experience for Tianna Palumbo (School Counseling Program at Montclair State University) for the 2021-2022 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

**POLICY ITEMS & REPORT (Rafael Albarran)**

**3. SECOND READING/MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 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.

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

That the Board of Education approves the technical revision of the Public and Executive Sessions Policy #9322, as attached and recommended by the Superintendent. (Technical addition of previously approved language from the ~~November 25th, 2020~~ (correction) November 25, 2019 BOE meeting.)

**PERSONNEL (Lynn Kasics)**

**5. APPROVE/MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT MENTORS**

That the Board of Education approves the following staff members as student mentors for the 2020-2021 school year as aligned to the MHS Annual School Plan (ASP), and as recommended by the Superintendent. Mentors will be paid a \$500 stipend through the SIA Grant.

Grace Amari	Nancy Kovacs
George Gundrum	Brittany Robinson
Diana Haag	Kelsey Schipske

**6. APPROVE/CONTACT TRACERS**

That the Board of Education approves the following staff members as contact tracers for the

2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Contract Tracers will be paid a \$2500 stipend through the CARES Act Funding.

Martin Gurczeski
Cathy Housman
Lisa McAlonie
Michelle Witte (Prorated Stipend, May-June)

**7. APPROVE/PAY RATE INCREASE/KEN HAKLER**

That the Board of Education approves the pay rate increase for Ken Hakler, Bus Driver, to \$25.00 per hour effective April 12, 2021, for the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

**8. APPROVE/SALARY INCREMENT WITHHOLDING/EMPLOYEE #4514**

That the Board of Education approves the withholding of salary increment increase for employee #4514, effective for the 2021-2022 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

**9. RESIGNATION/JARED GONSALVES**

That the Board of Education approves the resignation of Jared Gonsalves, Middle High School Counselor, effective June 30, 2021.

**10. APPROVE/SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS**

That the Board of Education approves the following substitute teachers for the South Amboy School District for the 2020-2021 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent. The daily rate will be \$100, without benefits. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal History Background Check (Policy #4111/4211) and Physicals (Policy #4212.4).

Miranda Saryian
Gina Martinez

**11. CURRICULUM REVISION/2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

That the Board of Education approves the following staff members to revise curriculum subject areas for the 2021-2022 school year, as presented, and as recommended by the Superintendent.

Elementary Art (K-2/3 - 5)	Georganne Tice
Elementary Physical Education (K-2,3-5)	George Harduby 50% / Chester Yuan 50%
Keyboarding 1-2	Veronica Alcuri

Guitar 1-2	Veronica Alcuri
Band	Veronica Alcuri
Elementary Spanish K-2	Nidia Sanchez 50% / Julieanne Jimenez 50%
Elementary Spanish 3-5	Nidia Sanchez
Middle High School Spanish 1,2,3,4	Nidia Sanchez
Middle High School Art Curriculum	Colleen Palmeri
Introduction to Art	Colleen Palmeri
Drawing	Colleen Palmeri
Painting	Colleen Palmeri
Sculpture	Colleen Palmeri

**12. PERSONNEL FOR EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR/2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals to serve the students enrolled in the district’s Extended School Year program as recommended by the Superintendent. The program will run from July 1, 2021 through July 29, 2021 Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon (The 4th of July Holiday will be observed). Rate of pay will be as reflected in the negotiated agreement between the Board of Education and the South Amboy Education Association:

- PREKINDERGARTEN TEACHER (PSD): Ashley Sosa
- TEACHER (Grade K-1/SC): Kristen LaMagna
- TEACHER (Grade 1) Kelly Anne Trzeciak
- TEACHER (Grade 2/SC) : Marissa Krull
- TEACHER (Grades 4/5 ELA/SC): Francesca Laddaga
- TEACHER (Grades 4/5 Math/SC): Eileen Desouza
- TEACHER (Grade 7 ELA/SC): Nicole Vancil
- TEACHER (Grade 7 Math): Evrim Akman
- TEACHER (Grade 8 ELA): Diana Haag
- PARAPROFESSIONALS: Evelyn Gonzalez
- SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER (Grade 2): Corin Everett
- LIFE SKILLS TEACHER (MS) Sarah Hobler

LIFE SKILLS TEACHER (HS):

Nicole Eardley

**13. APPROVE/ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY TO THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/NICOLE NAVARRIA**

That the Board of Education approves the employment of Nicole Navarra as the Administrative Secretary to the Business Administrator for the 2020-2021 school year effective April 26, 2021 until June 30, 2021 as recommended by the Superintendent. Her salary (\$56,959.00), prorated, with benefits, and as reflected in the negotiated agreement between the Board of Education and Nicole Navarra.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE ITEMS & REPORT**

**14. BUDGETARY TRANSFERS ([Attachment](#))**

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

**15. EXPENDITURES FOR 3/23/2021-4/26/2021([Attachment](#))**

The Board of Education approves the following expenditures for **3/23/2021-4/26/2021**

<b>Bills For</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Regular Bills	\$478,631.58
3/15/21 Payroll	\$496,375.81
3/30/21 Payroll	\$476,684.31
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,451,691.70</u></b>
March Agency	\$721,493.96

**16. ACCEPT THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT – MARCH 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.

**17. ACCEPT THE MARCH 2021 ORGANIZATIONAL FUND BALANCES ([Attachment](#))**

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

**18. ACCEPT THE MARCH 2021 ATHLETIC FUND BALANCES ([Attachment](#))**

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

**19. 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:

<b>STAFF/BOARD MEMBER</b>	<b>PROGRAM DATE</b>	<b>PROGRAM TITLE OR EVENT</b>	<b>FEES</b>	<b>GAAP ACCOUNT</b>
LAUREN STRUMWASSER	APRIL 22 & 23, 2021	2021 AUTISM SYMPOSIUM	\$299.99	11-000-222-300-01-13-00-030
KIMBERLY GUNDRUM MICHELLE FINKE LAURYN KIPPER SHAINA MENTZEL CORIN EVERETT	JUNE 8 - JUNE 10, 2021	WILSON READING SYSTEM TRAINING	\$600/ EACH	11-000-222-300-01-13-00-030

**20. FIELD TRIP REQUESTS**

The Board of Education approves the attached field trip requests for the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

**21. ACCEPTANCE OF 2020-2021 TUITION CONTRACT - ESCNJ - PISCATAWAY REGIONAL DAY SCHOOL**

That the Board of Education approves the 20-21 tuition contract from ESCNJ Piscataway Regional Day School for student #6073014379 from March 15, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$15,376.

**22. APPROVAL OF 2021-2022 TITLE 1 SIA AMENDMENT #2 ([ATTACHMENT](#))**

That the Board of Education approves the submission of Amendment #2 for Title 1 SIA moving \$47,529 from the non-instructional salary line to non-instructional services line.

**23. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION - GARY PELKEY**

That the Board of Education approves the acceptance of the donation of 16 cases of 6 packs of Lysol Disinfecting Wipes by Mr. Gary Pelkey. The items have an estimated value of \$450.00.

**24. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS - DELTA-T GROUP**

That the Board of Education approve the contract with Delta-T Group for substitute teachers at a rate of \$130 per day.

**OTHER MOTIONS****HIB Reports****25. 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 April 2021](#)).

### **ATHLETICS REPORT (Brian Murphy)**

Mr. Murphy Congratulated Brandon Gasiewski and Mickayla Piperato for making all-conference teams for Basketball. He congratulated Coach Paulson on his 100<sup>th</sup> victory. Discussed new uniforms for the baseball team. Gaiter masks for sports are available for the athletes. He also discussed PSATs, Prom and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade formal.

### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT (Paula Taggart)**

Mrs. Taggart discussed the building walkthrough. She mentioned how clean the buildings were and some of the different ways the district was spacing things out and addressing COVID-19 guidelines.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Conrad – Asked about the Delta-T Group substitute teacher contract.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MOTIONS AND OTHER ITEMS**

Diane Smocovich – Thanked Jared for his time working in the district.

Erin Mulligan-Pierre – Asked about social emotional learning, PEEA Budget and Director position, superintendent office furniture, Assistant to the BA position, no district newsletters. She asked about the Superintendent Goals, the gifted and talented program and bullying in classes and on-line. She asked why she has not received answers to her questions from last month.

Mr. Conrad – Thanked Jared for his service to the district.

### **APPROVE ALL ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve of the consent agenda of the regular public meeting of April 26, 2021 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Albarran, Conrad, Conway, Dragotta, Gutrie, Kasics, Murphy, Taggart, Walsh  
Nays: Murphy (#4), Taggart (#4)  
Abstention: Murphy (#8), Taggart (#1)  
Absent: None

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Mercado discussed upcoming athletics events, Prom and graduation.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Murphy – Wished Jared the best going forward. Feels that we should give the kids an in-person, traditional graduation and we should be doing in-person board meetings.

Mr. Walsh – Wished Jared the best. Congratulated Mrs. Taggart on becoming a Master Board Member. Discussed the Equity and Diversity Committee Meeting and congratulated Coach Paulson on his 100<sup>th</sup> victory.

Mrs. Kasics – Congratulated Paula on becoming a Master Board Member stating that it is well deserved.

Mr. Diaz – Discussed Alumni Day and parents needing to be forthcoming with COVID-19 situations involving their children.

Ms. Conway – She has seen the number of students that have continued to grow during her time on the Board. She thanked the staff.

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET**

### **Convene to Public Hearing**

On a motion by Mr. Walsh seconded by Mr. Conrad the Board convenes to the public hearing portion of the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion Carried by Unanimous Voice Vote.

### **OPENING REMARKS**

Jorge E. Diaz, Superintendent of Schools

### **SLIDE PRESENTATION (Presentation)**

Mr. Frascella, SBA will review the slide presentation.

### **COMMENTS/QUESTIONS (BUDGET)**

#### **A. Board of Education**

Mr. Conrad – Thanked Mr. Frascella for his hard work on the budget as well as the budget committee for their commitment during the process. He described the budget process and reiterated that State Aid was flat again.

Mrs. Kasics – Thanked Mr. Frascella for his work on the budget.

Mr. Walsh – Thanked the budget committee, Mr. Frascella, and Mr. Conrad.

#### **B. Public Comment**

Erin Mulligan-Pierre – Commented on the expanding the guidance department. She was upset because Mr. Frascella gave out the wrong instructions to call in during the previous Public Comment and people were unable to call in and thank Mr. Gonsalves for everything he has done for the district. Everyone should be ashamed of themselves for the wrong instructions being provided.



Mr. Walsh – After consulting with the Board Attorney decided to open up the Public Hearing on the Budget Public Comments to any comments.

Mr. Frascella – Stated that if he gave out the wrong instructions during the public comment section it was in error and certainly not intentional.

Jared Gonsalves – Thanked everyone who new him and how hard he had worked during his time in the district. He said he was happy to see the district heading in the direction it was heading in. He thanked the Board.

Maggy Whitely (Student) – Thanked everyone who voted for her for student of the month. Thanked Mr. G for everything he has done.

Amy Russo – Thanked Mr. G for everything he has done for her and the children of South Amboy.

Sharon Mahoney - Thanked Mr. G and said someone should look at the Guidance department because we have lost two good people in the last few years.

Marcia Mercado – Said she will miss Mr. G because he made the school feel like home.

Julie Lambert – Jared has been amazing. We should be having in-person meetings so mistakes do not happen.

Jacob Mercado – Thanked Mr. G for all of his help and service.

Diane Smocovich – Thanked Jared and wished him the best. He was a great counselor and a great student.

Erin Mulligan-Pierre – Board should stop the three minute time limit. She would like to talk about all of the amazing people in the district and praise student and staff but there is no time to do that because of the three minute time limit.

**1. ADOPTION OF THE 2021-2022 PROPOSED BUDGET**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Amboy Board of Education hereby readopts the following budget for the 2021-2022 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.

<b>Appropriations</b>		<b>Revenue</b>	
General Current Expense	\$17,577,554	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
<b>Total Appropriations:</b>	<b><u>\$21,073,178</u></b>	<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b><u>\$21,073,178</u></b>

**2. APPROVAL OF TAX LEVY PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR 2021-2022**

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, 2021 to June 30, 2022:

Due Date	Total Due
July 5, 2021	\$901,270.00
August 5, 2021	\$901,270.00
September 5, 2021	\$901,270.00
October 5, 2021	\$901,270.00
November 5, 2021	\$901,270.00
December 5, 2021	\$901,273.00
<b>2021 Total</b>	<b>\$5,407,523.00</b>
January 5, 2022	\$901,270.00
February 5, 2022	\$901,270.00
March 5, 2022	\$901,270.00
April 5, 2022	\$901,270.00
May 5, 2022	\$901,270.00
June 5, 2022	\$901,273.00
<b>2022 Total</b>	<b>\$5,407,623.00</b>
<b>2021-2022 Total</b>	<b>\$10,815,246.00</b>

**3. 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.

**C. APPROVE BUDGET AND FINANCE MOTIONS**

I move that the South Amboy Board of Education approves motions One through Three of the Public Hearing on The Budget section of the regular public meeting agenda of April 26, 2021 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Albarran, Conrad, Conway, Dragotta, Gutrie, Kasics, Murphy, Taggart, Walsh  
 Nays: None

Abstention: None

Absent: None

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Conrad that there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:42 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully,

Peter Frascella

Peter Frascella  
Board Secretary