

**SOUTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Business/Public Meeting Agenda November 29, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.**  
**(open Meeting & immediately go into Executive/Closed Session)**  
**Public Meeting Agenda begins at approximately 6:30 P.M.**  
**Middle High School Cafeteria**

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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, Mrs. Guthrie, Ms. Kasics, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Taggart, Mr. Walsh

Absent: Mr. Dragotta

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

On a motion by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Kasics 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. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Walsh 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.**

**[Safe Reopening Plan \(Updates\)](#)**

Mr. Murphy asked if any staff had been terminated due to the COVID-19 testing policy.

Mr. Diaz respond that no staff had been terminated.

**MINUTES**

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

October 25, 2021 Business-Public Meeting ([Minutes 10.25.21](#))  
 October 25, 2021 Closed Session/Business Meeting

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

Ms. Conway discussed the guidance survey being conducted regarding electives, the curriculum 5-year plan as it relates to QSAC, the summer enrichment program, Naviance, and Heritage Day.

**2. APPROVE / CURRICULUM REVISION**

That the Board of Education approve the following revised curriculum, as recommended by the Superintendent.

- [Elementary Art K-2](#)

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

**3. APPROVE SECOND READING/TITLE IX SEX BASED DISCRIMINATION #2224.1 & REGULATION**

That the Board of Education approves the second reading of the Title IX Sex Based Discrimination [Policy 2224.1](#) and [Regulation 2224.1R](#), as attached and recommended by the Superintendent.

**PERSONNEL (Lynn Kasics)**

**4. APPROVE/SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS/2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

That the Board of Education approves the following substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

- Nikki Honkisz- \$130.00 Daily Rate
- Alyson Pinto- \$130.00 Daily Rate
- Jean Samuels - \$130.00 Daily Rate

**5. ATHLETIC/INTRAMURAL POSITIONS/2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals to Athletic & Intramural positions for the 2021-2022 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 Basketball- (JV)	Steve Herdman (Transfer from MS Boys Basketball)
Boys Basketball- (Volunteer)	Joe Charmello (Rescind Boys Basketball - JV)
MS Boys Basketball	Jeremy Cruz
MS Girls Basketball	Don Sofilkanich

**6. APPROVE/PART-TIME FAMILY LIAISON/VALERIE MEJIA**

That the Board of Education approves the employment of Valerie Mejia as Part-Time Family Liaison for the 2021-2022 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent. Her salary will be \$32.00/hour, not to exceed 450 hours, no benefits. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal History Background Check (Policy #4111/4211) and Physicals for Employees (Policy #4212.4).

**7. APPROVE/ELENI TSOUKAS & SARA VAZQUEZ**

That the Board of Education approves Eleni Tsoukas and Sara Vazquez to revise the following curriculum subject areas for the 2021-2022 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

- ESL K, 1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12

**8. APPROVE/SECRETARY FOR PAYROLL AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS/TABATHA NOBLE**

That the Board of Education approves the employment of Tabatha Noble as the Secretary for Payroll and Employee Benefits effective November 29th, 2021 until June 30th 2022. Her salary, \$46,859 (Step E) with benefits, as reflected in the collective bargaining agreement with the South Amboy Education Association. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal Background Check (Policy#4211) and Physicals for Employees (Policy#4212.4)

**9. APPROVE/REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ESCNJ/2022 CALENDAR YEAR**

Pursuant to enacted legislation, P.L. 192-1989, Chapter 254 the Board of Education approves the appointment of Jorge E. Diaz, Superintendent of Schools, as representative to the Representative Assembly of the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

**10. APPROVE/PART-TIME PARAPROFESSIONAL/JENNIFER ROWLEY**

That the Board of Education approves the employment of Jennifer Rowley as a Part-time Paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year. Her salary, \$20.07 (Step 2), without benefits, not to exceed 29.9 hours per week. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal Background Check (Policy#4211) and Physicals for Employees (Policy#4212.4)

**11. APPROVE/EXTENDED SCHOOL DAY PROGRAM TEACHERS/MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL**

That the Board of Education approves the following teachers to work during the Extended School Day Program at the Middle High School: (\$54/hour; Not to exceed 40 hours; Funded through SIA Grant)

ELA	Math
Brina Book Kelsey Schipske Diana Haag (Sub)	Grace Amari Nicole Eardley Evrin Akman (Sub)

**BUDGET AND FINANCE ITEMS & REPORT (Anthony Conrad)**

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

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

**13. EXPENDITURES FOR 10/26/2021 - 11/29/2021 (Attachment)**

The Board of Education approves the following expenditures for 10/26/2021-11/29/2021

<b>South Amboy Board of Education Expenditures 10/26/21-11/29/2021</b>	
Bills For	Amount
Regular Bills	\$845,675.94
10/15/21 Payroll	\$515,619.84
10/30/21 Payroll	\$507,746.64
TOTAL	\$1,869,042.42
October Agency	\$383,776.84

**14. ACCEPT THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT – OCTOBER 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.

**15. ACCEPT THE OCTOBER 2021 ORGANIZATIONAL FUND BALANCES (Attachment)**

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

**16. ACCEPT THE OCTOBER 2021 ATHLETIC FUND BALANCES (Attachment)**

The Board of Education accepts the attached October 2021 Athletic Fund Balances

**17. FIELD TRIP REQUESTS (Attachment)**

The Board of Education approves the attached field trip requests for the 2021-2022 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

**18. APPROVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TRAVEL AND REIMBURSEMENT**

The Board of Education approves the following professional development 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>
Jorge Diaz	2/17/22-2/19/22	AASA National Conference on Education	\$1050	11-000-230-585-01-00
Alex Eberle	12/14/21	The Zones of Regulation Comprehensive Training	\$190	20-483-200-500-00-00-00-060

- 19. ACCEPTANCE OF 2021-2022 TUITION CONTRACT - BONNIE BRAE SCHOOL**  
That the Board of Education approves the 21-22 tuition contract from Bonnie Brae School for student #6972769211 from October 22, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$63,000.
- 20. ACCEPTANCE OF 2021-2022 TUITION CONTRACT - ESCNJ -CENTER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING**  
That the Board of Education approves the 21-22 tuition contract from ESCNJ - Center for Lifelong Learning for student #8741967649 from October 6, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$61,792.
- 21. APPROVAL OF PROPRIETARY EQUIPMENT - JAR SYSTEMS**  
The Board of Education approves a JAR Systems as a provider of Proprietary Equipment in accordance with NJSA 18a:18a-5(19) for supplies associated with district standard chromebooks in the amount of \$25,870.
- 22. APPROVE SUBMISSION OF FY22 PEEA GRANT AMENDMENT #1 ([Attachment](#))**  
That the Board of Education approves the submission of the FY22 PEEA Grant Amendment #1, which includes carryover funds for the 2021-2022 school year.
- 23. APPROVE ESCNJ MASTER COLLABORATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**  
That the Board of Education approves the ESCNJ Master Collaborative Educational Services Agreement with the South Amboy Board of Education from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025.
- 24. APPROVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR STUDENT ID#4783377494**  
That the Board of Education approves the Educational Services Agreement for Student ID#4783377494 from November 15, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

**OTHER MOTIONS**

- 25. AFFIRM HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION & BULLYING (HIB) INCIDENT REPORT**  
That the Board of Education affirms the Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying (HIB) Incident Report for HIB incidents reported to the Board of Education. ([HIB Report - November](#))
- 26. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT/2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**  
That the Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Board of

Education and Law Enforcement Officials for the 2021-2022 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. A copy is on file at the Board Office.

**27. APPROVE / COOPERATIVE SPORTS PROGRAM APPLICATION**

That the Board of Education approves the submission of Cooperative Sports Program Applications for Football program between South Amboy Middle High School and Sayreville War Memorial High School, commencing during the 2022-2023 school year.

**ATHLETICS REPORT (Brian Murphy)**

Mr. Murphy discussed the Boys/Girls soccer teams' season and looking toward the future. He discussed the district Athletes named to the All-Division Team. He also discussed the Co-op sports program and the Friends of South Amboy Basketball Event on 12/18.

Ms. Whiteley asked if any other sports were being considered as part of the Co-op.

Mr. Diaz responded, not at this time.

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

Mrs. Taggart discussed the auditorium seats being damaged since they are also being used for lunches. There is now additional supervision being given regarding the auditorium. She continued to discuss that there was a concern regarding the pick-up/drop-off procedures at both schools. She also discussed the security camera upgrades.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MOTIONS OR OTHER ITEMS**

"Boards use the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to citizen concerns, but not to debate issues or enter into a question-and-answer session or a 'cross-examination' between the public and individual members. Be aware that not all issues brought before a board meeting will be resolved that evening; boards may respond to public comment by seeking additional information or by delegating the authority to investigate the issue to the superintendent or his/her designee." [NJSBA](#)

Members of the public are limited to one (1) three (3) minute opportunity to address the board during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Remaining time is not transferable to other members of the public. (Policy/By-Law 9322)

Erin Pierre-Mulligan – Asked that the Board not approve the minutes until they are revised because her comments were not represented properly. Asked for Board Members response to Mr. Dragotta's comments on Facebook. Asked about how many due process cases. Discussed an email exchange between herself and Mr. Diaz. Asked about process for selection to SKIP committee. Asked if the Board was aware that there is inherent bias associated with facial recognition software. Discussed increase in H.I.B.'s Asked that her comments be addressed as they have not been in the past. Asked about PEEA grant budget lines.

Mr. Silvestro addressed comments where appropriate.

Mr. Diaz addressed the email exchange referenced in comments.

Mrs. Buchanan – Stated she was very thankful for Mr. Walsh's staff email regarding Thanksgiving. She is honored to be the V.P. and work with such wonderful people. She discussed the R.A.K. club and thanked the advisors and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Dunphy – Discussed four parents coming into speak to children regarding their heritage and what a great experience it was for the kids.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Conrad – Spoke to the increase in H.I.B.'s and how we can address the issues from a zero tolerance, proactive perspective.

Mr. Diaz – Spoke to concerns all over the County and how students are not behaving. He discussed plans going forward.

Mr. Conrad – Asked Mr. Frascella to discuss some of the costs associated with the water main break at the Elementary School.

Mr. Frascella complied by providing information.

Mr. Murphy – Agreed with Mr. Conrad's perspective on the H.I.B.'s and feels that discipline is going to have to increase if the H.I.B.'s continue to rise.

Mrs. Guthrie – Wants to make sure that programs being given to the MHS regarding bullying and behavior are also being given to the students in the Elementary School. Discussed pick-up/drop-off at the elementary school. Mrs. Massella did a great job with the students.

Ms. Conway – I sees lots of effort and kindness inside and outside of the school and some people just are not aware of it.

Ms. Whiteley – Asked if the district could continue to send high school kids to mentor elementary school students.

**APPROVE ALL ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Albarran to approve of the consent agenda of the regular public meeting of November 29, 2021 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Albarran, Conrad, Conway, Guthrie, Kasics, Murphy, Taggart, Walsh  
Nays: None  
Abstention: Albarran (#1) Kasics (#16)  
Absent: Dragotta

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Ms. Whiteley discussed the Homecoming Dance. She mentioned all the students that were part of the Homecoming court and all those that voted for her as queen. Life Skills classes made hall passes for the classes so teachers do not have to write them out. Student Council is working with administration regarding assigned seating in lunch.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Murphy – Congratulated teacher of the year and ESP of the year. Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Kasics – Discussed the passing of former staff member Carol Hoffman.

Mr. Conrad – Stated that this district has been working very hard on diversity and we have become a leader in diversity at a local level. Public officials other than just Board Members are on Facebook. He stated that as public officials we need to hold ourselves to a higher standard and not only model behavior for the public but also, we must set an example for the students in our district.

Mr. Walsh – Thanked everyone who ran for School Board. Congratulated all those elected as well as those Teachers and ESP's of the year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Conrad that there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:03 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully,

Peter Frascella

Peter Frascella  
Board Secretary