

SOUTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business/Public Meeting Agenda January 24, 2022 – 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

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

Mr. Frascella, called the roll:

Present: Mr. Conrad, Ms. Conway, Mrs. Guthrie, Ms. Kasics, Ms. Kern, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Walsh

Absent: Mr. Albarran, 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. Walsh 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 Ms. Kern that the Board reconvened into the public portion of the meeting at 7:25pm. 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: [Safe Reopening Plan](#) & Updates (Jorge E. Diaz, Superintendent)

MINUTES

1. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

December 20, 2021	Business-Public Meeting (Minutes 12.20.21)
December 20, 2021	Closed Session/Business Meeting
January 3, 2022	Business/Public/Reorganization Meeting (Minutes 01.03.22)

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM ITEMS & REPORT (Joan Conway)

Ms. Conway discussed the curriculum revisions, internship, results of elective survey for Juniors and military programs for students.

2. APPROVE / CURRICULUM REVISION

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

- [Biology/H](#)
- [Integrated Science 6](#)
- [Elementary Art 3-5](#)

3. APPROVE/ELL 3-YEAR PLAN 2021-2024

That the Board of Education approves the district's [ELL 3 Year Plan](#).

POLICY ITEMS & REPORT (Lynn Kasics)

None

PERSONNEL (Lynn Kasics)

4. RESIGNATION/JORGE DIAZ

That the Board of Education approves the resignation of Jorge Diaz, Superintendent of Schools, effective March 31, 2022, as requested.

5. RESIGNATION/KRISTINA SANTORO

That the Board of Education approves the resignation of Kristina Santoro, Secretary to the Superintendent, effective January 19, 2022, as requested and as recommended by the Superintendent.

6. MATERNITY LEAVE/GINA MARTINEZ

That the Board of Education approves the Maternity Leave of Absence for Gina Martinez, Paraprofessional Middle High School, effective January 17, 2022 until May 6, 2022, as requested and recommended by the Superintendent.

7. MATERNITY LEAVE/LORRAINE COTTER

That the Board of Education approves the Maternity Leave of Absence for Lorraine Cotter, Teacher at the Elementary School, effective March 30, 2022 until May 31, 2022. FMLA leave will be utilized from September 1, 2022 until November 21, 2022, as requested and recommended by the Superintendent.

8. APPROVE/FULL-TIME FAMILY LIAISON/VALERIE MEJIA

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Valerie Mejia as a Full-time Family Liaison effective January 24, 2022, as recommended by the Superintendent. Her salary of \$48,000.00, will be prorated accordingly, and partly funded through the Preschool Expansion Grant. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal Background Check (Policy#4211) and Physicals for Employees (Policy#4212.4)

9. APPROVE/GMC SWIMMING SPONSOR/GEORGANN TICE

That the Board of Education approves Georgann Tice to serve as a sponsor and coach for students entering the Greater Middlesex Conference Championship Swim Meet on January 28 & 29, 2022.

10. APPROVAL OF MENTOR/MENTEE ASSIGNMENT/2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the Mentor/Mentee assignments for 2021-2022 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent:

MENTOR	MENTEE
Gabrielle Zomro	Amanda Tornabene
Lauren Kipper	Callan Conklin

11. APPROVE/RESTROOM ATTENDANT HOURLY WAGE INCREASE

That the Board of Education approves the hourly wage increase for all Restroom Attendants from \$12 per hour to \$13 per hour as required by the New Jersey Minimum Wage effective 1/1/2022, as recommended by the superintendent.

Mr. Walsh Updated the public on the Superintendent search process.

BUDGET AND FINANCE ITEMS & REPORT (Anthony Conrad)

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

The Board of Education approves the attached transfers for December 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 12/20/2021 - 01/24/2022 ([Attachment B](#))

The Board of Education approves the following expenditures for 12/20/2021-01/24/2022

South Amboy Board of Education Expenditures 12/21/21-01/24/2022	
Bills For	Amount
Regular Bills	\$ 820,430.46
12/15/21 Payroll	\$ 325,575.55
12/23/21 Payroll	\$ 286,151.83
TOTAL	\$ 1,432,157.84
December Agency	\$ 448,099.25

14. ACCEPT THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT – DECEMBER 2021
(Attachment C)

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 DECEMBER 2021 ORGANIZATIONAL FUND BALANCES (Attachment D)

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

16. ACCEPT THE DECEMBER 2021 ATHLETIC FUND BALANCES (Attachment E)

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

17. FIELD TRIP REQUESTS (Attachment F)

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:

Staff/Board Member	Program Date	Program Title or Event	Fees	GAAP Account
Dr. Christine Robbins	March 24 and 25, 2022	2022 NJPSA/FEA/NJASCD	\$320	20-270-200-300-01-00-00-060
Eleni Tsoukas	June 1 and 2, 2022	NJTESOL/NJBE 2022 Spring Conference	\$314	20-270-200-300-01-00-00-060

Eleni Tsoukas	April 8, 2022	Best Tech Tools To Enhance Learning	\$279	20-270-200-300-01-00-00-060
Eleni Tsoukas	March 30, 2022	Catching Up You English Language Learners	\$279	20-270-200-300-01-00-00-060 11-000-223-320-09-45-00-060

OTHER MOTIONS

19. 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 - January](#))

ATHLETICS REPORT (Brian Murphy)

Mr. Murphy discussed senior night, the creation of a sports hall of fame for the district, construction of turf fields and new banners for the gym.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT (Laurie Guthrie)

Mrs. Guthrie discussed the cleaning of the building during winter break, repairing the auditorium seats, and budget items

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)

Diane Smocovich – Asked about new COVID guidelines and quarantine requirements. She asked if staff would be part of the Superintendent Search Committee.

Phyllis Stratton – Asked why virtual meetings were no longer being offered. It was helpful for staff members to listen who live further away from town or have watch children. Also asked if staff was on the last Superintendent Search.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Conway – Stated she totally agreed with hybrid meeting model.

Mr. Murphy – Also believes we should be keeping the option.

Mrs. Guthrie – It was her experience that the hybrid model was hard to hear everyone. We would need to look into new technology.

Mr. Murphy – Felt that the Board is here getting business done and there might as well be more people listening.

Mr. Walsh – Stated he was fine with looking into options for the future.

Ms. Conway – Felt that the maybe the meetings could be recorded, but not necessarily videotaped.

Mrs. Guthrie – Expressed again the difficulty in hearing during hybrid meetings as an audience member.

APPROVE ALL ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mrs. Taggart to approve of the consent agenda of the regular public meeting of December 20, 2021 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Conrad, Conway, Guthrie, Kasics, Kern, Murphy, Walsh

Nays: None

Abstention: Kasics (#16), Kern (#16, #13 (check #s 23163, 23165, 23166, 23187))

Absent: Albarran, Dragotta

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Ms. Whiteley discussed students switching electives and additional electives being offered. She also discussed senior trip and thanked class advisors for their hard work. She congratulated Mr. Diaz on his new position and, although they didn't always see eye-to-eye she said he will be missed and did a great job.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Conrad – Extended his thanks to Mr. Diaz for his hard work in the district.

Ms. Kern – Thanked Mr. Diaz.

Mr. Murphy – Discussed the how he had known Mr. Diaz for a long time through sports and he will continue to see him as he has a child in the Votech program.

Mr. Walsh – Asked everyone to follow the CDC Guidelines and continue to be safe. Thanked the contract tracers and that people should go online and get their free covid test kits. He thanked Mr. Diaz and discussed although it has been a difficult couple of years he has always been able to get the staff to follow his lead. He reminded Mr. Diaz of the impact he has had on the school and community.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mrs. Conrad there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully,

Peter Frascella

Peter Frascella
Board Secretary