

SOUTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business/Public Meeting Agenda February 28, 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, Mr. Dragotta, Mrs. Guthrie, Ms. Kasics, Ms. Kern, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Walsh

Absent: Mr. Albarran, Ms. Conway,

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 Mr. Dragotta 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. Walsh and seconded by Ms. Kern that the Board reconvened into the public portion of the meeting at 6:58 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.

Presentations:

- 2020-2021 School Year Audit, Robert Allison, CPA, RMA, PSA Audit Firm of Holman Frenia Allison PC
- Start Strong Assessment Analysis (Principals)
Mrs. Guthrie – How are identifying at-risk students at each level.

Mr. Conrad – We need to be proactive in providing support and identifying the trouble areas. How often is tangible data collected and will it affect our comprehensive status. How long do you think it will take to get children back to grade level?

- [Safe Reopening Plan](#) & Updates (Jorge E. Diaz, Superintendent)
- Masking Mandate Expiration & Plan

Mr. Murphy – We have to be proactive in educating students that children deciding to continue to wear masks.

- Superintendent Search Survey [Results](#)

Mr. Walsh – Discussed the Superintendent Search Committee members and discussed the process and the district’s current status within that process.

MINUTES

1. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

January 24, 2022	Business-Public Meeting
January 24, 2022	Closed Session/Business Meeting

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM ITEMS & REPORT (Joan Conway)

None

2. APPROVE / CURRICULUM REVISION

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

- [Physics](#)

POLICY ITEMS & REPORT (Lynn Kasics)

None

PERSONNEL (Lynn Kasics)

3. APPROVE/SALARY DIFFERENTIAL/NICOLE EARDLEY

That the Board of Education approves the degree differential for Nicole Eardley, moving from salary BA-Step 6 (\$62,127) to MA-Step 6 (\$65,427), as recommended by the Superintendent.

4. APPROVE/SALARY DIFFERENTIAL/LISA MCALONIE

That the Board of Education approves the degree differential for Lisa McAlonie, moving from salary MA-Step 10 (\$75,527) to PHD-Step 10 (\$76,727), as recommended by the Superintendent.

5. APPROVE/MATERNITY LEAVE/JAMIE WEST

That the Board of Education approves the Maternity Leave of Absence for Jamie West, Art Teacher at the Middle High School, effective March 21, 2022 until May 23, 2022, (Sick days to be used from March 21, 2022 through March 29, 2022; Unpaid leave from March 30, 2022 through May 23, 2022), as requested and recommended by the Superintendent.

6. APPROVE/MATERNITY LEAVE/NICOLE PATERSON

That the Board of Education approves the Maternity Leave of Absence for Nicole Paterson, Elementary Teacher at the Elementary School, effective May 31, 2022 until November 25, 2022, (Sick days to be used from May 31, 2022 through June 21, 2022; Unpaid FMLA from September 1, 2022 through November 25, 2022), as requested and recommended by the Superintendent.

7. ~~APPROVE/MATERNITY LEAVE/LORRAINE COTTER~~ – Omitted

~~That the Board of Education approves the Maternity Leave of Absence for Lorraine Cotter, Music Teacher at the Elementary School, effective April 1, 2022 until May 27, 2022, (Sick days to be used from April 1, 2022 through May 6, 2022; Unpaid leave from May 7, 2022 through May 27, 2022), as requested and recommended by the Superintendent.~~

8. APPROVE/LEAVE OF ABSENCE/MICHELLE MASELLA

That the Board of Education approves the Leave of Absence for Michelle Masella, Guidance Counselor at the Elementary School, effective February 3, 2022 until March 21, 2022, (Sick days to be used from February 3, 2022 through February 15, 2022; Unpaid leave from February 16, 2022 through March 21, 2022), as requested and recommended by the Superintendent.

9. APPROVE/LEAVE OF ABSENCE/GARI PALMER

That the Board of Education approves the Unpaid Leave of Absence for Gari Palmer, Custodian, effective February 14, 2022 until March 14, 2022, as requested and recommended by the Superintendent.

10. APPROVE/WORLD LANGUAGE TEACHER/CHRYSTIANNA CARRINO

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Chrystianna Carrino as a World Language - Other (ASL) Teacher effective March 7, 2022, as recommended by the Superintendent. Her salary of \$62,527.00 (MA Step 1), with benefits, will be prorated accordingly. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal Background Check (Policy#4211) and Physicals for Employees (Policy#4212.4)

11. APPROVE/PART-TIME BUS DRIVER/LILIANA WILLIAMS

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Liliana Williams as a Part-time Bus Driver effective March 1, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$21.00, as recommended by the Superintendent. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal Background Check (Policy#4211), Physicals for Employees (Policy#4212.4), and Endorsement transfer from NY to NJ.

12. 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:

Varsity Softball Volunteer Coach	Ray Perez
Middle School Softball Volunteer Coach	Tom Bikowski
Middle School Baseball Coach	Rob Concitis
Rescind Middle School Softball Coach	Gina Martinez
Middle School Softball Coach	Christina Annett

13. 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.

- Michael Stadtler \$130.00 Daily Rate

BUDGET AND FINANCE ITEMS & REPORT (Anthony Conrad)

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

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.

15. EXPENDITURES FOR 01/25/2022-02/28/2022 ([Attachment B](#))

The Board of Education approves the following expenditures for 01/25/2022-02/28/2022

South Amboy Board of Education Expenditures 01/25/2022-02/28/2022	
Bills For	Amount
Regular Bills	\$ 985,013.32
01/15/2022 Payroll	\$ 529,397.75
01/28/2022 Payroll	\$ 523,572.99
TOTAL	\$ 2,037,984.06
January Agency	\$ 541,490.17

16. ACCEPT THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT – JANUARY 2022 ([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.

17. ACCEPT THE JANUARY 2022 ORGANIZATIONAL FUND BALANCES ([Attachment D](#))

The Board of Education accepts the attached January 2022 Organizational Fund Balances.

18. ACCEPT THE JANUARY 2022 ATHLETIC FUND BALANCES ([Attachment E](#))

The Board of Education accepts the attached January 2022 Athletic Fund Balances

19. 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.

20. 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
Madeline Rondon	Online - Self Paced	Anti-Bullying Specialist Certificate Program	\$500	20-483-200-500-00-00-00-060
David Lisowski	Online - Self Paced	Anti-Bullying Specialist Certificate Program	\$500	20-483-200-500-00-00-00-060

21. ACCEPTANCE OF 2021-2022 TUITION CONTRACT - UCESC - LAMBERTS MILL ACADEMY

That the Board of Education approves the 21-22 tuition contract from UCESC - Lamberts Mill Academy for students #2475544946, #5535140590 from January 28, 2022 to June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$62,720.

22. 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 students #32948 from January 24, 2022 to June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$31,200.

23. APPROVAL OF JOINT TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT WITH UCESC – 2021 - 2022

The Board of Education approves the Joint Transportation Agreement between the South Amboy Board of Education and the UCESC for the 2021-2022 school year (Copy of contract is on file in the Board Office).

24. ACCEPTANCE OF 2021-2022 FACILITIES GRANT THROUGH THE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

That the Board of Education accepts the allocation of the 2021-2022 Facilities Grant through the School Development Authority in the amount of \$24,866.

25. IDEA AMENDMENT #1 (ATTACHMENT G)

That the Board of Education approves the submission of Amendment #1 to the FY22 IDEA Grant to apply FY21 public carry-over funds.

26. ESSER II AMENDMENT #1 (ATTACHMENT H)

That the Board of Education approves the submission of Amendment #1 to the ESSER II Grant.

27. ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 20-21 SCHOOL YEAR (ATTACHMENT I)

Whereas, the South Amboy Board of Education in accordance with NJSA 18A:23-1 must have a certified External Audit of the district's accounts and financial transactions; and
Whereas, the Board of Education received the audit performed by Holman Frenia Allison PC, and discussed said audit at its public meeting held on February 28, 2022; now
Be it resolved, that the South Amboy Board of Education accepts the audit for the 2020-2021 school year, FY Ended June 30, 2021, and approves the Corrective Action Plan (CAP).

28. APPROVE/PERC CASE NO. AR-2021-412 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

That the Board of Education approve the settlement agreement between the South Amboy Board of Education and the South Amboy Education Association regarding PERC Case No. AR-2021-412 / JS Case No. 4693

OTHER MOTIONS

29. 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 - February](#))

ATHLETICS REPORT (Brian Murphy)

Mr. Murphy discussed the girls' basketball team as well as the Football Coop with Sayreville that was rejected by the NJSIAA. He also discussed swimming and track results and the students who won awards during the Winter Season.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT (Laurie Guthrie)

Mrs. Guthrie discussed the district cleaning procedures as well as issues we are having at the MHS regarding students clogging toilets with trash. She discussed school pride and the general vandalism being done by some students and how it is impacting everyone, students and staff alike.

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-Muligan – Thanked Mr. Wholt. She discussed entry times at the schools and how that may want to be examined. She asked about the amendment to the ESSER II grant as well as costs associated with motion #28.

Nicole Stevenson – Asked about drop-off at the Elementary School and if anything can be done to make it less chaotic and potentially dangerous.

Michelle Buchanan – Discussed Black History Month, Read Across America, and the upcoming School Play.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

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 February 28, 2022 (with omission) as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

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

Nays: None

Abstention: Kasics (#18), Kern (#18, #15 (PO #s 220821, 220219, 220823, 220340, 220822, 220228, 220820, 220731))

Absent: Albarran, Conway

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Ms. Whiteley discussed pick-up and drop-off, the yearbook. She also wished luck to the teachers going out on leave. She discussed the issue with the MHS Bathrooms. She was adamantly against it and the Student Council is working with the Administration to stop the problem.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Conrad – Discussed his ongoing concern with the HIB reports. He stated that an assessment needs to be done regarding the district HIB policy.

Mr. Murphy – Agreed with Mr. Conrad regarding the HIBs. He read the names of all of the students of the Month. He also encouraged everyone to see the play.

Mr. Walsh – Discussed the issue with the bathrooms and thanked Ms. Whiteley for her concern. He also thank all the volunteer coaches.

ADJOURNMENT

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