

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

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, Mrs. Taggart, Mr. Walsh

Absent: None

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. Taggart that the Board adjourned into Closed Session at 6:00 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. Dragotta that the Board reconvened into the public portion of the meeting at 7:05pm. 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.

Mr. Diaz presented Mrs. Taggart with a plaque for her service on the Board of Education.

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

Mr. Walsh and Mr. Diaz discussed domestic travel restrictions, virtual learning going forward. Parents following Covid-19 protocols.

Presentation: 2020-2021 STUDENT SAFETY DATA SYSTEM REPORT

- (January 2021-June 2021 Period 2)
- Sean Dunphy, Elementary School Principal ([Report](#))
- Dr. Patrick McCabe, Middle High School Principal ([Report](#))

Mr. Conrad asked about the resocialization of students now that school has returned and using that to quell the increase in HIBs.

Mr. Walsh discussed the TikTok threat warnings for the schools all over the country.

Ms. Whiteley stated the Sayreville has a “See something, say something” link on their website.

MINUTES

1. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

November 29, 2021 Business-Public Meeting ([Minutes 11.29.2021](#))
November 29, 2021 Closed Session/Business Meeting

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM ITEMS & REPORT (Joan Conway)

Ms. Conway discussed curriculum revisions, summer enrichment, parent engagement workshops, the Nursing Service Plan, and thanked the teachers and staff for all of their hard work to this point in the school year.

2. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL REVISED CALENDAR/2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the School Calendar for the 2022-2023 school year, as presented, and as recommended by the Superintendent. ([2022-2023 School Calendar](#))

3. APPROVE / CURRICULUM REVISION

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

- [Keyboarding I, II](#)

4. STUDENT TEACHER CLINICAL EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT/2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the following student teacher clinical experience placement for the 2021-2022 school year as recommended by the Superintendent:

Student Name	College	Cooperating Teacher	Location	Dates
Mackenzie L. Tighe	Middlesex County College	2nd Grade Teacher Staff	ES	1/22-4/22

5. APPROVE / NURSING SERVICES PLAN

That the Board of Education approves the Nursing Services Plan for 2021-2022, as recommended by the Superintendent. ([Nursing Services Plan](#))

POLICY ITEMS & REPORT (Rafael Albarran)

None

PERSONNEL (Lynn Kasics)

6. 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:

Site Manager	Brandon Russell
Assistant Site Manager	Clara Lewis
Time Keeper	Brian Wohlt
Time Keeper	Brandon Russell
MS Boys Basketball Volunteer	Ryan Smith

7. APPROVE/PHYLLIS STRATTON

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

- Integrated Science 6

8. 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.

- Anna Maria Major- \$130.00 Daily Rate
- Anne Marie Trapp- \$130.00 Daily Rate
- Josephine Carr- \$130.00 Daily Rate

9. APPROVE/(FMLA) LEAVE OF ABSENCE/MICHELLE LEONARD

That the Board of Education approves the FMLA leave of absence of Michelle Leonard, for a period of September 20, 2021 until January 10, 2022.

10. APPROVE/ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER/CALLAN CONKLIN

That the Board of Education approves the employment of Callan Conklin as Linda Flynn’s replacement effective February 1, 2022 as a Teacher at the Elementary School for the 2021-2022 school year. Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal History Background Check (Policy #4111/4211) and Physicals for Employees (Policy #4212.4)

11. APPROVE/LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER/2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the employment of Amanda Tornabene as a Long Term Substitute Teacher at the Elementary School for Lindsay Delucia from January 1, 2022 until May 23, 2022 at daily rate of \$150; Employment is contingent upon completion of the Criminal History Background Check (Policy #4111/4211) and Physicals for Employees (Policy #4212.4)

12. RETIREMENT/SHERI KEMPROWSKI

That the Board of Education approves the retirement of Sheri Kemprowski, effective April 1, 2022 with sincere appreciation for her years of dedicated service to our district as recommended by the Superintendent.

BUDGET AND FINANCE ITEMS & REPORT (Anthony Conrad)

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

The Board of Education approves the attached transfers for November 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 11/30/2021 - 12/20/2021 ([Attachment B](#))

The Board of Education approves the following expenditures for 11/30/2021-12/20/2021

South Amboy Board of Education Expenditures 11/30/2021-12/20/2021	
<u>Bills For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Regular Bills	\$ 680,261.35
11/15/21 Payroll	\$ 530,190.08
11/30/21 Payroll	\$ 507,072.13
TOTAL	\$ 1,717,523.56
November Agency	\$ 749,959.26

15. ACCEPT THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT – NOVEMBER 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.

16. ACCEPT THE NOVEMBER 2021 ORGANIZATIONAL FUND BALANCES ([Attachment D](#))

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

17. ACCEPT THE NOVEMBER 2021 ATHLETIC FUND BALANCES ([Attachment E](#))

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

18. 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.

19. 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
Jorge Diaz	1/26/22-1/28/22	Techspo '22	\$490	11-000-230-585-01-01
Dr. Martin Gurczeski	Multiple Dates	Early Childhood Leadership Series	\$300	20-218-200-580-01-01-00-060
Chester Yuan	2/14/22 - 2/15/22	NJASPERD Annual Conference	\$199	20-270-200-300-01-00-00-060
Kristen LaMagna	1/24/22 - 1/26/22	Professional Training in ABA Teaching Strategies	\$250	20-270-200-300-01-00-00-060
Lauren Strumwasser	1/24/22 - 1/26/22	Professional Training in ABA Teaching Strategies	\$250	20-270-200-300-01-00-00-060

20. APPROVAL OF SERVICE CONTRACT FOR 2021-2022 – N.J. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

The Board of Education approves the service contract between the South Amboy Board of Education and N.J. Commission for the Blind for students #5981261432, #6700963827, #415445792, for the period of September 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 in the total amount of \$6,600. (Copy of contracts are on file in the Board Office)

21. USE OF FACILITIES REQUEST - SAYAA - BASKETBALL

That the Board of Education approves the use of facilities for SAYAA to use the Elementary/MHS Gym, on Monday through Friday Evenings (6pm-9:30pm), and Saturday Mornings from January 10, 2022 to April 8, 2022 for basketball. Activities will be coordinated with SABOE and the Board reserves the right to schedule the facilities as needed for school activities. This activity will be covered by the SAYAA insurance. The Board of Education will waive the Use of Facilities schedule cost for this activity.

22. USE OF FACILITIES REQUEST - SAYAA - BASEBALL

That the Board of Education approves the use of facilities for SAYAA to use the Elementary/MHS Gym, on Monday through Friday Evenings (6pm-9:30pm) for baseball. Activities will be coordinated with SABOE and the Board reserves the right to schedule the facilities as needed for school activities. This activity will be covered by the SAYAA insurance. The Board of Education will waive the Use of Facilities schedule cost for this activity.

23. APPROVE SUBMISSION OF FY22 ESEA CONSOLIDATED GRANT AMENDMENT #1 (Attachment G)

That the Board of Education approves the submission of the FY22 ESEA Consolidated Grant Amendment #1, which includes carryover funds for the 2021-2022 school year.

OTHER MOTIONS

24. 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 - December](#))

25. ANTI-BULLYING SCHOOL SELF-ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES SUBMISSION/2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the submission of the outcomes of each school's self-assessment of the implementation of the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (ABR) in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

ATHLETICS REPORT (Brian Murphy)

Mr. Murphy discussed winter season scrimmages, Friends of South Amboy Event and Boys Basketball team not being able to compete due to Covid. He discussed Spring Sports and Senior Nights for winter sports as well as the Christmas Basketball Tournament.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT (Paula Taggart)

Mrs. Taggart discussed cleaning protocols now that Covid rates are increasing again. The need to replace the repeater for the Walkie Talkie system. She talked about boiler repairs and the water sensors installed and the cleaning that will take place over the break.

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 – Read a letter she received from Mr. Diaz' attorney regarding defamatory comments made by her at the last board meeting. She stated she may have misspoke or maybe it was misheard. She asked about the Board filing an ethics violation against Mr. Dragotta for his social media comments.

Mike Kelley – Asked about the district's policy regarding students returning to school due to quarantine as well as the limited instruction they receive while home.

Diane Smocovich – Thanked Mrs. Taggart for her service on the Board.

Michelle Buchanan - Thanked Mrs. Taggart for her service on the Board.

Julie Lambert – Asked about HIBs. Stated that kids were not use to socializing with each other due to the pandemic so the district should be proactive with SEL programs. Discussed that the coaches should be aware of the students not being in school, or on quarantine, so that if they show up for practice they are sent home.

Sean Dunphy – Thanked Mrs. Taggart for her service. Thanked Chief LaVinge for the police presence at the schools.

Maureen Strzykalski – Thanked Paula for her service to the district.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Guthrie – Asked about changes to Covid quarantine requirements. Asked how we notify students and parents of these changes.

Mr. Conrad – It is important for the public to know that the Board has been working with the administration regarding HIBs and Covid and will continue to be involved.

Mr. Murphy – Student athletes should not be able to participate in afterschool activities if they are not in school that day.

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Ms. Whiteley discussed the MHS spirit week as well as the volleyball game between students and staff. She also wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Murphy – Kept his children home on Friday due to TikTok threat. His kids were upset because they had to miss a day of spirit week.

Mr. Walsh – Thanked the City Counsel for recognizing the Cross Country Team and their accomplishments. Thanked Sheri Kemprowski for her service and wished her well in retirement

Mr. Conrad – Thanked Mrs. Taggart. Talked about her as a Master Board Member and wished everyone Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas.

Mrs. Kasics – Thanked Mrs. Taggart. Reminiscid about their time on the Board together and said she appreciated her as a Board Member and friend.

Mr. Murphy – Congratulated November students of the month. Thanked Sheri for her hard work. Feels that honor roll students need to be better promoted. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New year. Read a letter that he wrote regarding his admiration for Mrs. Taggart as a mentor and Board Member.

Mr. Dragotta – Thanked Mrs. Taggart and wished her luck in the future.

Mr. Albarran – Thanked Mrs. Taggart for her help and guidance.

Mrs. Guthrie – Told a story about Mrs. Taggart and her sense of humor. Said she is going to really miss her.

Ms. Conway – Told Mrs. Taggart to enjoy her free time and that she will be missed but will always be part of the Board.

Mr. Diaz – Discussed how Mrs. Taggart was part of the committee that hired him. She is a fixture at all school events and was/is always very generous with our students and staff.

Mr. Walsh – Described Mrs. Taggart as someone who was always very supportive of him from the second he got on the Board. It is clear that Mrs. Taggart had a major impact on this district during her time as a Board Member.

Ms. Whiteley – Mrs. Taggart has been an amazing Board Member. She will be missed by all the student body.

Mrs. Taggart – Discussed that she had been thinking a lot about her legacy in the past few weeks and months. She has spent a huge amount of time on the Board and wanted to know what she left behind. She reflected on the growth of the district academically, her time on the facilities committee, as well as other accomplishments. She stated that above everything else she was most proud of the fact that all of the students that went through the district were all her kids. She knew all of them and they knew her and she was very proud of the impact she has had on the district because it reflects in the students.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Taggart that 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