

**SOUTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business/Public Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2018 – 6:00 P.M. – Middle/High School Cafeteria**

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

Mr. Frascella, called the roll:

Present: Mr. Conrad, Mr. Dragotta, Ms. Kasics, Ms. McLaughlin, Mr. Perez, Mr. Simko, Mrs. Taggart, Mr. Walsh
Absent: Ms. Gonzalez
Also Present: Jorge Diaz, Superintendent; Peter Frascella, Board Secretary; Mr. Silvestro, Board Attorney; B. Henry, Student Representative

On a motion by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Perez 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. Perez and seconded by Mrs. Taggart, the Board reconvened into the public portion of the meeting at 6:35 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. Simko led all assembled in the Flag Salute.

Presentation: Dr. Martin Gurczeski – High School Offerings & Scholars Program

The Board Committee Chairs reviewed the Agenda Motions

MINUTES

Motion Mrs. Kasics and seconded by Mrs. Taggart to accept the minutes of the following meetings as submitted:

February 26, 2018	Business-Public Meeting
February 26, 2018	Closed Session/Business Meeting

Ayes: Conrad, Dragotta, Kasics, McLaughlin, Perez, Taggart, Walsh, Simko
Nays: None
Abstention: None
Absent: Gonzalez

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

1. APPROVAL OF REVISED SCHOOL CALENDAR/2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the revised School Calendar for the 2017-2018 school year, as presented, and as recommended by the Superintendent. (Attachment A)

PUBLIC COMMENT ON EDUCATION & CURRICULUM ITEMS

Carrie Kenny – Stated that based on what the calendar dictates March 30th should not be used as the first “make-up day” for inclement weather purposes. She also asked about how student and staff attendance would be effected.

Amy Wojaczyk – Asked about student attendance on religious holidays and virtual days of learning.

Jennifer Williams – Asked how teachers using days off would be handled.

Mary Ann Lewis – Asked about receiving early notice so that people could prepare for the changes in the calendar.

A motion was made by Ms. Kasics and seconded by Mrs. Taggart to approve motion One of the Education & Curriculum section of the Business/Public Meeting Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: None
Nays: Conrad, Dragotta, Kasics, McLaughlin, Perez, Taggart, Walsh, Simko
Abstention: None
Absent: Gonzalez

A motion was made by Mr. Dragotta and seconded by Mrs. McLaughlin to approve motion One (revised) of the Education & Curriculum section of the Business/Public Meeting Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Conrad, Dragotta, Kasics, McLaughlin, Perez, Taggart, Walsh, Simko
Nays: None
Abstention: None
Absent: Gonzalez

POLICY

1. FIRST READING OF GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION POLICY

That the Board of Education approves the first reading of the Gender Identity and Expression Policy, #5145.7, as attached and recommended by the Superintendent. (Attachment B)

PUBLIC COMMENT ON POLICY ITEMS

None

A motion was made by Mrs. Kasics and seconded by Mrs. Taggart to approve motion One of the Policy section of the Business/Public Meeting Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Conrad, Dragotta, Kasics, McLaughlin, Perez, Taggart, Walsh, Simko
Nays: None
Abstention: None
Absent: Gonzalez

PERSONNEL

1. RETIREMENT/MAUREEN GORDON

That the Board of Education approves the retirement of Maureen Gordon, Special Education English Teacher at the MHS, effective March 1, 2018, with sincere appreciation for her years of dedicated service to our district as recommended by the Superintendent.

2. STIPEND/BLACK SEAL-CUSTODIAN/THOMAS BIKOWSKI

The Board of Education approves the Black Seal stipend for Thomas Bikowski (Custodian). The stipend, prorated for this position will be in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the Board of Education and the South Amboy Education Association.

3. ATHLETIC/INTRAMURAL POSITIONS/2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals to Athletic & Intramural positions for the 2017-2018 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 Baseball – JV/Asst. HS Justin Hornlien
- Girls Softball – JV/Asst. HS Kimberly Carkeek
- Girls Softball – Co-Coaches MS Jennifer McQuade & Lacey Crowther (Split Stipend)

4. RESIGNATION/ALLYSON FERNANDEZ

That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Allyson Fernandez, Middle High School Business Teacher, effective May 15, 2018 with sincere appreciation for her dedicated service to our district as recommended by the Superintendent.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PERSONNEL ITEMS

None

A motion was made by Mrs. McLaughlin and seconded by Mrs. Kasics to approve motions One through Four of the Personnel section of the Business/Public Meeting Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

- Ayes: Conrad, Dragotta, Kasics, McLaughlin, Perez, Taggart, Walsh, Simko
- Nays: None
- Abstention: None
- Absent: Gonzalez

OTHER MOTION

1. ACCEPTANCE OF HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION & BULLYING (HIB) INCIDENT REPORT/March 19, 2018

That the Board of Education accepts the Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying (HIB) Incident Report for HIB incidents reported to the Board of Education on March 19, 2018. (Attachment C)

PUBLIC COMMENT ON OTHER MOTIONS

None

A motion was made by Mrs. Taggart and seconded by Mrs. Kasics to approve motions One of the Other Motion section of the Business/Public Meeting Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

- Ayes: Conrad, Dragotta, Kasics, McLaughlin, Perez, Taggart, Walsh, Simko
- Nays: None
- Abstention: None

Absent: Gonzalez

BUDGET AND FINANCE MOTIONS

1. BUDGETARY TRANSFERS

The Board of Education approves the attached transfers for February 2018 in conjunction with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8-1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10. (Attachment D)

2. EXPENDITURES FOR 2/27/2018-3/19/2018 (Attachment E)

The Board of Education approves the following expenditures for 2/27/18-3/19/18

Bills For	Amount
Regular Bills	501,231.54
2/15/18 Payroll	457,064.03
2/28/18 Payroll	428,314.77
TOTAL	\$ 1,386,610.34
February Agency	471,557.30

3. ACCEPT THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT – FEBRUARY 2018

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-16.10 (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. (Attachment F)

4. ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY 2018 ORGANIZATIONAL FUND BALANCES

The Board of Education accepts the attached February 2018 Organizational Fund Balances. (Attachment G)

5. ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY 2018 ATHLETIC FUND BALANCES

The Board of Education accepts the attached February 2018 Athletic Fund Balances. (Attachment H)

6. 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:

Staff/Board Member	Program Date	Program Title or Event	Fees	GAAP Account
Dr. Martin Gurczeski, Jr.	April 18, 2018	Writing Effective HIB Reports	\$150	20-270-200-500-01-00-00-060
Dr. Thomas Heiry	May 16, 2018	Best Practices for Addressing Core Symptoms of Autism Spectrum Disorder	\$160	20-270-200-500-01-00-00-060

7. FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

The Board of Education approves the attached field trip requests for the 2017-2018 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. (Attachment I)

Trip # E-18034 – E-18040

8. MAXIMUM TRAVEL AMOUNT

The South Amboy Board of Education establishes a district-wide maximum for travel expenditures of \$60,000.00 for the 2018-2019 school year. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record travel expenditures to ensure that the maximum travel expenditure amount is not exceeded.

9. SUBMISSION OF THE 2018-2019 TENTATIVE BUDGET

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-6, school districts must prepare an itemized budget and submit the budget to the Executive County Superintendent - Middlesex County for review and approval, and

WHEREAS, the South Amboy Board of Education has prepared an itemized budget for the 2018-2019 school year in compliance with statute, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the tentative budget be approved for the 2018-2019 School Year using the 2018-2019 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

<u>Appropriations</u>		<u>Revenue</u>	
General Current Expense	\$16,498,877	Budgeted Fund Balance	\$ 158,747
		Local Tax Levy	\$ 9,493,666
		Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 75,000
		State Aid	\$ 6,737,860
		SEMI	\$ 33,304
		Interest from Cap Reserve	\$ 300
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 1,300,910	State Restricted Entitlements	\$ 0
		Pre School Early Childhood	\$ 720,738
		Federal Restricted Entitlements	\$ 580,172
Repayment of Debt	\$ 600,990	Local Debt Service Tax Levy	\$ 597,763
		Budgeted Fund Balance	\$ 3,227
Total Appropriations:	<u>\$18,400,777</u>	Total Revenues:	<u>\$18,400,777</u>

and to advertise said tentative budget in Home News Tribune in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Middle/High School Cafeteria, Governor Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy, NJ 08879 on April 30, 2018 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2018-2019 School Year.

A motion was made by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mr. Perez to approve motions One through Nine of the Budget and Finance section of the Business/Public Meeting Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

- Ayes: Conrad, Dragotta, Kasics, McLaughlin, Perez, Taggart, Walsh, Simko
- Nays: None
- Abstention: Kasics (#5)
- Absent: Gonzalez

B. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

Mr. Walsh – Discussed outstanding student athletes and his attendance at the Outstanding Student Awards. Thanked the Strattons for all of their hard work on the play.

Mr. Diaz – Provided the Board and public with an update on events and other topics. He discussed the “Remember the 17 Event.” He thanked the Strattons for the work they did on the play and all the positive feedback he received regarding the play. Discussed mental health training that took place. He talked about the students that marched in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

Mrs. Taggart – Thank Phyllis Stratton and her family for everything they had done for the children in the community over the years with regard to the play. She discussed how impactful and well run the “Remember the 17” event was.

Mr. Conrad – Asked Dr. McCabe for an update on the CSI team.

Mr. Henry – Discussed work events regarding the Safety Ambassadors working with students at the Elementary School. Talked about the play, the Science League, and Spring athletics.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michelle Buchanan – Thanked the Strattons for their work on the play, Tom Bikowski for his hard work filling in as custodian at the Elementary School and how impactful the Safety Ambassador Program is.

Mary Ann Lewis – Asked about how money is spent out of the Pre-K Grants.

Carrie Kenny – Discussed the theater group and the play regarding what a great event it was. Discussed the district’s students marching in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade. She also discussed the “Remember the 17” event.

Amy Wojaczyk – Thanked the district for the “Remember the 17” event. Thanked Mr. Walsh for his social media updates. She asked questions regarding the PARCC testing. She asked about the Scholars Program and the effect on class size and AP Course offerings.

E. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Mr. Perez and seconded by Mrs. Kasics that there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:25. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Frascella

Business Administrator/Board Secretary