

**SOUTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Business/Public Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2017 – 6:00 P.M. – Middle/High School Cafeteria**

Mrs. Kern, Board President called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Mr. Frascella, Board Secretary called the roll:

Present: Mr. Dragotta, Mrs. Kasics, Mrs. Kern, Mrs. McLaughlin, Mr. Perez, Mr. Riley, Mr. Simko, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Taggart.

Absent: None

Also Present: Mr. Diaz, Superintendent, Mr. Frascella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Mr. Douglas Silvestro, Board Attorney; Mr. Walsh, Student Representative.

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.

Mrs. Kern led all assembled in the Flag Salute.

Mrs. Kern reviewed the agenda motions

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None

On a motion by Mrs. Kasics and seconded by Mrs. Taggart that the Board adjourned into Closed Session at 6:10 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, Personnel Matters, Student Discipline, 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 Mrs. Kasics and seconded by Mrs. Taggart, the Board reconvened into the public portion of the meeting at 7:05 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MINUTES

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

January 30, 2017	Business-Public Meeting
January 30, 2017	Closed Session/Business Meeting

Ayes: Kasics, McLaughlin, Perez, Riley, Simko, Smith, Taggart, Kern

Nays: None

Abstention: Dragotta

CHARTER SCHOOL MORATORIUM MOTION

1. RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION CALLING FOR A MORATORIUM ON NEW CHARTER SCHOOL SEATS IN MIDDLESEX AND SOMERSET COUNTIES, CREATED THROUGH THE APPROVAL OF NEW FACILITIES AND/OR THE EXPANSION OF EXISTING FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the Charter School Program Act of 1995 (the "Act") authorizes the creation of charter schools to service students whose respective communities have identified a desire for alternatives to traditional public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires that individuals interested in creating a new charter school include parents and/or other stakeholders of the community in which the proposed charter school will be located; and

WHEREAS, the Act further requires that all charter schools have an approved district or region of residence made up of public school districts, which district/region of residence represents the community that the charter school was created to serve; and

WHEREAS, there are currently five charter schools in Middlesex and Somerset Counties, with a sixth having been approved in October 2016 with tentative opening of September 2018, which schools serve the following communities pursuant to their approved district/region of residence:

- a. Hatikvah International Academy Charter School ("Hatikvah"): East Brunswick;
- b. Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School ("TEECS"): Franklin, North Brunswick, and South Brunswick;
- c. Central Jersey College Prep Charter School ("CJCP"): Franklin, North Brunswick, and New Brunswick;
- d. Greater Brunswick Charter School: New Brunswick, Edison, and Highland Park;
- e. Academy for Urban Leadership Charter School: Perth Amboy;

WHEREAS, a number of these charter schools have applied to the NJDOE seeking to expand their current programs, enrollment and locations; and

WHEREAS, a sixth charter school, Ailanthus Charter School, was approved by the New Jersey Department of Education ("NJDOE") in October 2016 to serve students in Franklin and New Brunswick beginning in September 2018; and

WHEREAS, the current number of seats across existing charter schools in Middlesex and Somerset counties for the 2016-2017 school year, according to available public records, is 2,316; and

WHEREAS, the number of charter school seats throughout Middlesex and Somerset counties, according to available public records, will increase by 128% to 5,283 if all of the outstanding expansion applications are granted and Ailanthus is granted a final charter by the NJDOE; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires that the districts of residence pay the charter schools for each student from their respective communities enrolled in those schools, thereby draining funds and diminishing money available to serve students in the traditional public schools; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOE has interpreted the Act to require all public school districts statewide to pay charter schools for students enrolled in those schools regardless as to whether the charter serves that district's community as part of the charter's approved district or region of residence; and

WHEREAS, any increase in charter seats will have a negative impact on public school district funding, with the proposed 128% increase in such seats in Middlesex and Somerset counties likely to lead to drastic and debilitating cuts throughout the public school districts in those counties; and

WHEREAS, unlike charter schools, public school districts are consistently underfunded by the State despite the requirements of the School Funding Reform Act and are also subject to a mandatory 2% cap on increases to its

local tax levy, which prevents public school districts from raising funds to cover the damage caused by increased charter school seats; and

WHEREAS, the existing charter schools located in Middlesex and Somerset counties are already lacking in demand in their own designated communities and the expansion of these schools will only exacerbate this issue; and

WHEREAS, in direct contradiction to the letter and spirit of the Act, many charter schools are seeking to expand in order to enroll additional students from districts outside of the charter schools' approved districts or regions of residence due to a lack of interest from students who live in the very communities for which the charters were created to serve; and

WHEREAS, TEECS, CJCP and Hatikvah have all filed applications seeking to expand their enrollment despite the fact, according to data available for the 2016-2017 school year, that only 96% of the students enrolled in TEECS reside in that school's region of residence, only 87% of the students enrolled in CJCP reside in that school's region of residence, and only 48% of the students enrolled in Hatikvah reside in that school's district of residence; and

WHEREAS, TEECS and Hatikvah enroll a significantly more segregated student body than any of the resident or non-resident sending districts with respect to race, socioeconomic status, and need for special education; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education and the Courts have repeatedly determined that the practice of segregating students must be ended, not perpetuated under the guise of parental choice or "free-market" competition; and

WHEREAS, it is unclear as to whether the NJDOE gives due consideration to the increased segregation of students caused by expanding charter schools; and

WHEREAS, it is also unclear as to whether the NJDOE gives due weight to the financial burden on districts of residence and other public school districts impacted by increasing charter school enrollment when considering applications for new or expanded charter schools; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of publicly available studies and/or statistical analyses conducted by the NJDOE with respect to the segregative and financial impact of charter school expansions on the vast majority of students remaining in the traditional public setting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SOUTH AMBOY Board of Education hereby implores the New Jersey Department of Education to conduct a full, open and thorough analysis of the potential impact that the expansion and addition of charter schools in Middlesex and Somerset counties will have on each public school district throughout the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a moratorium be imposed on the approval of any application to expand or create any charter school in Middlesex and/or Somerset county until such time as the NJDOE analysis can be properly completed and the results of which can be shared and discussed with the public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby requests the assistance of its local and State representatives in ensuring that the NJDOE conducts the necessary charter school impact analysis and that the public school districts of Middlesex and Somerset counties receive their fair share of funds so that they can continue to provide a thorough and efficient public education to all students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Acting Commissioner of Education, the Acting Director of the Office of Charter Schools, State Senator Joseph Vitale, Assemblyman Craig Coughlin, Assemblyman John Wisniewski, State Senator Teresa Ruiz and the Senate Education Committee, Assemblywoman Marlene Caride and the Assembly Education Committee, State Senate President Stephen Sweeney, and Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kasics and seconded by Mr. Riley to approve motions One of the Charter School Moratorium section of the Business/Public Meeting Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Dragotta, Kasics, McLaughlin, Perez, Riley, Simko, Smith, Taggart, Kern
Nays: None
Absent: None

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

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

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

2. APPROVAL OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA) ACCOUNTABILITY ACTION PLAN/2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Accountability Action Plan for the 2016-2017 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent. (Attachment B)

3. CURRICULUM REVISION/2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

That the Board of Education approves the following revised curriculum subject areas for the 2016-2017 school year, as presented, and as recommended by the Superintendent.

- Chemistry
- Physics

A motion was made by Mr. Riley and seconded by Mr. Smith to table motion One through Three of the Education & Curriculum section of the Business/Public Meeting Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Dragotta, Kasics, McLaughlin, Perez, Riley, Simko, Smith, Taggart, Kern
Nays: None
Absent: None

POLICY

1. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF FOSTER CARE AND EDUCATIONAL STABILITY POLICY

That the Board of Education approves the second reading and adopts the Foster Care and Educational Stability Policy, #5118.2, as attached and recommended by the Superintendent. (Attachment C)

2. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF FOSTER CARE AND EDUCATIONAL STABILITY REGULATION

That the Board of Education approves the second reading and adopts the Foster Care and Educational Stability Regulation, #5118.2, as attached and recommended by the Superintendent. (Attachment D)

A motion was made by Mr. Dragotta and seconded by Mr. Riley to approve motions One through Two of the Policy section of the Business/Public Meeting Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes: Dragotta, Kasics, McLaughlin, Perez, Riley, Simko, Smith, Taggart, Kern
Nays: None
Absent: None

OTHER MOTION

1. ACCEPTANCE OF HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION & BULLYING (HIB) INCIDENT REPORT/FEBRUARY 2017

That the Board of Education accepts the Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying (HIB) Incident Report for HIB incidents reported to the Board of Education on February 27, 2017. (Attachment E)

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

Ayes: Dragotta, Kasics, McLaughlin, Perez, Riley, Simko, Smith, Taggart, Kern
 Nays: None
 Absent: None

BUDGET AND FINANCE MOTIONS

2. BUDGETARY TRANSFERS

The Board of Education approves the attached transfers for January 2017 in conjunction with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8-1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10.

2. EXPENDITURES FOR 01/31/2017 – 02/27/2017

The Board of Education approves the following expenditures for 1/31/17 -2/27/17

Bills For	Amount
Regular Bills	673,216.18
12/23/16 Payroll	480,366.22
1/13/17 Payroll	496,402.72
TOTAL	\$ 1,649,985.12
January Agency	601,389.11
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 2,251,374.23

3. ACCEPT THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT – JANUARY 2017

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.

4. ACCEPT THE JANUARY 2017 ORGANIZATIONAL FUND BALANCES

The Board of Education accepts the attached January 2017 Organizational Fund Balances. (Attachment F)

5. ACCEPT THE JANUARY 2017 ATHLETIC FUND BALANCES

The Board of Education accepts the attached January 2017 Athletic Fund Balances. (Attachment G)

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
Stephanie Carnathan Eve Freeman	April 27, 2017 - April 28, 2017	New Jersey Speech Hearing Association Convention	\$350/Each	20-270-200-300-01-00

7. FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

The Board of Education approves the attached field trip requests for the 2016-2017 school year as recommended by the Superintendent (Attachment H):

Trip # MH-001
Trip # E-001

8. APPROVE TUITION CONTRACT FOR 2016-2017 – THE KEYPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education approves tuition contract between the South Amboy Board of Education and The Keyport Board of Education for student #2716323910 for the period November 3, 2016 – January 3, 2017. (Copy of contract is on file in the Board Office).

9. APPROVE TUITION CONTRACT FOR 2016-2017 – COLLIER SCHOOL

The Board of Education approves tuition contract between the South Amboy Board of Education and Collier School for student #6719746537 for the period January 25, 2017 – June 30, 2017. (Copy of contract is on file in the Board Office).

10. APPROVE TUITION CONTRACT FOR 2016-2017 – BAYONNE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education approves tuition contract between the South Amboy Board of Education and Bayonne Board of Education for students #5780277635 and #6838595410 for the period January 5, 2017 – June 30, 2017. (Copy of contract is on file in the Board Office).

11. APPROVE TUITION UNDERCHARGES FOR 2015-2016 – Y.C.S.

The Board of Education approves tuition undercharges in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.2(m) between the South Amboy Board of Education and Y.C.S. in the amount of \$1,601.00 for the 2015-2016 school year.

12. ACCEPTANCE OF THOMAS BIKOWSKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

That the Board of Education accepts the amount of \$300 to be held in trust (Fund 80) to be distributed in the manner prescribed by Thomas Bikowski.

13. APPROVAL OF PRESCHOOL EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

The Board of Education approves the submission of the 2017-2018 Preschool Early Childhood Program Plan to the New Jersey State Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education. (Attachment I)

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

Ayes: Dragotta, Kasics, McLaughlin, Perez, Riley, Simko, Smith, Taggart, Kern
Nays: None
Abstention: Kasics (Motion 5), Kern (Motion 2 – PO # 170420, 170421, 170721, 170306, 170419, 170105; Motion 5)
Absent: None

B. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

None

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anna Mae O'Connor – Discussed the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 19th at 1:00 pm as well as the School District Production of We Will Rock You.

Amy Wojcik – Discussed concerns with the digital format of Parent/Teacher Conference schedule. Asked about how the district was handling the pick-up/drop-off safety concerns at the Elementary School. Discussed the PARCC testing window and inquired as to why there was a required meeting with building administration prior

to a parent opting their child out of the test. Expressed concerns about children knowing about safety drills in advance of the drill taking place.

Stephanie Millette – Discussed children in the Elementary School not going outside for recess and being required to sit in “Silent Lunch.”

Amy McLaughlin – Inquired as to whether or not the play dates/times were posted on Social Media and discussed athletics coaching opportunity.

D. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Dragotta and seconded by Mr. Smith the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.
Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Frascella

Business Administrator/Board Secretary