

SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
125 Jackson Avenue
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Telephone: 908-754-4620

Committee of the Whole Meeting – Wednesday, June 21, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.
South Plainfield High School
200 Lake Street
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Seesselberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. SALUTE TO FLAG

III. ROLL CALL- James Damato
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Present: Mrs. Anesh, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Farinella, Mr. Giannakis,
Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Glover, Mr. Seesselberg

Mr. Cassio arrived at 6:45 p.m.

Also Present: Dr. Noreen Lishak, Superintendent; Ms. Mary Malyska, Assistant
Superintendent; Mr. James Damato, Interim Business Administrator/Board
Secretary; Mr. Marc Zitomer, Legal Counsel

IV. BOARD PRESIDENT

South Plainfield Public Schools Mission Statement:

Students are the focus of the South Plainfield Public Schools. We will provide a dynamic, rigorous, relevant and technology-enriched curriculum, guided by the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Our mission is to develop life-long learners who are prepared to succeed in a global and diverse society. We are resolved to educate the whole child, instilling the desire within our students to question and to become divergent thinkers who can achieve their fullest potential.

In accordance with the terms of the Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was posted in all school buildings, the Administration Building, Borough Clerk's office, Police Headquarters, Public Library, four newspapers, and W.C.T.C. on January 5, 2017.

Please be advised:

- There is no smoking on school grounds - inside or outside - at any time.
- Please silence all electronic devices.

- Pursuant to District Policy #0167, each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes' duration and no participant may speak more than once on the same topic.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Good News and Progress in Our Schools

Dr. Lishak wished the class of 2017 high school graduates good luck as they move on to college, career or the military. The graduation was absolutely lovely. In addition, she wished all the students of South Plainfield School District congratulations as they move on to the next grade level. She said to make sure to practice your reading and math skills over the summer and have a happy and healthy summer break.

The district is in the process of hiring new staff and faculty for a number of open positions as you will see when we return from executive session. We are actively hiring so that we are prepared for our September instruction. We are reviewing applications in order to choose the best candidates that fit the needs of our South Plainfield students.

Dr. Lishak said that she is very excited to announce that we will be starting the first phase of the STEM lab at the high school over the summer. Mr. Spring met with the Robotics students prior to the end of the school year for their input. In addition, we will be setting up our broadcast classroom over the summer so that we may begin live streaming events later in the school year.

Dr. Lishak acknowledged the many booster organizations, PTOs, parent organizations and supporters of our school district who all ran beautiful honors dinners, dances, pool parties, barbecues and Project Graduation. All of these events take a lot of time and effort and the District truly appreciates all that you do for our students. She thanked everyone who helped with the various graduations and events that occurred over the last few weeks. It's the busiest time of year and we appreciate all of their help.

2. Recognition of Spring Sports Awards – 2016/2017

Dr. Lishak said that her report was short tonight because she wants to take the time to acknowledge all of our student athletes and coaches who made us so proud, again, during this season. It seems as though, at the end of every season, we have so many things to be happy about and so many congratulations that we have to give.

The following student athletes and coaches were recognized for their achievements during the spring sports season:

Baseball

Connor Adams – All White Division/ All Conference
William Keane – All White Division
Jared Marks – All White Division
Jean Sapini – All White Division
Michael Stanczak – All White Division

Girls Lacrosse

Ashley Veliz – All Conference

Girls Spring Track

Team: Blue Division Relay Champions
Jacinda Anderson
Brianna Atkinson – All Blue Division
Katalina Bedoya
Amanda Berma
Domonique Bowe
Ariel Buenano
Lauren Calvey
Amanda Cheng
Ming-Wai Cheung
Leanna DeLisa
Deanna DeVizio
Julianne Ferraro – All Blue Division
Kaila Gardner
McKayla Grabinsky
Allison Graves
Keiana Green
Kayla Greenleaf – All Blue Division
Ny'Asia Haygood
Rahmah Hemby
Diana Herrera
Lovely Hills
Zoe Lambert
Kathleen LeBlanc
Jordan Lovett
Kaylie Macpherson
Maggy Mogollon
Lanasia Neal
Briana Noriega
Michelle Pastuna-Arias
Tiffany Parajon

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Tiffany Pham
Destinee Polite
Samantha Pullen – All Blue Division
Laura Rodriguez
Megan Russo
Alexis Salernitano
Danaysha Samuel
Keiko Shegog
Ria Sonicoll
Lisette Vega
Alexis Walker
Stephanie Waters
Anya Wilson
Ashley Wyber

Coaches:

John Foscolo – Head Coach
David Rosa – Assistant Coach
Kelly Whitney – Assistant Coach
Jillian Mahon – Volunteer Coach

Golf

Christopher Jefferys- All White Division
Andrew Kensey – All White Division
Brandon Wizda – All White Division

Boys Spring Track

Team: Blue Division Relay Champions/Blue Division Champions
Aiden Adamson
Ryan Bali
Matthew Bruff
Jack Cochrane
Raeon Cohen – All Blue Division
Alexander Crews
Warner Cruz
Michael DeAngelis
River Dress – All Blue Division
Nicholas Farinella
Alejandro Garcia – All Blue Division
Ignacio Garcia
Wyatt Gerber
Adam Globis
Kevin Hagy
Dillon Harris
Troy Harzula

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Devin Hastings
Marro Hawkins
Dishon Hessing
Chance Jones
Marteese Jones
Caleb Kuberiet – All Blue Division
Michael Lampasona
Keith Lehman
Phillip Malavarca
Jorge Mora
Brandon Pascale
Dheer Patel
Angel Ruiz
Deshai Smith – 7th Meet of Champions High Jump/7th Meet of Champions Long
Jump/Group II State Champion in Long Jump /All Blue Division/All Conference
Kyle Sookhu – All Blue Division
Justin Spry – All Blue Division
Ryan Stankan
Nicholas Torchia
Hamilton Uzoma
Joshua Ward – All Blue Division

Coaches:

Christopher Fish – Head Coach
Bryan Holt – Assistant Coach
Matthew Connell – Assistant Coach
Stephen Balzer – Volunteer

Softball

Team: GMC White Division Champions, North 2 Group III Champions, Group III State
Champions

Julie Davis
Danielle DeCarlo
Catherine DeLair
Jennifer Grasso
Jillian Holoboski- All White Division/ All Conference
Caitlin Hughes- All White Division/ All Conference
Cameron Marks
Angela Sanchez
Camryn Schaeffer- All White Division
Makayla Sosa
Katherine Vill- All White Division/ All Conference

Coaches:

Don Panzarella - Head Coach
Nicholas Panzarella- Assistant Coach
Joseph Blondo – Assistant Coach
Cheryl Hughes – Volunteer Coach
Cody Decker – Volunteer Coach
Nancy Cuntala– Volunteer Coach

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Dr. Lishak said that prior to going into executive session, all of our employees that are listed on personnel for this evening have received a RICE notification. We received two responses back from two employees so she read the proposed and recommended personnel action. These two employees compelled this discussion be held in Public. Under section XIC, Appointments and Transfers: Robert Richkus, transfer Assistant Principal from Grant School to Assistant Principal at the High School; Kelly Richkus, transfer Assistant Principal from the High School to the Middle School.

Mr. Seesselberg asked if there were any questions or discussions on those two items. There was no discussion.

RESOLVED, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 47-:1A-1 *et. seq.*) that the Board meets in closed session at this time to discuss confidential matters pertaining to: (select one or more)

1. a matter rendered confidential by federal or state law
2. a matter in which release of information would impair the right to receive government funds
3. material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy
4. a collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiations related to it
5. a matter involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds
6. protection of public safety and property and/or investigations of possible violations or violations of law
7. pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation and/or matters of attorney-client privilege
8. specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session.
9. deliberation after a public hearing that could result in a civil penalty or other loss

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters discussed in closed session shall be made public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis SECOND: Mr. Farinella VOTE: 9-0

Following executive session, Mr. Seesselberg made the following announcement:

Currently, the South Plainfield Education Association and the Board of Education are negotiating a successor agreement to the current contract that is in force until the end of next week. We met this week and have another meeting scheduled for next week and we look forward to continue a productive process to achieve a mutually acceptable agreement in the future.

VIA AGENDA ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

1. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

VII. POLICY

A. Approval of Second Readings of the Following Bylaws, Policies and Regulations

Approve the second readings of the following Bylaws, Policies and Regulations and hereby adopts them:

- Policy 5111 – Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (Revised)
- Policy 8110 – Attendance Areas (Revised)

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis SECOND: Mrs. Glover VOTE: 9-0

B. Approval of First Readings of the Following Bylaws, Policies and Regulations

Approve the first readings of the following Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations:

- Bylaw 0000.02 – Introduction (Revised) – Tab VII.B.1
- Policy 2320 – Independent Study Programs (Abolished) – Tab VII.B.2
- Policy 2415.06 – Unsafe School Choice Option (Revised) – Tab VII.B.3
- Policy 2464 – Gifted and Talented Students (Revised) – Tab VII.B.4
- Policy 2622 – Student Assessment (Revised) – Tab VII.B.5
- Policy 3160 – Physical Examination (Revised) – Tab VII.B.6
- Regulation 3160 – Physical Examination (Revised) – Tab VII.B.7
- Policy 4160 – Physical Examination (Revised) – Tab VII.B.8
- Regulation 4160 – Physical Examination (Revised) – Tab VII.B.9
- Policy 5460 – High School Graduation (Revised) – Tab VII.B.10
- Policy 5465 – Early Graduation (Abolished) – Tab VII.B.11
- Policy 7446 – School Security Program (New) – Tab VII.B.12

Policy 8350 – Records Retention (New) – Tab VII.B.13
Policy 9210 – Parent Organizations (Revised) – Tab VII.B.14

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Seesselberg said that all of these policies in some way or another affect teachers, staff, Board Members and deferred to Mr. Zitomer to state any limitations those members may have in discussion and voting on these policies.

Mr. Zitomer said that he believes that with respect to policy 9210, Parent Organizations, any Board Members who serve as an officer on the executive committee of a parent organization when the policy goes into effect should abstain from voting. They can certainly discuss it in this public forum but they should abstain from voting if they would be an officer when this policy goes into effect and since it is a second reading tonight that they should abstain ultimately on voting.

Mrs. Anesh said that she has a discussion about the policies in general. Having a first reading and a second reading in the same night does not seem right. We never have done it this way before. We always have a first reading at a public meeting and then a second reading a public meeting and she would like to know what is the emergency that we have to do this in one night and not give people the opportunity to take these home and look at them like they normally would have and have the opportunity to and come back with any questions at the next meeting.

Mr. Boyle said that she has the same questions. We've never done it this way. Past practice, we've always done a first reading in one month and the second reading in the following month to give the public the opportunity to look at these policies and formulate questions if they have questions. By doing this, we are being deceptive to the public. Mrs. Boyle said that she has other comments to make but she agrees with Mrs. Anesh.

Mr. Seesselberg said that this was discussed with the attorney and since both of these meetings are advertised as public meetings where action will be taken then it's viable for the first to be done at the COW and the second reading to be done at the regular public meeting. Also, one of these policies, 9210, has caused controversy amongst us and amongst the town and the feeling is it's been festering for a while and it was Mr. Seesselberg decision to put it on these meetings to move it forward and move on rather than have it sit there for another month.

Mrs. Anesh said that her only thing is that if it is that important then wouldn't it be best that we follow the procedure that we normally follow and give people the time to look at them and then have it passed a second meeting that is not two hours later from the time people see it for the first time, in some cases.

Mr. Seesselberg said that it's up to the Board if they want to separate any of these policies and defer them. He doesn't know whether tabling them would be the proper thing. We

can defer any one of these to a first reading tonight and the public meeting defer the second reading to next month. It would have to be a separate motion to separate it and then it would have to be a vote on the Board whether to postpone the reading to the next month.

Mr. Giannakis said that another thing to keep in mind too, is that time is of the essence, because this may directly affect two of our schools and we want to give the schools enough time to be able to reorganize themselves as well.

Mr. Zitomer said, just to clarify, is that what he thinks he is suggesting is that somebody can table it but he doesn't think it would appropriate to table the first reading. He said that if you want to table the second reading to do it during the public meeting.

Mr. Seesselberg said that we can do the first reading now and on any of these policies, under VII B., it would have to be separated first and then defer the second reading to a future meeting. Right now we don't have a motion on anything for VII b, we are just having discussions on the general practice.

Mrs. Boyle said, again, you are not giving the public time to look at these policies and ask questions.

An audience member asked where the policies were.

Mr. Seesselberg said that typically, we don't usually print the policies to save paper. They are in a binder which Amy has over there. Mr. Seesselberg proposed that we have a Motion right now for the first reading on all these policies. We have a vote on the first readings and then when we get into the next meeting, which would have been the second reading on all these policies, if anything needs to be separated then we put that to a vote, whether to separate it or keep it on a second reading.

Mr. Zitomer said that technically it has to be Moved, Seconded and then discussion. That's the way we would discuss it.

Mr. Seesselberg asked for a motion to approve the first readings of all of the policies in VII B.

Mr. Farinella said that there are three in particular that he has questions about. The one is the abolishment of the independent study. The second is the abolishment of the early graduation policy and the last one is the purpose of 9210.

Dr. Lishak said that for the first two, the abolishment, they are now incorporated into polices that we now have, so we abolished one and they are incorporated into others that are in here.

Mr. Farinella asked what the rationale is for the last one. Mr. Zitomer said that the title of this policy is Parent Organizations and so the material change in the final paragraph of the policy reads as follows:

A board member may join a parent organization as a member or, if a current member of the organization remain in such capacity, however, due to potential interference or conflict of interest a sitting board member may not serve as a member of any parent organization's executive committee or in the role of an organization officer (such as president, vice president, etc.)

Mr. Boyle asked if policy 9210 is a good policy for the District. She asked if somebody on the Board can answer that.

Mr. Seesselberg said that his feeling on it is that he would like to see as much participation by parents/guardians/adults within the school. In general, he doesn't believe in dual office holding in any, be it politics, school, business, things like that. If you've moved up the ranks through something and you are on the board, you are on the board. Open up a position for someone else to participate in any of the organizations in town and this isn't just for parent/teacher organizations. It's for the athletic boosters, the band boosters, and any student support organization within the town. He said that he wants to see more people involved and when you get elected to the school board it's a highly responsible position that you are always a board member and if you are in any of the buildings and walking around town, you are a board member first and some people have inclination to their own opinion as to how they should act around you. Somewhat different than if you were a member of an executive committee of any of the support organizations in town.

Mrs. Boyle said that she would like to indulge the Board on this policy. The policy appears to be an attempt to improperly restrain Board of Education members. If being a part of a PTO, PTSO, PTA executive board is that egregious she would like to expand that policy and she would like to include that all Board of Education Members who are employed by our vendors who are contracted with the district should be a part of this policy.

Mr. Seesselberg said that this is just speaking about parent organizations. He said that wouldn't include vendors because that would be a business arrangement and not a student support organization.

Mrs. Boyle said that she is going to finish with her comments. We should also include in this policy is that anybody that has immediate family member employed by the district should not be a part of the Board because she is more than willing to resign her elected official position on the Board because she has an immediate family member along with other board members who have immediate family members working for the district. Wouldn't you agree?

Mr. Giannakis said that he would agree to send that back to policy committee and have them look at it. Why not? If it makes sense then he thinks we should do it and he thinks that policy makes great sense. He doesn't think we were ever in a building as a parent, as a PTO member or as anything. He thinks we are always in the building as a Board Member. We have some new employees in this district, some new principals and why should we put them in that position. He thinks we can do as much as we want as a PTO member. We can be as active as we want to be, we can still help as much as we want but to be an executive member gives you unfettered access to those buildings and he doesn't think that's fair to our staff.

Mrs. Boyle said, so being a coach of a basketball team, being an assistant of a basketball team, ponytail, baseball, being on the baseball commission. That also gives you access to children and parents and giving your influence on that side. The NJ State Ethics commission has ruled that it's not a conflict for a Board of Education member to be on the executive board of a PTO or a PTA. Mr. Zitomer, you are the Board Attorney for the entire board, not three board members, yet you and Mr. Roselle wrote this policy without being consistent with the intent of this policy. Can you please speak to this as to the right that this needs to be included in the committee and organizations?

Mr. Zitomer asked for Mrs. Boyle to repeat the last thing she said. Mrs. Boyle said can you please speak about why you and Mr. Roselle, who wrote this for three board members felt that that was a necessity when you are the board attorney for the entire Board.

Mr. Zitomer said that is not accurate that we wrote it for three board members. We were asked by the administration to come up with the verbiage that he just read at the request of the policy committee, so he believes it wasn't the request of any particular board member.

Mrs. Boyle said she begs to differ with that. She said she also has to question his bill. We're paying you to write the policy when we have Strauss Esmay as our organization that does our policies. They represent over 400 districts yet you were the ones that were chosen to write this policy. Again, the Attorney for New Jersey School Boards had asked when is this going to end. We are going to just keep going on and on with this. The town just passed a \$23M referendum, along with the support of the organizations in town and the teachers association and many questions have been raised about the projects being started, the completion and the funding so the policy for the parents organizations which is a misplaced priority is a major concern for this Board and she believes, as a taxpayer, that we should all be concerned for the \$23M referendum since this becomes a priority for the majority of the Board.

Mr. Giannakis said that it came up in policy and it's one line added to a policy so he doesn't believe it took our attorney hours and hours to come up with this one line and it's not a priority per se to say, "oh, hold it, we got a \$23M referendum passed, put that aside, let's get this PTO thing straightened out". It has nothing to do with that. It came up in

policy. It was a simple policy, we discussed it, and we asked the Superintendent to ask the Board attorney to alter it with one line. That is all it was.

Mrs. Boyle said that this policy has to be done in one hour and then an hour later.

Mr. Seesselberg said that in relation to the Strauss Essmay, we are responsible for the policies that are written for the district and Strauss Essmay is a vendor that we hire to handle the vast majority of the policies to keep us up to date on State Statute, state requirement and things like that but we are ultimately responsible for what policies we publish and enforce in our district.

Mrs. Glover said that in looking at the policy and she's not on the committee but her question is, what is the contention about this? In your opinion, Mrs. Boyle, we know who holds what positions, what harm does this do to the district? How does this bring harm? How is it a negative to give somebody else an opportunity to run for the office or be on the Executives Board. I don't understand what the negative is in the policy from your perspective.

Mrs. Boyle said that multiple people have been asked if they would like to take the positions and nobody has stepped up to take them. She said that she has a text on her phone from somebody that said they don't want anything to do with it. People can step up at any time and she said to Mr. Giannakis that they disagree on this policy. He is in favor of it and Mrs. Boyle is not. She asked Mr. Giannakis to explain, again, what the purpose of this was through the years that there have been constant attacks against her and Mrs. Miller. She asked for him to explain why this is so important.

Mr. Giannakis said that you can join the PTO, you can be on the PTO, but to be an executive member gives us unfettered access to the buildings. We are board members. We are never perceived as a PTO President, Vice President, Treasurer. We're never even perceived as a parent at a back to school night. They look at us as though we are board members and it makes people uncomfortable and he thinks that this is a smart and responsible policy for the district. It doesn't harm the district in any way because if you want to be an effective PTO member you still can be an effective PTO member you just don't have the moniker of President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer, that's all.

Mr. Seesselberg said, in regards to having a position and nobody else runs for it, he's been involved in at least three organizations where he found it hard to get out of and as much as he didn't like to do it, he left. The organizations are still continuing, they're not being run the way he would have run them but he also believes that the effectiveness of a good leader is to set up the organization to leave, to have one leader and this is for any organization, it just doesn't bring new ideas, it discourages people from getting involved because they may have some ideas and they want to run and positions aren't open and in the at least three organizations he's been in he has been fortunate to find someone who he has brought along and when he left the executive position he helped and advised and gave other opportunities and some of them he's been out for at least ten years now and the

organizations are still running, not the way that he would have run them, but that's the idea. You run it your way for a while and let someone else step in and have the joy of participating.

Mrs. Anesh said that the positions of any of these organizations are always open at the end of every year. That's why they have the elections. At no time has anybody been discouraged from coming to these meetings and stepping up to try to take one of these elected positions. If they felt intimidated that they couldn't come to a meeting and try to step up, what kind of a leader would that be anyway? And, that's just my opinion. When we are ready to leave our positions, we leave our positions, but why should we be forced out? People are going to be uncomfortable with us being around as board members no matter whether we are there as a parent or why we are there. If they are going to be uncomfortable, they're going to be uncomfortable. Strauss Essmay does not have a policy that reflects this. We defer to the Ethics Commission for everything else, all the other decisions we make but this time we are going to disregard what the Ethics Commission says. Mrs. Anesh said that being on all of these organizations herself, personally, being on the PTO for years at the grammar school, at no time can she ever remember anything that she was involved in, aside from perhaps fundraising for a playground that needed Board approval. She can't think of anything that we did that required us to come to the Board for approval that as a board member there would be some kind of a conflict. As far as another group goes, our music boosters, all of our senior parents had to stay on because there is not one person who came to the meeting to step up. All these senior parents that are trying to pass these positions on had nobody. She said that she didn't even step up personally but her intention was to step up next year when one of these senior parents left. Now you are saying that she can't do that. She said that she gets that these organizations will run. They will. They're not going to fail, they're not going to fall, they're not going to go away but why do we have to make things difficult? Why is this a priority right now? We have so many other things that are more important right. So many other pressing issues. She said that she thinks we are wasting our time on things that are unnecessary.

Mr. Farinella said that he doesn't hold any of these positions. He's opposed to these limitations just on the principal of the policy in and of itself. He never thought that it made people that uncomfortable. He said that he hopes that he doesn't and he hopes our board members do not. But if that is the case, he hopes that the folks we work with will say, hey listen, take a step back, you are too close to this or something like that. There certainly is no pecuniary interest or conflict of any type associated with a relationship being an executive board member of a volunteer organization that the whole purpose of the folks being on these groups is to make things better for kids. Parents don't volunteer enough. He said that he is a parent, we struggle in our schools to have a handful of people doing all the work. We lean on them, hours and hours and years at a time. He doesn't think we have that much influence inside the buildings as he thinks we are suggesting here. He said he has a lot of confidence in our building administrators and our Superintendent and everyone else to say hey, you know what, you need to stay out of this and he thinks we are smart enough as board members to recognize that and to recognize those limitations and if not, he doesn't think we need this policy. We have mechanisms

to talk with each other and self-police any concerns that would go down that road. Mr. Farinella said that he is just opposed to this in principle, he said he thinks it's the wrong thing to do.

Mrs. Boyle said that you have a whole host of different people from our town who she can't believe for one minute would support this. She thinks it is ludicrous. She thinks that it is self-serving and, again, if you want to expand it, expand that no Board of Education member can be a coach or an assistant coach of outside teams because you also have influence over the parents and over the children the same way the PTO's are not an entity of this school. They are a separate entity. They have their own bylaws, they have their own treasurer. When a PTO donates something to the district, whether it be monetary or equipment, if a Board of Education member is part of that they abstain or recuse. They always have.

Mrs. Glover asked if Dr. Lishak could give some clarification to Policy 5460 about the high school graduation. Under the statewide assessment, graduation requirements, they talk about the class of 2020 and the class of 2021. Are these changes from what the recommendation was because she knows that between the classes of 2021 and prior 2020 they are a different requirements?

Dr. Lishak said that these are the requirements that were set forth by the State and these are the new dates that they put forward based on the update from Strauss that has to do with the State recommendations. So we are aligning our policies with what the State is requiring.

Mrs. Glover asked if Dr. Lishak could explain what number two is under 5460, beginning with graduating classes 2021.

Dr. Lishak said that beginning with the graduation class of 2021, all high school end of course PARCC assessments for all courses in which they are enrolled, including those students who receive a waiver for ELA, etc. All the policy is saying is if they do not pass, they have a waiver and a waiver is usually based on ESL students. So if they have a waiver and they are waived for not passing this they are saying you have the opportunity to receive a diploma based on the portfolio process.

Mrs. Glover asked that for the Class of 2021 we know that the PARCC assessment for Algebra I is what is required to pass the PARCC. She asked if the class of 2021 has the alternative assessments.

Dr. Lishak said that if the class of 2021 does not pass the PARCC, the portfolio option is still going to remain. Initially, they want you to pass a section of PARCC for math and language arts and if you do not pass, you will still have the opportunity for portfolio.

Mrs. Glover said that it just says “in accordance with the DOE memorandum of January 24th, students graduating cohort 2020 and 2021 who completed Algebra I prior to the start of September 2016. What is the graduation assessment?”

Mr. Farinella said that he thinks he understands this because he does it. Right now what’s happening is that there is a list of graduation tests in the state of NJ that kids can take to satisfy their testing requirement. They include the PARCC test but they also include things like SATs and ASVAB tests and ACCUPLACER tests. Tests which nobody heard of up until a few years ago or very few students were involved with.

If you are a kid that is graduation before the class of 2021, PARCC is one of the options among several to graduate. Kids are doing that right now. Many kids are graduating through the variety of tests that he just mentioned. In 2021 that is going to evaporate but the real rub on this is the notion of an appeal. The appeal will only be permitted beginning with the graduating class of 2021 students who take all applicable high school end of PARCC assessments. What that boils down to is this: The Department of Education will refuse an appeal on any kid who does not sit for all PARCC tests that they are required to take. He doesn’t know if that’s clear here but that’s really what that memorandum says and it’s something that will become an issue with this class should any kids decide to not take the test, to be civilly disobedient, for lack of a better choice of words. PARCC is a graduation requirement and unless and until the rules change every kid needs to sit for PARCC at every level that it’s offered. You have to pass ELA 10 and you have to pass Algebra I at a minimum. That’s your easiest way to graduate from high school at this point.

Dr. Lishak said that is correct. “Opt out” isn’t an option but you no longer will have the opportunity to go through the appeals process because you haven’t sat for all of the tests.

Mrs. Glover said so you can sit for all the PARCC tests through all of high school and if you are not proficient, getting a 4 or a 5 then, you can apply for portfolio but if you miss any of those exams you cannot apply.

Mrs. Miller said, going back to the other policy, that she wanted to explain a little bit more to the audience as well. In the past 9 ½ years that she’s been on the Board, she’s been policy chair for all but one of those years. In the past, they would have a COW meeting where she would explain each policy to the public and the other board members who were not on the committee. Then, during the regular meeting the following week, we would do a first reading. That gave the opportunity for the board members and the public to go back and review these policies and then come back and ask questions or make comments prior to approval at the next regular meeting. This is the way it’s been practiced for the past 9 ½ years.

Mrs. Miller added, as Mrs. Boyle and Mrs. Anesh said that the School Ethics Commission already ruled that it’s not a conflict for a board member to serve on the

executive board of any parent group. This Board has always asked the Ethics Commission, through our lawyers for many opinions in the past. She said she doesn't have a problem if our lawyers go back again and ask about this particular situation, although the Ethics Commission has already ruled. Maybe the best step is to ask Mr. Zitomer to go back again and get another ruling from the Ethics Commission to find out what the situation is now.

The parent organization board officials are no different than any other board member here. It doesn't matter whether you are a parent. She said that you have more access to the schools and to the teachers as a parent. You have more influence as a parent. You are in the schools a lot as a parent. So the parent organizations, anybody who is an officer, anybody who is a member. It doesn't even matter if you are an officer or member. You should follow the same rules that the Ethics Commission had ruled on and essentially that's what their advisory opinions are. How we conduct ourselves should be guided by the School Ethics Commission, not the Board, but by the State and what the state law has ruled and we are no different if you have a relative that works in the district as Mrs. Boyle said if you have a child in the district. We have a board member who works for one of our contracted vendors. We have a family member that is a local elected official or worked for local government. We have all of these on this Board so if we are going to change the policy for this then we should also change it for all potential conflicts of interest and potential acts of impropriety. We can actually do it today, we don't have to send this back to the policy committee. We can actually just change and use the exact same verbiage that our lawyers have put here. We can add it to our by-law 0142, which is Board Member Qualifications, Prohibited Acts and Code of Ethics. We don't need to have a big discussion in policy, we can take the exact verbiage.

The other thing is there were some comments made about letting other people step up. Well, trust me, if anybody's been to any of these meetings, it doesn't matter if it's the booster club, athletics, etc. Parents, everybody knows, if anybody here was at graduation and at the clean-up and how many people were there to actually help us clean up. There aren't a lot of people who volunteer. Everybody wants the things, everybody wants an eighth grade dinner dance, everybody wants a pool party, everybody wants project graduation, everybody wants an athletic booster club dinner and a music booster club dinner and they want the competitions that the music boosters help out with but not a lot of people can or are willing to give their time that other people are willing to give. Actually, if you read the policy, the policy doesn't, as it's going to be re-written, doesn't say anything about we'll give other people a chance. What it says is due to potential interference or conflict of interest. So that seems to be what some board members feel is the issue so, okay, if that's the way we want to go, then great. Tonight, let's also put into effect if you have a child in the district, if you work for a contracted vendor, if you have a family member who is a local elected official, let's just change it all, and let's get it done tonight. We can use the exact same verbiage and we spent many months, we spent two hours discussing this so anybody that sits there and says it hasn't interfered with the business, we have spent a lot of time on it, we have spent a great deal of time on this board talking about this one policy when we have so many other things in this district that

we should be worried about. We are elected officials. We are elected by the people to do the job for our students, to do the best job we can for our students, for our staff, for our administrators and instead we are up here arguing about whether board members can be an elected official of a PTO or PTA.

Mr. Seesselberg said that we need to move the motion soon. Mrs. Miller said we are not done with discussion and Mrs. Boyle said she has something else to add.

Mrs. Miller said that she would like to read what Strauss Essmay, who writes the policies for 486 districts in the State, have said that their concern with the proposal deals with the Board policy restricting a member from serving on an executive committee or serving as an officer in a school connected organization, like a PTA, PTO, parent clubs, booster clubs, etc. A Board may adopt a policy with this restriction, there is no law that says we can't. However, he is concerned about them for stability and the Board's authority to impose any consequence to a Board Member who does not comply with the restriction. We know a board member may be conflicted when an issue comes before the Board involving their non-school board outside activities. In these matters, they're suggestion is that the board member will be required to exclude themselves from any discussion or vote on these issues and it's further been advised that a board member leave the room during the discussion or vote on these issues as not to affect any discussion or vote by their mere presence. He thinks a policy with this provision would be consistent with prior ethics commission's advisory opinions and decisions. So this is the opinion of our company that deals with 486 districts that writes the policies for all of us. And then they go on to say their concern also implies that the board member serving as an executive committee member or officer of a parent organization will be subject to disqualification from the school board. He does not believe a Board of Education member who insists on serving as an executive committee member or officer of a parent organization clearly recusing themselves from conflicted issues involving the parent organization would be removed from the Board of Education by the Commissioner of Education, which, by the way, is the only one that has the authority to remove us. And then they go on just to say that there were several school ethics cases where the Ethics Commission did not rule in favor of board members being removed from the Board. Mrs. Miller said that opinion is from Phil Nicastro at Strauss Essmay. That was his decision and his opinion regarding this policy.

Mrs. Boyle said that this has been a threat that's been brought over the years. It's on tape, it's during meetings, during PTO meetings, during Meet the Candidates Night. We were called obscenities at this meeting. There was a comment on Facebook that I should be slapped upside my head. Every woman in this room should be offended by that. That's violence against women. Mrs. Boyle said to Mr. Seesselberg that several months ago he, Mr. Farinella and she stood at a basketball game and talked about this policy that they tried to bring once before. She said that he told them that it was ludicrous and that you wouldn't support it. What changed?

Mrs. Boyle said to Mr. Cassio that she talked to him several times. We also talked when we were going to the county meeting. You called Mrs. Miller. You told us that this was a “got you” by Mr. Chapman and Mr. Giannakis. You said that this is being done on purpose to get us so what changed? You said you would never support it and you didn’t support it and now you are supporting it. So please, tell me what changed over the last couple of weeks.

Mr. Cassio said he’s going to tell you why he’s voting for this. Because he was elected to do a job up here and he’s so tired of the distractions of what these games that are going on here since he’s been on the board. We’ve done a lot of good things here in the six months that he’s been on this Board but said he’s just tired of it so if it can limit the distractions and limit access to the schools and limit the games that are being played and we can get real work done then he is for this. Mr. Cassio said that resigned my position from the South Plainfield Baseball Association for the High School just so he can have this pass to move on so we can do real work for the district. We are moving in the right direction and he’d like to keep moving forward and not backwards. He said he sacrificed what he was doing, the good that he does to try to help out for the children for the sake of the district. That’s why he changed. He said, truthfully, he has a real job, he gets paid to do a real job. He comes here to help and he want to help but he’s tired of all the games. He said he go into the schools, whether he goes to Roosevelt, my soon to be third grader or my soon to be junior and he can see administrators and teachers nervous when he goes in. He said that he’s not a threat but he feels it. He feels the tension. And he doesn’t want to be that threat.

Mr. Seesselberg said that, at this point, we need to move forward with the roll call. We’ve had enough discussion on this.

Mrs. Boyle asked Mr. Seesselberg is he is censoring us. Mr. Seesselberg said, no I’m not censoring you. This is approval of first reading. Mrs. Boyle said that he is absolutely censoring us.

Mr. Seesselberg said that according to Robert’s Rules, he can close debate when he thinks debate has fulfilled its notion. He thinks everybody who’s had an indication to speak has spoken their piece. So we have a motion on the floor that has been seconded for the first reading of all fourteen of these together.

RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the foregoing resolutions.

The following is the vote on all listed policies with the exception of Policy 9210.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis SECOND: Mrs. Glover VOTE: 9-0

The following vote is on Policy 9210.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis

SECOND: Mrs. Glover

VOTE: 5-4

Mrs. Anesh, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Farinella, and Mrs. Miller voted no.

VIII. CURRICULUM/STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Curriculum Update – Administration

Ms. Malyska said they had their meeting on June 14th and were able to cover a lot of the different things that have gone on this school year. She thanked the elementary teachers who piloted our science curriculum program. Those are in alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards. Thanks to those teachers we were able to reflect on which program will work best for us. Based on the rubrics we made a selection, so we are ready to hit the ground running in September with the new science program, which should be great.

Next year, our sixth grade math teachers will be piloting a new math curriculum program.

It's in alignment with what we already do but we are transitioning to consumable materials which is in alignment with where we are with fifth grade and above that. She thanked the efforts of the teachers for doing that because it means a lot for us to make informed decisions moving forward in that capacity. We had some presentations at the meeting with the middle school schedule, talking about extended class time and the best way we can utilize that moving forward for the Middle School. We also looked at the completed Math K-4 curriculum guides. We have a lot more curriculum guides being written this summer but as of now, those looked great. Everyone enjoyed looking at them. They commented specifically on the different activities that were available for the students which should peak their interest in some of the subject matter which is always hard to do with Math. Again, that was a great effort by the teachers. Thank you.

IX. FINANCE

Finance Update – Administration

Mr. Damato said, as far as a finance update, he noted that the district is going out for temporary financing next week. There will be a note sale for funding the projects that we are undertaking as part of the bond referendum over the summer. We are scheduled to do the permanent financing of the entire bond referendum in January of 2018. We will present to the public the results of the note sale and everything else that goes into the permanent financing at the appropriate time.

X. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Buildings & Grounds Update – Administration

With regard to buildings and grounds, Mr. Damato said we have started a lot of preliminary work on the bond referendum projects. We had a lot of survey work done for the paving, concrete, sidewalks and curbing. We are presently doing core samples there.

We met with the engineer to try to refine some of the areas with some of the problems that we are encountering but we are going to get those projects out to bid and you'll probably see a great deal of that work being done in the month of August.

We are also in the process of finishing or finalizing the contract for the new fire alarm system which is part of the bond referendum at Grant School. That will also be done this summer. We are doing flooring projects districtwide. We are also doing the Middle School gym floor which is a really big project. It is sorely needed for the middle school and that will be installed by the opening of school

XI. PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy

Mrs. Miller provided the following policy updates:

Bylaw 0000.02 is the introduction. There really isn't too much on this. It's changing DYFUS to New Jersey Department of Children and Families/Division of Child Protection and Permanency. It is also changing New Jersey Core Curriculum to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and a change of definition of Executive County Superintendent. Definition of a parent has been updated and a couple changes to statutes.

Policy 2320 – Independent study programs has been abolished because the information is addressed in policy 5460 - High School Graduation.

Policy 2415.06 – Unsafe School Choice Option. The New Jersey Department of Education requires revisions to this policy. It will only impact the few districts that have an unsafe school as defined by law. It requires that students who attend a persistently dangerous public elementary or secondary school as determined by the New Jersey Department of Education or become victims of a violent criminal offense while in or on school grounds of a public school that they attend that they be allowed to attend a safe public school within the district. This does not apply to us.

Policy 2464 – Gifted and Talented Students – There are some minor revisions. The Superintendent will take into consideration the programming standards of the National Association for Gifted Children when developing Gifted and Talented programs. It also talks about the identification process to include multiple measures that could include achievement test scores grades and intelligence tests, student performance and a variety of what the programs could also include.

Policy 2622 – Student Assessment. Administrative code has been updated to incorporate the end of course PARCC assessment requirements and provides detailed assessments for English Language learners. The updated code also includes that students shall take all appropriate state-wide assessments as scheduled in grades 3-12. It also updates New Jersey Student Learning Standards and then gives some information on what the Board of

Education must do for students in grades 9-12 as a part of their transcript.

Policy 3160 and 4160 is the Physical exam for Teaching Staff Members and Support Staff. There was a slight change to the administrative code. It requires a physical exam for candidates who have received a conditional offer of employment. A condition of employment offer can be rescinded if it is determined the candidate is unable to perform with reasonable accommodations, job related functions pursuant to ADA. Additional exams are a couple of options of which we have drug testing. Regulation is pretty much the same as the policy except it gives some information on how to rescind a conditional offer of employment and also addresses to mandate the tuberculosis test.

Policy 5460 – High School Graduation – New Jersey Student Learning Standards has been updated. It's implied that the commissioner will be determining and publishing the substitute competency test and cutoff scores on a regular basis. There are details regarding the state-wide assessment graduation requirements and alternate assessments to the end of course PARCC assessments. It also provides requirements for early graduation. And then the superintendent prior to September 30th. A public meeting must provide a wide variety of information regarding the students who have graduated, those who haven't graduated, they do so with a substitute competency test process so there is a whole slew of information that the superintendent before September 30th will be provided to us.

Policy 5465 – Early Graduation - This was abolished because the requirements for early graduation have now been incorporated in policy 5460.

Policy 7446 – School Security Program – The law now enables municipalities to hire class three special police officers that can exercise full powers and duties similar to permanent full time officers by providing security to public school while in session. We are doing an SRO officer in this particular district but it does give you complete information on the different variety of security programs you can have in your school districts.

Policy 8350 – Records Retention – This is a new policy that is recommended. Records must be retained according to the schedules published by the New Jersey Department of Treasury/Records Management Services. The schedules change often which is why specifics of the schedules are not listed in the policy. The timely destruction of records once the retention period has expired is important to a good records management program. Disposal of school records must be approved by the Records Management Services.

Policy 9210 is the only other policy that and that has been discussed enough.

Public Relations
Shared Services
Special Education

Transportation
Traffic Liaison
SEPAC Liaison
Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Boyle said that there are various bills in legislation between the House and the Senate. They are still working on an equitable school funding formula.

Mrs. Miller said that she and Mrs. Boyle attended the New Jersey School Boards Delegate Assembly. New Jersey School Boards is not increasing their dues for the eighth year in a row. They stress that training is the heart of New Jersey School Boards. We need to be the best board members we can be. Training is important. They offer numerous training courses for board members and encourage all board members to take additional training courses. They also advise us it will be four days of workshop this year from October 23rd to October 26th. We heard reports from finance, special education committee and the task force on student achievement were presented. There were two resolutions. Edison had a proposal. The New Jersey School Boards Association believes New Jersey Charter School and high quality suburban school districts erode the operations of public education by draining badly needed financial resources. That was Edison's proposal. The resolution committee opposed the resolution and some of the discussion was they found the difficulty in the fact that charter schools or public schools to the same exact extent as traditional counties of special services and vocational school districts. Charter schools offer an alternative public education setting to parents. NJSBA cannot logically assent that charter schools erode the operation of public education in New Jersey. The other thing they said was a resolution evidences of potentially biased impact because it only applies to suburban districts. There was a lot of discussion on this and it was tabled and sent back to the committee to relook at it. 64% voted yes to table it and send it back to the committee and 36 voted no so it did go back to committee.

The second resolution is from Waterford Township. The NJSBA believes the statute should be amended by the legislature to allow for a shared superintendent for no minimum time period and to be done on an as-needed basis. The law actually says arrangements of this nature must be not for less than three years or more than five. The recommendation from NJSBA was they believe that a local Board of Education should have the legal authority to enter into a shared superintendent arrangement with another Board of Education on a limited short term basis when unforeseen or emergent circumstances give rise to a temporary vacancy as the CSA position. 78% voted yes, 22% voted no so this was passed.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jessica Spina, 133 Daniel Street, said that as a parent, she is against this policy 9210. She said that she is very confused as to why you would push someone out who is willing to donate their time and when it's really hard to find parents who have the time to do these things. Why would you do that? She is against it and said she really hopes that other

board members would realize that this is a bad idea because if you have someone who is willing to give their time why would you tell them no. Ms. Spina said that she is always helping at her children's schools and it is really hard to find people that are willing to help. She understands that people work and it's hard. She asked why you would turn away someone who is willing to do something for free because they want to do it for the children. She said that she is confused and asked if someone can answer her.

Mr. Seesselberg said at this point everybody has discussed their personal reasons for moving this forward but we thank you. Ms. Spina said, as a parent, she is against it.

Georgeann Cochrane said to Mr. Cassio that she is very sorry that you gave up your position with the boys because she believes if you people would put this to the people in this town you wouldn't have had to do that. She said that she has sat on several boards: Pop Warner, Booster Club and she is currently the President of the Cheer Parents Association. She is a grandmother and does not have anyone in the schools. She has had to do it for three years because no one steps up. At our meetings we have our four board members. Three of those members do not have children in the schools. We have people in this town and she said she's lived here all her life, that are willing to give back to their community and she thinks it's disgusting that you people, whoever you are, want to take this away from people that have given to our children and our grandchildren and make them stop doing something that other parents don't have the time to do because every parents is not like my mother and father where they didn't have to work two jobs. They have to work two jobs to put their kids through school. They have to work two jobs to go through college and she thinks this is an awful bill and she believes that if the public knows about this and she is certainly willing to let them know from her point of view that this would never be passed. She said that she was sorry to Mr. Cassio that he had to give that up because she feels you should be able to do whatever you want to do, that's why we live in this country. We can do what we want to do and especially when it comes to our children.

Madeline Christilles – 1305 Tooz Place said that she had no intention of coming up here and saying anything. This is the first Board of Education meeting she's been to in a long time and she's really very upset by it. She does not believe in this policy. She is a taxpayer and a parent of three children who have come through these schools, one of which is still in the high school. She has been a member of the PTO at Franklin School, she has been a member and a board members of the PTO at Grant School, she's been a member of the PTO at the Middle School and she has been a Board Member with the Music Boosters at the High School for the past seven years. In a perfect world, we wouldn't need our Board of Education members to run our PTOs. It would be wonderful if the parents would step up and do it but they don't and she knows with Grant School and the Middle School the challenge really is that parents have been on the PTOs for let's say five years when they come from the K-4 Schools. They are coming into Grant School. The fifth grade parents say that they are new and don't really know what they are doing, we'll wait. And then the 6th grade parents are going well, my kids on their way out so I'm going to take a break. Then they get to the Middle School and the same thing

happens. We are hard-pressed to get anybody to help at Grant School because it is a two year school and at the Middle School because it's a two year school and then you get to the high school and the parents are like, ok, I'm going back to work now. My kids are older. I'm with the music boosters and we have 150 kids in the music program and we have maybe 20 members in the Boosters and maybe six or seven of them will come out on a regular basis to help with anything. In a perfect world, we shouldn't have Board of Education members doing this and other people are certainly capable of coming up and volunteering to do it. Maybe if we worked a little harder to bring people in but she doesn't think it's going to make that much of a difference. So if they are willing to do it then she doesn't see why. She said the only reason why she sees this policy is in place just sitting here in the cheap seats is because there is a personal thing going on here. She said that's what she sees. Somebody has it out somebody else and that's all she sees.

Mr. Cassio said to Ms. Cochrane, just for clarification, the policy states that you cannot hold an executive position. When he resigned his position to the baseball association, he let them know that he will still be retained as a member and he can help in any way moving forward like he has done in the past. He is not going to alter that. He said that being involved as much as he is, there are times that he loses faith in the parents who want to volunteer and he gets disgusted at times and then he gave an example of how he needed 30 volunteers and 40 volunteers showed up when asked at the last minute. He was not hopeful that it was going to happen but his hope was back when they showed up. So it's there, it's sporadic but it does happen so it gives him a little reason to believe that there are a lot of people that do want to help.

Shannon Jeffries, 460 Joan Street, said that we just had a wonderful graduation ceremony. Our students gave great speeches. One child referred to having passion, finding your passion, if we have people that are passionate about helping our students, why are we kicking them out? We don't tolerate bullying in our school. We will not tolerate it on our board.

Mr. Seesselberg said with regards to that, we are not kicking them out. They can still be members, they just can't be officers. They can still participate like Mr. Cassio has done with his group. They just can't be one of the named executive officers in their bylaws. He said that sometimes you just have to walk away. If the program falters, someone will step up and get it going again. If there is a vacuum of leadership I think the average adult and some of the above average adults will say, hey listen, the kids need this. The adults need this. The school needs this. I'm going to step up and give it a shot or I'll get some people and I'll keep the program going.

Ms. Cochrane said that's a sport and in this town, sports are number one.

Stephanie Woolick, 123 Rahway Lane, said that she knows a lot of people on this committee and she feels terrible that there is fighting and bickering because there is a lot of good people who do a lot of good things. Their hearts in the right places. She asked if this is going to come for discussion again next month or is this going to be the final say.

Mr. Seesselberg said it could be later tonight or it could be next month. It depends on our next meeting.

Ms. Woolick said that's really a shame to, again, put this as a priority. How long have we been here tonight? She said that she missed her son's basketball game tonight because she felt this was important to be here and to say that we can't come back or have other support come next month. For something that the State has already said ethically that this is not a problem and for these twelve people here to argue about good people who want to do good things. She said that she is very hurt. She is hurt because she likes the people here and she hates that there is this argument. If you feel that anybody should be intimidated to go into our schools that our teachers or parent should be intimidated then nobody on this board who has children should go into the schools because you might intimidate somebody and you have children whose parents are on this board so that is a horrible thing to think that people will be afraid of you that you shouldn't be able to be in our schools for any reason whatsoever. She said that she is ashamed to have heard that.

XIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Anesh said that she is disappointed. She thought Mrs. Miller had a great idea that would compromise by reaching out to the ethics commission directly and getting a ruling from them before we made a decision on this policy. She feels like the public has different opinions than what has happened tonight and she feels, as elected officials, they are supposed to listen to them. She feels like if people want to change in leadership, all they need to do is come to a meeting. She said that's how she got involved. She didn't just decide to take up leadership one day. She actually showed up, saw that there was nobody there and decided to help. If more people did that maybe we wouldn't be in this situation that we are in now and she finds it very unfortunate because she thinks that we are supposed to do what's best for our children and as elected officials she thinks we are supposed to listen to our constituents and she thinks that we should defer to the ethics commission like we do for everything else.

Mr. Chapman said, commenting on 9210 as well, that nobody is being told that they cannot volunteer. Nobody is being told that they cannot participate. He personally thinks that it's a good idea to not be an executive position on the PTO as well as being a board member. If you are in it for the kids then you are in it for the kids. Keep on volunteering. Keep on doing what you want to do but as president, vice president or any officer, you have a lot more access to the building. They can come and go as they please and when you're in that position he feels as though employees can feel uncomfortable and he just doesn't think that it's necessary. You can still be a PTO member, volunteer, run the dance, do all that just let somebody else hold the executive positions.

Mrs. Boyle said we are tired of playing games. And we just don't have access to walk into the school anytime we want. We have to sign in and we have to give a reason why we are there and the principal oversees that and when we come in those buildings the

principal notifies the superintendent when we are there and why we are there. We don't hang in the schools. She said that she believes Dr. Lishak already called the Middle School and the High School to find out that information and both principals said that we are not there.

Dr. Lishak said to Mrs. Boyle that is true but she does not get a call from the principals to tell her when you are in the building and what you are there for. That is not true. Mrs. Boyle said that it's always been like that. Dr. Lishak said that in the length of time that she has been there, she does not get a call from the principal. Mrs. Boyles said, ok, past practice. Dr. Lishak said it doesn't matter, in elementary as well. So it's not just you and Mrs. Miller. She doesn't get a call from elementary or anybody.

Mrs. Boyle said we go to so many events that these schools hold, we go to concerts, the Memorial Day program, the mud run, the Riley walk for Cancer, etc. We are there because we support the students. We're there because we want to show that we care about the kids in this town, which we do. She said that she always said she would not walk away until somebody stepped up, that she could show them the ropes of how to do the PTO, still nobody stepped up to do that. She would not walk away. This Board does not define me and Mr. Cassio, you are still involved as a safety officer in the Baseball Club, which is great, you do a lot of good things for this town but now it's being segregated that you can be on this committee and you can't be on that committee when it all deals with the students in this town.

Mr. Cassio said you are correct, he stepped away from the High School affiliated association. SPJBC along with the soccer club, the football club and anything that is outside of the school is not correlated with this. We are talking about booster clubs, music boosters, anything to do with the school.

Mrs. Miller said that she just wanted to say congratulations to the student athletes and their coaches. Our district should be proud of all of the exceptional extracurricular programs we offer to our students and our athletic program is one that gives our students another avenue to shine and excel. Project graduation was fantastic. Our students had a great time. There was plenty of food, activities and entertainment. Our students were able to celebrate together on one of the most important nights of their life. The parent chaperones expressed to me how grateful they were for providing such a special event for our students and keeping them safe. They were amazed when they walked in and saw what Project Graduation was all about and what we provided for their children. One of the students remarked to his friends as he finished an activity, what a great time he was having and that they went to the best high school ever.

Mrs. Miller gave a heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Terri Pileggi who worked alongside her for many long hours to make Project Graduation possible. She thanked Barbara Minutti for her help and Patty Porzio for her early stage help. Both weren't able to attend project Graduation this year because of previous commitments but they have done so in the past years. A big thank you and appreciation to Debbie Boyle who helped set up in the

afternoon, again, only the two of us and was there all night and we were the last two standing at 7:00 in the morning. Only two of us. Thank you to John Farinella and Bill Seesselberg for their help. Thank you to our administrators, Kelly Richkus, Kevin McCann, Pat Sarullo and especially Ronnie Spring for all of their help in making this event possible. She also gave a special shout out to Pat Sarullo who realized at the end that we had hardly anybody there to help us clean up out of 250 students, 500 parents plus all the younger kids as well so he stayed through the entire cleanup and he just want to say that his help was so very much appreciated. Thank you to Officer Pete Magnani and EMT Jacob Batista for being there as well. We were honored to have Mayor Matt Anesh and Councilman Derryck White to help out. They have been coming to project Graduation for about five years now. She thanked the volunteers and chaperones who helped out. Another special shout out to Barbara Bythel who was one of our chaperone coordinators. She was there the entire night and when she realized how shorthanded we were at the end, she also stayed to help us clean up. Thank you to Nicole Plate who was another chaperone coordinator and was there all night and another shout out to Denise O'Connor who again was there all night and when she saw how shorthanded we were at the end she stayed to help us clean up as well. Thanks to Coach Fergusen, John Fergusen for running our volleyball contest and thank you to Laurie Perall, Barbara Bythel and Nicole Plate who reached out to parents via e-mail, social media, phone calls, when we needed additional volunteers and chaperones and it looked like perhaps Project Graduation might not occur. They really went to town to try to get chaperones and still we were still short but we still ran it. She said she can't thank everyone enough for making this night so special for our seniors. This event is so special to our students, our district and our community. As you can see from the other professionals in our town who attend and she is proud and hopes to continue to do this event. We celebrated our 29th year and doesn't know if we'll have our 30th. She just don't know that we'll get the people to step up to do it.

Mrs. Miller said that she attended the National Honor Society and Spanish and French Honor Society Induction ceremonies and would like to congratulate all of the inductees and thank the advisors for all they do. Our foreign language honor societies require a high level of scholarship and achievement of foreign language while the National Honor Society requires outstanding academics, character, leadership and service to others. These students should be proud of their accomplishments. I am a member of the hall of fame committee and we honored our inductees, Chrissy Buteas, Linda Dashuta and William Price at a luncheon. They were chosen for their many accomplishments and service.

The senior awards ceremony took place this month as well at the high school. Numerous scholarships were awarded to our students for their excellence in academics, activities, leadership and community service. They should be proud of their achievements. The high school spring concert performance was just absolutely spectacular. The kids and the advisors did a wonderful job. I also attended the music booster and athletic booster club and these organization do a great job as well. They provide a lot to our students, again, they are a small group of volunteers who do everything but the dinners were wonderful

the awards were great and thank you to those volunteers who devote their time for our students.

Although High School graduation was inside this year, it was still a wonderful ceremony. Congratulations to all of our seniors. She wished them continued success in all they do in the future, remember to follow your dreams and reach for the stars, believe in yourself and be the best you can be.

Mrs. Miller said that she just has one more thing to say she has to get credit for it. She attended a policy on law seminar this month and also attended information sessions on who gets RICED, special education update and collective bargaining in today's environment.

Mrs. Boyle thanked Mohn's Florist for all of the donations that they continually give to this district, unselfishly. You don't know how much it's appreciated. Also, to Hannah Rhodes who is a 16 year old junior in our high school. While this was not a school project, Hannah did the Field of Honor. She did that whole Field of Honor with the help of her parents on her own. It was an amazing ceremony so again, she raised \$5,110 which was donated to the food pantry of South Plainfield. So, again, amazing job to Hannah, our 16-year-old junior who will not move up to be a senior.

Mrs. Miller thanked Mohn's florist. If anybody has ever attended Project Graduation they do a beautiful balloon arch, huge, white and blue balloons for our students. She really appreciates it. They do it every year. Thank you so much.

XIV. AGENDA APPROVAL

RESOLVED, that the agenda for the regular public meeting on June 21, 2017, as may have been modified, is hereby approved.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis

SECOND: Mr. Glover

VOTE: 9-0

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the board, there was a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis

SECOND: Mrs. Glover

VOTE: 9-0

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Damato
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

