

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

Committee of the Whole Meeting & Public Budget Hearing and Adoption
Wednesday, May 1, 2019 - 6:30 P.M.
South Plainfield High School
200 Lake Street
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

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.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Chapman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. SALUTE TO FLAG

III. ROLL CALL- Alex Benanti
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Present: Mr. Both, Mr. Giannakis, Mr. Pennisi, Mrs. Wolak,
Mr. Cassio, Mr. Chapman

Absent: Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Farinella, Mrs. Miller

Also Present: Dr. Noreen Lishak, Superintendent; Ms. Mary Malyska, Assistant
Superintendent; Mr. Alex Benanti, Business Administrator; Mr. Joseph
Roselle, Legal Counsel

IV. BOARD PRESIDENT

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 3, 2019.

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. BOARD REVIEW OF 2018/2019 BOARD GOALS

1. Continue to search for a permanent Business Administrator
2. Continue to ensure that all referendum projects are completed at or under budget and in a timely manner
3. Reassess the Board Committee structure

Mr. Chapman said that he would like to take a couple of minutes to review where they stand with their board goals for the 2018-19 school year. Goal number one was to search for a permanent business administrator which is accomplished.

Goal two is to continue to ensure that all referendum projects are completed at or under budget and in a timely manner. The board is doing a really good job on that as well.

Mr. Chapman said that the third goal was to reassess the board committee structure. He said that the committees were structured into the business committee, the education committee and the public committee. He said that the board also restructured the policy to get the appropriate wording.

Next, Mr. Chapman said that he would like to have a discussion about the timing of when the committees are structured. He said that he always found it peculiar that the committees would change in January. He said that he would like to discuss having the committees set up for July 1 and have them run through June 30. That way the committees aren't interrupted halfway through the school year.

Mr. Giannakis said that he agrees with it and he thinks that it makes sense. He said that he thinks that the only reason it changes is because of reorganization and sometimes there is a new President but he thinks that it makes perfect sense.

Mrs. Wolak asked about new board members coming on. Mr. Chapman said that there are always new board members that come on and you just have to insert them into the committees. It may not necessarily be in the same position. If someone didn't get re-elected that was the chair of a committee, you would probably not put a new person in that position. You would bump up an existing member to the chair position and the new member will be a part of that committee.

Mr. Chapman said that there are pros and cons to everything and said to give it a little further thought and then address it again in June. He said that Dr. Lishak has surveyed the county about when different districts set their committees up and we will hand this out and everybody can take a look.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Lishak said that her report this evening is the budget presentation.

VII. AGENDA ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

1. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

VIII. 2019/2020 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

A. Presentation of the 2019/2020 Budget

Dr. Lishak and Mr. Benanti presented the budget. Following the presentation, Dr. Lishak thanked the board because they were involved every step of the way with what needed to be done. She said that we took a look at the projects that we could fund and the projects that absolutely needed funding. She said that she knows that the board was adamant that they did not want to cut any program that we already had in place. She said that we wanted to maintain and add to the curriculum portion of the budget and she thanked the board for allowing that to be put into this year’s budget.

Mr. Chapman congratulated and thanked everybody who put the hard work into the budget, including the school principals who contribute a lot to the budget as well. He said that it is a hard thing to do when you have a limit of a two percent increase and then the State reduces your funding. He said that everyone did a stellar job on this. The finance committee, under Mr. Cassio’s direction, did a really good job. It is a solid budget and everything looks good. He said that he believes that the district is in a good spot.

B. Public Comments on the 2019/2020 Budget

IX. CURRICULUM/STUDENT ACTIVITIES

DISCUSSION

X. FINANCE

A. Adoption of Final 2019/2020 Budget

RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the adoption of the final 2019/2020 Budget and authorize the Business Administrator to submit same to the Middlesex County Superintendent of Schools as follows:

Fund 10	\$63,504,357
Fund 20	\$ 1,527,800
Fund 40	\$ 2,817,345
Total Budget	\$67,849,502

As per N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3(a), the proposed budget provides for a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for travel appropriation of \$40,000.00. \$40,000.00 was budgeted in the 2018/2019 school year, of which \$23,314 was spent to date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves the following amounts to be raised by taxes, which in final form, will be submitted to the Middlesex County Superintendent of Schools on or before May14, 2019.

General Fund	\$49,853,136
Debt Service	\$ 2,343,427

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves the use the Health Care Cost Adjustment of \$250,000.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves the appropriations from the following accounts for the 2019/2020 school year:

Maintenance Reserve	\$ 974,116
Emergency Reserve	\$ 1,972
Capital Reserve	\$1,255,000

B. Award Bid #09-19 – Proposed Toilet Room Renovations at Kennedy & Riley Schools

WHEREAS, the South Plainfield Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18:18A-1 (et seq.) advertised for sealed bids for Bid #09-19 – Proposed Toilet Room Renovations, Kennedy & Riley Schools on March 23, 2019; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with that advertisement, the bids were received, publicly opened and read aloud in the Conference Room in the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Avenue on April 18, 2019. A total of five (5) bids were received.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the bid be awarded to Lanyi and Tevald, Inc . 439 Route 46 East, Rockaway, NJ 07866 in the amount of \$350,425.00, including a \$50,000 contingency allowance, subject to the terms and conditions of a contractual agreement pending review by Board counsel, and which the Board President is authorized to execute on behalf of the Board.

C. Award Bid #10-19 – Proposed Exterior Door Replacements at South Plainfield Middle School

WHEREAS, the South Plainfield Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18:18A-1 (et seq.) advertised for sealed bids for Bid #10-19 – Proposed Exterior Door Replacements at South Plainfield Middle School on March 23, 2019; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with that advertisement, the bids were received, publicly opened and read aloud in the Conference Room in the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Avenue on April 18, 2019. A total of two (2) bids were received.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the bid be awarded to C & M Door Controls, Inc., 20 Markley Street, Port Reading, NJ 07064, in the amount of \$173,500.00, including a \$20,000 contingency allowance, subject to the terms and conditions of a contractual agreement pending review by Board counsel, and which the Board President is authorized to execute on behalf of the Board.

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

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis

SECOND: Mr. Both

VOTE: 6-0

XI. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

XII. PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Giannakis reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee has not yet met this month.

Curriculum

Mr. Pennisi reported that the curriculum committee met on April 30th at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were himself, Ms. Malyska, Mr. Cassio and Mrs. Wolak. They discussed the testing that is this time of year. He said that the Middle School and Grant School start on May 1st with ELA and then Math. Science will be at the high school, grade 11, on May 20th; at the middle school on May 29th and in Grant School on May 13th and 14th.

Mr. Pennisi said that there is an NAO robot grant that Mrs. Garrison is working on. There is a parent academy on May 14th. The fair will be the ELA and Best Practice Fair that day. He said that one student was accepted into the summer research program at Rutgers where that student will be published in an academic science journal. He said that Dynamic Learning Math Testing for students not taking the NJLA will be completed by May 15th.

Mr. Pennisi said that the elementary grading committee met and they do have a recommendation but that recommendation is going to be shared with the staff instead of with me and the public first. Summer reading will be online through e-mail distribution on May 20th. Math summer assignment will be optional this year. They will not count it but it will be suggested that the students work on it. The Grant School Honor Roll committee is looking at eliminating the fifth grade honor roll because they are still

considered elementary and it is a lot of pressure. They decided to have the parents do a survey and get feedback for that committee. He said we should have some results for the next committee meeting.

Mr. Chapman asked who is on the Grant School Committee. Ms. Malyska said that the committee is made up of Grant School administration, teachers, as well as community members and a student.

Finance

Mr. Cassio announced that that committee is scheduled to meet next week.

Policy

No Report

Public Relations

No Report

Shared Services

Mr. Cassio said that there has not been a meeting yet this month but they plan on having one by the end of the month.

Special Education

Mr. Both said that there has not been a meeting yet this month but they were waiting for some clarification on an issue that arose and that has been clarified. There will be a meeting within the next week or two as they continue with visiting the classrooms along with the Director of Special Services. The committee can actually get out there and see what our teachers and our staff needs to support special education in the district.

Mr. Chapman said that the committees are doing a fantastic job getting out there and getting into the schools and observing what it is going on. It is really important to understand so that is a great job.

Traffic Liaison

No Report

SEPAC Liaison

No report

Legislative Liaison

No report

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

XIV. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Cassio commended Dr. Lishak and the public authorities today. There was a little scare this morning and it all came together very quickly. He said that the response and the communication to the parents was tremendous. Although it was proven to be false, he said that he saw the response to the police officers and how we got the communication out to the parents quickly. He said he just wanted to commend everyone.

Mr. Chapman said that he's not going to repeat what Mr. Cassio said but that he is in full agreement. He said that one of the things in the budget that he is really excited about is our one-to-one initiative for the Middle School and the High School.

Mr. Chapman reminded the Board Members that if you are not going to be at a meeting you have the responsibility to let the President know, especially if you are to give a committee report. He said that you should let the President know and perhaps we can get someone else to give that committee report on your behalf.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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. Pennisi VOTE: 6-0

XVI. AGENDA APPROVAL

RESOLVED, that the agenda for the regular public meeting on May15, 2019, as may have been modified, is hereby approved.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis SECOND: Mr. Pennisi VOTE: 6-0

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business of the board, there was a motion to adjourn at 7:44 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis SECOND: Mr. Pennisi VOTE: 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Benanti
Business Administrator/Board Secretary