

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

**Committee of the Whole Meeting– Wednesday, November 7, 2018 - 6:30 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 6:30 p.m.

II. SALUTE TO FLAG

III. ROLL CALL- Stephen Fried

Assistant Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Present: Mrs. Anesh, Mr. Both, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Giannakis, Mr. Pennisi,  
Mrs. Wolak, Mr. Seesselberg

Absent: Mr. Cassio, Mr. Chapman

Also Present: Dr. Noreen Lishak, Superintendent; Ms. Mary Malyska, Assistant  
Superintendent; Mr. Stephen Fried, Assistant 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 8, 2018.

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

Dr. Lishak thanked Mr. Seesselberg and reminded all students, parents and guardians that the end of the first marking period for grades 5-12 is November 12<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Lishak reviewed the conference dates. Grant School conference are November 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 12:15 – 2:00 p.m. Middle School conferences are November 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. High School Conference are scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. Elementary conferences are scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:15 p.m. The elementary school trimester ends on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Appoints for parent/guardian conferences must be made through the Genesis Parent Portal prior to the conference date. Dr. Lishak said to please log in and make your conference appointment.

Dr. Lishak reminded everyone that district will be holding a workshop called, Resources and Strategies for Academic Success. This is the first in a series of workshops based on student/parent/staff survey results to be held throughout the school year. The workshop will be held here in Douth Plainfield High School on November 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. with a keynote speaker from Rutgers, followed by a number of breakout sessions for parents, guardians and students on developing skills to assess their child's success in school through study skills. Representatives from Middlesex County will also be available to provide parents and guardians with various resources available through the county. A flyer will be sent home shortly so the parents and guardians will have more information.

Franklin School had the South Plainfield Fire Department come in to speak to all of the students about fire safety. They met with each grade separately to make it an age-appropriate lesson. Dr. Lishak thanked the PTO for the Halloween door decorating contest. Dr. Lishak reminded that Franklin School will be holding their big Veteran's Day Program on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Kennedy School will also be holding their Veteran's Day Program and that will take place on Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

The Middle School will be holding their Veteran's Day Program on Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Lishak reminded all South Plainfield residents that our Varsity football team won the first round game of the playoffs and they will compete against Rahway in the sectional semi-finals this Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the River Park in Rahway.

Dr. Lishak announced that all fall sports are completed and High School winter sports

wilil begin on November 12<sup>th</sup> for bowling and swimming. Girls and boys basketball and wrestling will start on November 19<sup>th</sup> and winter track is looking to get underway on November 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Boyle asked for clarification on the date for High School conferences because there is a discrepancy between the announced date and the date on the website. Dr. Lishak said that she will check on the date.

VI. AGENDA ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

1. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

VII. CURRICULUM/STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. Approve the Designation of “American Education Week”

Acknowledge the designation of the week of November 12 – 16, 2018 as “American Education Week” to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education.

DISCUSSION

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

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis

SECOND: Mr. Both

VOTE: 7-0

VIII. PERSONNEL

Motion by Member Mr. Giannakis, seconded by Member Mr. Both, to accept the recommendation of the superintendent and adopt the following:

RESOLVED, that the South Plainfield Board of Education approve the following:

(NOTE: Approval of this resolution authorizes the superintendent to submit to the county superintendent applications for emergent hiring and the applicant’s attestation and proof that he/she has not been convicted of any disqualifying crime pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et. seq., N.J.S.A. 18A:39-17 et. seq., or N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4.13 et. seq. This includes background checks and fingerprinting for those employees listed below: (All appointments are contingent upon receipt of proper teaching certification **and the satisfaction of all requirements set forth in P.L. 2018, c.5.** All salary placements are pending receipt of college transcripts verifying degree status and letter stating years of service in other districts, \*denotes mentoring required.)

**VIII.A Resignations, Retirements, Terminations**

RESOLVED, that the South Plainfield Board of Education approve the following:

Code	Name	Action	Position	Location	Date Eff.	Discussion
1.	Toth, Joann	Resign	Substitute Duty Adie	District	10/15/18	

Committee of the Whole  
November 7, 2018

Code	Name	Action	Position	Location	Date Eff.	Discussion
2.	Garris, Ursula	Resign	School Nurse	Franklin School	11/01/18	Revised Date
3.	Mogil, Mark	Retire	Van Driver	Transportation	12/31/18	
4.	Panzarella, Donald	Retire	Teacher	Middle School	12/31/18	
5.	Roman, Janira	Resgin	PT Paraprofessional	Kennedy School	11/05/18	

**VIII.B Leaves of Absence**

Code	Name	Reason	Position	Loc.	Paid FMLA Start Date	Paid Leave (Not FMLA)	Unpaid FMLA Start Date	Unpaid NJFL A Start Date	Unpaid Leave without Benefits	Return Date	Discussion
1.	Employee #: 4880	Paid Medical/ Unpd. FMLA	Special Education Teacher	Grant School		5/11/18	5/16/18		10/23/18	12/03/18	Revised return to work date
2.	Employee #: 4992	Unpd. FMLA	Van Driver	District			11/16/18			01/02/19	
3.	Employee #: 3707	Unpd. FMLA	Elementary Teacher	Roosevelt School			10/12/18			11/05/18	Revised return to work date

**XI.C Appointments, Transfers**

Code	Name	Action	Position	Deg /Step	Salary/ Hrly. Rate	Location	Date Effective	Date Term.	Discussion
1.	Palumbo, Cheryl	Approve	Special Education Teacher	1 BA	\$52,735 (prorated)	Middle School	11/08/18	06/30/19	Acct#: 11-213-100-101-18
2.	Hudzik, Sharon	Transfer	Teacher	8 MA+30	\$67,085	Roosevelt/High School	11/12/18	6/30/19	Will travel to high school 3 days per week for 30 min. instruction sessions Acct#: 11-213-100-101-18

**VIII.D. Adjustments, Stipends, Degree Changes**

Code	Name	Action	Position	Degree/Step/ No. of Hrs.	Salary/ Stipend	Location	Date Effective	Date Term.	Discussion
1.	Vandermark, Marla	Approve	Peer Leadership Advisor	Step 1	\$1250.00	High School	09/01/18	06/30/19	Revised stipend amount because of sidebar agreement (1/2 of \$2500) Acct#: 11-401-100-100-00
2.	Encinas, Anthony	Approve	Peer Leadership Advisor	Step 1	\$1250.00	High School	09/01/18	06/30/19	Revised stipend amount because of sidebar agreement (1/2 of \$2500) Acct#: 11-401-100-100-00
3.	Kriskowksi, Jessica	Approve	Heroes & Kool Kids Advisors	Step 1	\$1250.00	High School	09/1/18	06/30/19	Revised stipend amount because of sidebar agreement (1/2 of \$2500) Revised Acct#: 11-401-100-100-00
4.	Vandermark, Marla	Approve	Heroes & Kool Kids Advisors	Step 1	\$1250.00	High School	09/1/18	06/30/19	Revised stipend amount because of sidebar agreement (1/2 of \$2500) Revised Acct#: 11-401-100-100-00

Committee of the Whole  
November 7, 2018

Code	Name	Action	Position	Degree/Step/ No. of Hrs.	Salary/ Stipend	Location	Date Effective	Date Term.	Discussion
5.	Nye, John	Approve	HS Assistant Wrestling Coach	Step 3	\$6,019	High School	11/12/18	06/22/19	Acct#: 11-402-100-100-22
6.	Newby, Jason	Approve	Paraprofessional	Step 1	\$17.93 per hr.	Roosevelt School	11/08/18	06/30/19	Additional 1 hr. per week to assist special needs students in chorus Acct#: 11-212-100-106-18
7.	Hauck, Dana	Approve	PD Presenter	14 BA	\$62.95 per hr.	District	11/06/18	11/06/18	Plus \$300 for longevity Presenter for iRead presentation—total 3 hrs. Acct#: 11-230-100-101-18
8.	Alers, Chelsea	Approve	Volunteer	N/A	N/A	High School	11/07/18	06/30/19	Volunteer for High School Yearbook Club

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Boyle said that it's sad to see that Coach Panzarella is going to retire. She said that he's been a great teacher and coach for many years.

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

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis

SECOND: Mr. Both

VOTE: 7-0

IX. FINANCE

1. Accept 2016/2017 Extraordinary Aid

Accept the 2016/2017 Extraordinary Aid in the amount of \$378,820, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that \$154,201 is allocated to the 2017/2018 Budget for appropriation in account number 11-000-100-569-18 Tuition-Other.

2. Accept 2017/2018 Extraordinary Aid

Accept 2017/2018 Extraordinary Aid in the amount of \$287,164, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that \$62,545 is allocated to the 2018/2019 Budget for appropriation in account number 11-000-100-569-18 Tuition-Other.

3. Approval to Transfer Excess Surplus Funds to the Capital Reserve Account

Approve the transfer of excess surplus in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 to the Capital Reserve Account.

4. Approval to Transfer Excess Surplus Funds to the Maintenance Reserve Account

Approve the transfer of excess surplus in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 to the Maintenance Reserve Account.

5. Approval to Transfer Excess Surplus to the Capital Reserve Account

Approve the transfer of excess surplus in the amount of \$775,000 to the Capital Reserve Account.

6. Approval to Transfer Excess Surplus to the Maintenance Reserve Account

Approve the transfer of excess surplus in the amount of \$225,000 to the Maintenance Reserve Account.

DISCUSSION

Mrs. Boyle asked what all of the transferred surplus funds are going to be used for. Mr. Fried said that this is part of the audit. They provide an excess surplus calculation. Mr. Fried said that this should have been added in June and the auditors are allowing us to do it retroactively. Mr. Fried said that when they showed us the calculation at their exit interview, we decided that we are going to move \$775,000 to Capital Reserve and \$225,000 to Maintenance.

Mrs. Boyle asked if you can use that for programs. She also said that sometimes they give it back to the taxpayers.

Mr. Fried said that when you have excess surplus you either have to budget that all in the next budget year or you can carve it out and push it into different reserve accounts, which is what we do. We budget usually \$800,000 to a Million in the budget and then we carve out certain amounts and put it in our reserve and that is what we are doing.

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

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis

SECOND: Mr. Both

VOTE: 7-0

X. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

DISCUSSION

XI. PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Giannakis said that the Buildings and Grounds committee will be meeting next Tuesday.

Curriculum

Mr. Pennisi reported that the committee met on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Members present include himself, Mr. Cassio, Mrs. Wolak and Mr. Both as well as Ms. Malyska as

the administration representative. The committee discussed two overnight trips for wrestling, the Virginia Duals and the State Tournament in Atlantic City. He said that they received the Model UN trip after the meeting so that can be added to the agenda.

Mr. Pennisi said that they discussed the ESL program and the need to increase staffing to be compliant. They also discussed the possible change in elementary reports cards and changing back to marking periods instead of trimesters. Mr. Pennisi said that they will be creating a K-4 committee to look at that and Mr. Pennisi will be the Board representative on that. Once the report gradings are decided, teacher s will be trained to put grades on the Genesis Parent Portal because elementary schools are not currently doing that.

Mr. Pennisi said that the committee reviewed the list of dual credit offerings as well as student participation. The committee was notified that Riley School was selected to administer the National Assessment of Education Progress Test to approximately 60 random 4<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Mr. Pennisi said that the committee also discussed having more options for students, especially non-college bound stuents. They also discussed the possibility of having a longer and more comprehensive career day and to include more trade careers. The committee also discussed the community workshop which is scheduled for November 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Boyle said that when she was in Trenton a couple of weeks ago they were asking about doing a career day for eighth grade and some type of non-college bound career programs. Mrs. Boyle asled of we can consider doing something like that.

Mr. Pennisi said that was one of Mrs. Wolak's suggestions and it was mentioned that we wanted to bring it down to 9<sup>th</sup> grade and not wait until they are Juniors. Mr. Pennisi said he has no problem and said that they can talk about it at the next committee meeting also or we can let Administration decide. The earlier you get the students involved in that, especially if the student kind of has an idea of what they are interested in, it is perfect to do it before you get set in your ways and go to high school when you are picking your electives and being the number of classes that kids can take as an elective which are very few. It would be nice to have them take what they want early on rather than figure out Junior year.

Mrs. Boyle said that in her report that she gave in October, she talked about in her leadership meeting in Trenton that they are looking to bring down the non-collegebound careers to the eighth grade students so that they see different careers that maybe they will be interested in just like you do with career day here.

Mr. Pennisi said that he is sure that the administration will look into that because he doesn't think anyone is going to object to exposing our kids at a younger age to the things that they can do.

Mrs. Boyle asked if you are planning on doing number grades for the grammer school.

Mr Pennisi said that right now we have the standard based report card that uses 1, 2,3 and 4 and from what Ms. Malyska was telling them was that teachers actually are looking to possibly go back to numbers which would make it easier as far as using Genesis and giving grades than the standards because the standards, you look at the report card and there's just so many, a slew of them so then that came from the teachers so the committee will decide or recommend, not the curriculum committee, the committee of the K-4 which will include a parent, teachers, administrators.

Ms. Malyska said that she had met with the teachers already two different times and just to bring everyone up to speed to talk about how we can start doing elementary gradeing on Genesis and the concern that was presented by the teachers was that if we are using 1, 2, 3, 4 model and standards based, which means you have approximately 16 standards listed for English/Language Arts how would you correlate a grade in your gradebook to represent a 1, 2, 3, 4 sixteen different times for an Ela standard so it was an interesting conversation that went from how can we input these grades electronically to maybe we're not using the right end result as a report card. Ms. Malyska said that she know if we'll necessarily change from a 0 to 100 scale but it is on that table and we are evaluating how we are going to approach entering grades as well as possibliy changing the report card.

#### Finance

Mr. Seesselberg said that there is a Finance Committee Meeting next week.

#### Policy

Mr. Pennisi said that there was no reason to meet this month. He said that if something comes in they can meet, otherwise they will meet in December.

#### Public Relations

No Report

#### Shared Services

No Report

#### Special Education

No Report

#### Traffic Liaison

No Report

#### SEPAC Liaison



No Report

Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Boyle said that they discussed the guidelines that were set forth with regards to transgender. Those guidelines were not par tof the House or the Senate. They came from a taskforce who worked along with the State Department of Education. They are the ones who set the guidelines.

Mrs. Boyle reported that she met with Congressman Pallone and discussed COAH which is a State mandate and not a Federal mandate. She said that there are over 500 districts in New Jersey that have the same issues. She said that Congressman Pallone told us that the local planning board can set certain critera with regards to COAH and when the developers come in.

Mr. Boyle reported that they also discussed federal funding for Special Education and which funding is not met by the Federal Government. She said that we don't receive what we are supposed to. Mrs. Boyle said that they also discussed English Language Learners and that Congressman Pallone was very interested in that and will bring it forward to Congress.

Mrs. Boyle said that they also discussed the school funding formula and the IDEA funds which are not up to date.

The Middlesex County School Boards meeting will take place on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Damato and the Business Administrator for South Brunswick wilil be giving a presentation on the formulation of the school district budget. She said that will be very interesting for anybody that doesn't know how to formulate a budget. Mrs. Boyle said that we are grateful to Mr. Damato for giving that presentation.

DISCUSSION:

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

XIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Boyle congratulated the marching band and the color guard and she said that Mrs. Anesh can give the details about the placements from two weeks ago.

Mrs. Anesh said that we came in second in regions and third in states and 9<sup>th</sup> overall out of 49 bands so that's not too bad considering we did not have a color guard instructor. She said that we just had a couple of previous students helping out our color guard so hopefully next year we will have an instructor and we can do even better.

Mrs. Boyle congratulated them on a great job and thanked the Music Booster Parents who are always there for the students. She also thanked Dr. Lishak for our shared service with

the borough's Public Celebration Trunk-or-Treat event. We had 125 children participate. The south Plainfield Robotics Parent Association and the National Honor Society participated this year in addition to the South Plainfield High School Music Booster Parents along with Mr. Rossow who are a huge part of this event. Mrs. Boyle also congratulated the football team on winning the first round.

Mr. Seesselberg congratulated the football team. They are playing at 7:00 p.m. in Rahway Park this Friday for the second round of the playoffs. He also congratulated Coach Cassio who won the Jets Gatorade Coach of the Week award. He said he couldn't do it without his assistant coaches and his team and congratulated them as well.

Mr. Seesselberg also congratulated the achievement of the High School Music Contingent.

Mr. Seesselberg congratulated Doug Chapman for re-election and John Farinella and Sharon Miller for their return to the Board in January.

#### XIV. 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. Both

VOTE: 7-0

#### XV. AGENDA APPROVAL

RESOLVED, that the agenda for the regular public meeting on November 14, 2018, as may have been modified, is hereby approved.

MOTION: Mrs. Boyle                      SECOND: Mr. Both                      VOTE: 7-0

Dr. Lishak announced that we did verify that the High School conferences are schedule for the 15<sup>th</sup> of November so what is on the website is correct.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the Board, there was a motion to adjourn at 8:13 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis                      SECOND: Mr. Both                      VOTE: 7-0

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Fried  
Assistant Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary