

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

Committee of the Whole Meeting– Wednesday, February 13, 2019 - 6:00 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 6:05 p.m.

II. SALUTE TO FLAG

III. ROLL CALL- Mr. Nilkanth Patel
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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

Also Present: Dr. Noreen Lishak, Superintendent; Mr. Nilkanth Patel, Interim Business
Administrator/Board Secretary; Mr. Joseph Roselle, Legal Council

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.

Mr. Chapman announced that the Board needs to go into a brief executive session to discuss a student matter. The Board returned to public session at 6:38 p.m.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Lishak announced that report cards and honor roll notifications for Grant School, Middle School, and High School are posted on the Genesis Parent Portal.

Due to yesterday's weather, Parent Palooza was cancelled and is rescheduled for Tuesday, February 26th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center. The focus of the workshop will be Understanding Your Child's Social Media Presence and Its Impact on the Classroom. Registration can be completed through the e-mail address listed on the district website.

The District Music Festival is scheduled for March 7, 2019. This is our 50th Annual Music Festival. Tickets can be purchased on the district website with a small service charge or you can send a check directly to your child's music teacher.

The district newsletter has been posted on the district website as well as e-mailed to all parents and guardians with active e-mail accounts. The newsletter highlights all of the wonderful news and happenings in the schools. Please take a moments to read the newsletter and see all of the great things that are happening in the South Plainfield School District.

Our School Resource Officers have donated mailboxes to our elementary schools so that our students and teachers can provide notes on questions they might have or ideas they might have for our school resource officers to address. In addition, our school resource officers will be meeting all of our students in the elementary schools in the next few weeks to talk about building based topics that they find important in terms of safety. They are covering safety topics from walking to and from school, strangers, and social media. They will all be discussed at a grade level appropriate conversation.

The PTOs of Kennedy, Roosevelt, Riley, Franklin and Grant Schools, along with the administration and faculty are busy preparing for the Wizards basketball game on Saturday, March 30th at the South Plainfield High School gym. All schools will be hosting student assemblies to promote the event. Speakers will incorporate character education in the presentation and tickets are available on the district website.

Dr. Lishak reminded parents and guardians to follow the drop-off and pickup procedures at all school buildings. The rules of the buildings are there for the safety of the students and all of the school community. Dr. Lishak said that she is asking everyone to familiarize themselves with the process in order to ensure all students are safely crossing the street in designated crosswalk areas. Students are not dropped off on the opposite side of the street to walk directly into traffic and speed limits are adhered to at all times. Dr. Lishak said that she knows we are all in a rush in the morning but a few extra seconds to follow the rules makes our schools safer for our children and our faculty.

Kindergarten enrollment began on February 4th. Franklin was the 4th-7th. Riley School is the 11th-14th. Roosevelt School is the 19th through the 22nd and Kennedy School is February 26th – 28th. Please go on to the district website for all of the paperwork and information.

We have some great things happening in our schools. Kennedy School is continuing its progress toward reaching their next destination in the Kennedy School reading initiative. So far this school year, the school has traveled over 1500 miles. This means that students have read for a combined 15,000 minutes. Our next stop on the map is Orlando, Florida.

As part of our ongoing initiative to let the public know how wonderful our South Plainfield Schools are, Kennedy School will present at the February 20th board meeting. Dr. Lishak said that she cannot wait to see what Mr. Hajduk and his students and faculty have prepared for us.

Riley School's Student Council held a School Spirit Day to help collect new socks for needy families. Socks are one of the most requested clothing items in homeless shelters. On January 29th, Riley School students and staff were encouraged to wear crazy socks to school and bring in an unused pair of socks to donate to the homeless. Riley School followed up this school spirit day on February 11th by writing kind notes to put in the socks for the people to read.

Roosevelt Elementary School would like to thank all who made Designer Bag Bingo a huge success. Congratulations to all of the winners.

Franklin would like us to know that on Friday, January 25th, the PTO held their Winter Wonderland family dance. It was a great night of pizza, music, and dancing. Franklin School is happy to announce that with help of the entire district, the Franklin Student Council achieved their goal and went far beyond the expectation, collecting enough caps and lids to get two buddy benches. Thank you to all who support the buddy bench program.

Grant School sixth grade students will be visiting the Philadelphia Zoo later this month. The sixth grade science classes have just begun a campaign in conjunction with the Philadelphia Zoo to recycle old cell phones in an effort to help save the Western Lowland Gorillas. Information is listed on the Grant School website. Please take a look at the information and consider donating your old cell phones to this cause. Our students are passionate about saving the gorillas' habitats in the Republic of Congo.

During Black History Month at the Middle School, Mrs. Strayhorn and Mrs. Brandenburg's classes will be facilitating a Black History Bingo event to encourage acceptance, tolerance, and self-care with all history classes.

Several South Plainfield Middle School students participated in the Central Jersey Music Educators Association Region II Intermediate band, chorus and orchestra auditions on

January 26th at the Community Middle School in Plainsboro. This year the following South Plainfield students were selected for the group: Adrianna Nazarko made the symphonic band, Allison Buchanan made the symphonic orchestra, Salma Elgebally and Emma Ballinger made the treble chorus. The concerts for the band, orchestra, and chorus will be held in March.

The South Plainfield High School's Model UN Club participated in the University of Toronto's Model UN conference in Toronto, Canada from February 7th through the 11th. This is the club's first international trip and one of the high school's few international trips. For four students, it represented their first time out of the United States. The trip was highly successful. Six of the 12 students earned awards.

Dr. Lishak congratulated the South Plainfield Competitive Cheer team for finishing undefeated in the regular season. She wished them good luck as they head off to the State Championships in Trenton this Saturday. She said she has seen them almost every weekend and they are fantastic.

Congratulations to the Boys and Girls Winter Track Teams for winning both the Blue Division Relay Title and the GMC Blue Division Title. Congratulations to the South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team for winning their fourth consecutive Group State Championship as well as winning the Red Division Championship and the GMC Championship and the Virginia Duals. This weekend the team will participate in the individual portion of the tournament, District XVII, right here in South Plainfield High School. A win this weekend will make this the 34th consecutive team win for the South Plainfield wrestling team so good luck to our Tigers.

Congratulations to the South Plainfield Girls Basketball Team. The team qualified for the state tournament beginning on February 27th at Governor Livingston High School.

A special congratulations to South Plainfield High School Junior, Mackenzie O'Brien. Mackenzie joins a very exclusive club here in South Plainfield, scoring 1000 points only to follow the accomplishment up by recording her 1000th rebound the very next night. Congratulations to Mackenzie.

Finally, congratulations to Mrs. Mickey Wrublewski. She was named the Directors of Athletic Associations of NJ Administrative Assistant of the year for Central NJ. Congratulations Mickey, we all know you work very hard in the athletic office and it is an honor well-deserved.

A. Presentation of the 2017/2018 Audit Report

Mr. William Swisher of Suplee Clooney and Company provided a brief overview of the audit. He said that the audit report is usually done in November or December, however, there is a new accounting standard that came out this year that made all school districts in New Jersey report the cost of the health benefits paid for all of the school district's retired employees. The numbers were just released two weeks ago.

Mr. Swisher said that they had two recommendations in doing the audit. The first recommendation is that all contracts awarded under State Cooperative Purchasing Program that are in excess of the bid threshold be awarded by resolution of the governing body. The district bought some items through state contract and the aggregate total was over the bid threshold.

The other recommendation was that the capital assets ledger be accurately maintained. In years past you had an outside company doing your capital assets. This past year it was done inhouse and there were problems with the ledger. He said that they were reviewed with the business administrator and that needs to be fixed for next year.

Mr. Swisher said that from a financial perspective, the district is once again in good shape. The district started the year out with a surplus of \$8,684,552 and ended with \$9,858,775.

Mr. Swisher asked if there were any questions. Mrs. Boyle said, on page 74 of your report, the compensated absences says a liability existed. There is no liability now as of June 30th for the absences. Mr. Swisher said that there is always a liability at year end for anybody that could retire. So you may have paid people out during the year but then that liability is for anybody who could possibly retire at that point in time. Mrs. Boyle asked if that creates an issue and Mr. Swisher said no.

Mrs. Boyle said that in a bid, if the lowest bidder had issues in the past in the district, the board can do a resolution not to accept the lowest bidder. She asked if that is correct and said you don't have to go to court or file anything. Mr. Swisher said that you just have to show that there was a problem in the past. Mrs. Boyle said that is very important and thanked Mr. Swisher

Mr. Swisher thanked Dr. Lishak and her staff. He said that it is not always easy to deal with the auditors and said that her staff was very helpful and he appreciates that.

VI. AGENDA ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

1. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

VII. CURRICULUM/STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- A. Approval of the 2019/2020 School Calendar and Paid Holiday List

Approve the 2019/2020 School Calendar and Paid Holiday List as shown in Tab VII.A.

- B. Approval of Revised 2018/2019 School Calendar

Approve the revised School Calendar for the 2018/2019 school year. Due to the use of a snow day on February 11, 2019, March 8, 2019 will now be a half-day session for

students with the rest of the day dedicated to professional development for staff. Tab VII.B

RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the foregoing resolution:

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis

SECOND: Mrs. Miller

VOTE: 9-0

VIII. POLICY

IX. PERSONNEL

Motion by Member Mr. Giannakis, seconded by Member Mrs. Miller, 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.)

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

IX.A Resignations, Retirements, Terminations

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

Code	Name	Action	Position	Location	Date Eff.	Discussion
1.	Dudak, Pamela	Resign	Before/After Care Aide	District	01/11/19	
2.	Mazellan, Marianne	Resign	Before/After Care Aide	District	12/31/18	
3.	Romano, Angelina	Resign	Paraprofessional	Middle School	02/20/19	

IX.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 ID#: 4202	Paid Medical/Unpd. FMLA	Teacher	Roosevelt School		1/22/19	PM of 2/13/19			05/02/19	
2.	Employee ID#: 4202	Paid Personal Days/Unpd FMLA	Teacher	Roosevelt School		05/02/19	05/09/19			05/23/19	
3.	Employee ID#: 3912	Unpd. LOA	Teacher	High School					03/18/19	09/01/19	
4	Employee ID#: 5194	Approve	OT	Special Services			01/07/19			02/14/19	Revised Return Date

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XI.C Appointments, Transfers

Code	Name	Action	Position	Deg /Step	Salary/ Hrly. Rate	Location	Date Effective	Date Term.	Discussion
1.	Wiggins, Thomas	Approve	Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds	N/A	\$120,819	District	07/01/18	06/30/19	Adjusted Salary Acct#: 11-000-261-100-00
2.	Rosa, Jacqueline	Approve	District Accountant II	N/A	\$58,000 (prorated)	District	On or Before 03/04/19	06/30/19	Replacing B. Piesche Acct#: 11-000-251-100-12
3.	Abdelhafez, Asmaa	Approve	Substitute Duty Aide	N/A	\$9.25 per hr.	District	02/14/19	06/30/19	Acct#: 11-000-262-106-00
4.	Bavos- Studlack, Kimberly	Approve	Substitute Paraprofessional Substitute Duty Aide	N/A	\$9.25 per hr.	District	02/14/19	06/30/19	Acct#: 11-000-262-105-00

XI.D Adjustments, Stipends, Degree Changes

Code	Name	Action	Position	Degree/Step/ No. of Hrs.	Salary/ Stipend	Location	Date Effective	Date Term.	Discussion
1.	Lillis, Brittany	Approve	Special Olympics Co-Advisor	Step 5	\$1835.00	District	03/01/19	06/30/19	(1/2 of \$3670.00) Acct#:
2.	Hearne- Pascale, Heather	Approve	Special Olympics Co-Advisor	Step 5	\$1835.00	District	03/01/19	06/30/19	(1/2 of \$3670.00) Acct#:
3.	Lillis, Brittany	Approve	PD Presenter	5 MA	\$49.07 per hr.	District	2/15/19	2/15/19	Presenter for PCI Reading Program 1.5 hrs. total Acct#: 11-212-100-101-18
4.	Hearne- Pascale, Heather	Approve	PD Presenter	5 BA	\$46.86 per hr.	District	2/15/19	2/15/19	Presenter for PCI Reading Program 1.5 hrs. total Acct#: 11-212-100-101-18
5.	Accardi, Arielle	Approve	PD Presenter	2 MA	\$46.57 per hr.	District	2/15/19	2/15/19	Presenter for Inclusion in the Arts 2 hrs. total Acct#: 11-000-216-101-18
6.	Sottiriou, Maria	Approve	Title I After/Before School ELA Program	Maximum of a combined 210 hours	\$41.00 per hour	Riley School	1/22/2019	5/30/2019	Acct#:20-231-100-101-11
7.	O'Brien, Meghan	Approve	Title I After/Before School ELA Program	Maximum of a combined 210 hours	\$41.00 per hour	Riley School	1/22/2019	5/30/2019	Acct#:20-231-100-101-11
8.	Simpson, Kathy	Approve	Title I After/Before School ELA Program	Maximum of a combined 275 hours	\$41.00 per hour	Roosevelt School	1/22/2019	5/30/2019	Acct#:20-231-100-101-11
9.	Gonzalez, John	Approve	6 th Period Special Education	19 MA	\$15,984 (pro-rated)	Grant School	02/19/2019	06/30/2019	Acct#: 11-213-100-101-18
10.	Seesselberg, William	Approve	Volunteer – Drama	N/A	N/A	High School	02/14/19	06/30/19	N/A
11.	Sabino, Melissa	Approve	Volunteer Softball Coach	N/A	N/A	High School	03/01/19	06/14/19	N/A

XI.E. Approve the following resolution for Employee# 4015

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board modifies the leave of absence for employee 4015, and hereby places the employee on a leave of absence

through March 31, 2019 or her return date, whichever is sooner, using sick and personal days. The employee's leave will be unpaid without benefits upon the exhaustion of her available leave days. The leave of absence will be conditioned upon evidence of the employee's filing for disability retirement by March 1, 2019; and be it further Resolved, that any extension of the employee's unpaid leave beyond March 31, 2019 shall continue to be without benefits, the period of which shall be determined upon presentment of medical documentation from the employee substantiating the requested leave of absence, unless the Board takes appropriate action to reinstate benefits at a later date.

XI.F. Approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the South Plainfield Education Association & the South Plainfield Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement with the South Plainfield Education Association & the South Plainfield Board of Education, for the period covering July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis SECOND: Mrs. Miller VOTE: 9-0
Mrs. Boyle recused on Number D.10.
Mr. Giannakis abstained on 11.F.

X. FINANCE

A. Resolution to Establish Permit Fees for Jost Field House Project

WHEREAS, the South Plainfield Board of Education, as part of its referendum project, is constructing a field house at the Jost Field complex; and

WHEREAS, representatives of both the Borough and the Board of Education recently met to determine the appropriate permit fees to be charged by the Borough to the Board for the Jost Field house construction project; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to that discussion, the Borough and the Board of Education have determined that a flat fee amount of \$5,000.00 be established as the permit fee for the project, including, but not limited to, all Borough permit fees and costs of inspection and issuance of the permit,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the permit fee for the Jost Field House project is hereby established at \$5,000.00, inclusive of all costs and fees for same; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education will issue a purchase order to the Borough for the fees as set forth by the parties; and be it further

RESOLVED, that both the Board of Education and Borough adopt this resolution to memorialize the intent of the parties.

B. Authorize Disposal of Personal Property No Longer Needed

Authorize the Board Secretary to dispose of the following personal property no longer needed for public use. If no bids are received, property can be disposed of for scrap:

9 – Cafeteria tables with attached benches – Size 29”H x 30” W x 12’ L - seats 12 – 16

C. Approval of Professional Development Expenditures

RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the following expenditures (registration, mileage, and conference fees), substitutes, and trips, which are compliant with State payment guidelines, employee job responsibilities and critical to the needs of the school district.

	<u>Name of Workshop</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Person Attending</u>
1.	Eating Disorders and Childhood Abuse: Connecting the Dots	2/13/19, 2/20/19	\$200.00 11-000-219-580-18-000	Caitlin Muldowney
2.	Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training Program	2/19- 22/1919	\$3249.00 11-000-219-580-18-000 20-250-200-500-18-000	Andrew Brandon
3.	How to Investigate HIB Claims	2/19/19	\$150.00 11-000-223-580-11	Lisa Campoli

D. Receipt and Acceptance of the Audit Report and Corrective Action Plan for the School Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

WHEREAS, the South Plainfield Board of Education has caused an audit of its financial records to be conducted by a public auditor pursuant to N.J.S.A.:18A-23.1; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Suplee, Clooney and Company has filed such report prior to the date required by state statute; and

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary has prepared a synopsis or summary of the above mentioned report and made same available to the public pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18:23-4;

and

WHEREAS, the findings and recommendations of the auditor as found in the Management Report have been discussed by the Finance Committee of the Board of Education at a meeting held on November 12, 2018; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education does hereby acknowledge receipt of the Audit Report for the 2017/2018 Fiscal Year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan for the 2017/2018 School Year Audit in accordance with the Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative Findings – Financial and Compliance – as shown in Tab X.D.

E. Accept Gift Donation

Accept the donation of fifty (50) tickets to a hockey game from Mr. Aldo Pigna from the New Jersey Devils to be used as Black History Jeopardy Contest prizes for South Plainfield Middle School students during Black History Month.

F. Award Bid #04-19 – Proposed HVAC & Electrical Upgrades – Franklin, Kennedy, Riley, and Grant Elementary 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 #04-19 – Proposed HVAC & Electrical Upgrades – Franklin/Kennedy/Riley and Grant Elementary Schools on January 17, 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 February 7, 2019. A total of ten (10) bids were received.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the bid be awarded to ICC (Industrial Cooling Corp.), 70 Liberty Street, Metuchen, NJ 08840, in the total amount of \$5,580,000.00, 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 resolution:

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis

SECOND: Mrs. Miller

VOTE: 9-0

XI. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

XII. PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Giannakis reported that the committee met on February 11th. In attendance was himself, Mr. Cassio, Mr. Both, Mr. Patel, Dr. Lishak, Mr. Damato and Mr. Yazici. Mr. Giannakis said that there was an HVAC bid update. Bids were opened on February 7th and the low bidder, ICC, was under our budgeted amount. Mr. Giannakis also reported that they discussed that the Middle School HVAC construction units were freezing up so the company came out to repair and there were no further issues. Mr. Giannakis announced that the Middle School window bids will be opened on Thursday, February 14th.

Curriculum

Mr. Pennisi reported that the committee met on February 7th. Members present were himself, Ms. Malyska, Mr. Cassio, Mrs. Wolak, and Mr. Both. The committee reviewed upcoming trips for a team member retreat as well as one for an overnight trip for the cheerleaders to go to the National Championship. The cheerleaders will be fundraising for the trip so there will be no cost to the Board.

The committee also discussed the following: Grant School honor roll committee is reviewing the fifth grade criteria and will report back with their recommendation; Parent Palooza will take place on February 26th; New requirements for National Literacy which was required in 9-12 and will now be required in grades 5-8 beginning next year so that will need to be incorporated; Theatre and dance needs to be incorporated in K-12 and Physical Education can no longer count recess in the elementary schools so they are going to have to figure out a way to meet the required minutes; Grant School met with fire officials to discuss fire prevention and there are online components for students to learn about fire safety; PARCC testing schedule; Franklin and Kennedy Schools will have environmental themed assemblies; There is going to be a grant writing committee set up by Mrs. Garrison. She is putting it together to see if we can get money from other places; There were not many high school portfolios this year which is really good because that means that most students passed with other methods; Scotch Plains/Fanwood visited the Middle School and High School's music programs because they liked what they heard and came to see what it was all about, what the courses are that we have; Preschool open house will be March 26th; Graduation requirements; and the elementary grading committee will meet this month to look at the grading system we are using. They will look at the use of Genesis and the possibility of going back to quarters instead of trimesters.

Finance

Mr. Cassio reported that the Finance Committee met on February 11th at 12:00 p.m. In attendance were himself, Mr. Both, Mr. Giannakis, Mr. Pennisi, Mr. Patel, Mr. Yazici, Dr. Lishak and Referendum Project Manager, James Damato.

Topics discussed include the state aid figures that are being delayed by the Governor. Figures are usually received by the end of February but they are expecting them to be released the first week in March this year.

The committee had a visit from our health insurance broker for the district to discuss potential cost savings strategies for the next fiscal year.

The committee also reviewed the bills list and legal invoice, discussed the status of the food service contract, and discussed current and future tuitions fees for before and after care which will be discussed further at a later date.

Mr. Cassio reported that the committee discussed the new lunch policy that was put in place. To date, the district has received over \$11,000.00 in outstanding fees and also received numerous free and reduced meal applications which puts the district in a much better positon that we were a few months ago.

Policy

Mr. Pennisi reported that the policy committee met on February 5th. Members present were himself, Mr. Cassio, Mrs. Miller, and Mr. Farinella was conferenced in. Dr. Lishak was also in attendance.

The committee reviewed 27 policies, most of which were minor changes that Strauss Esmay sends. The policies will be available online to the public prior to the first reading next week.

There were two bigger changes to two policies. The first is Policy 8601 which is Pupil Supervision After Dismissal. The following was added: “If the parents or persons authorized by the parents appear to be physically or emotionally impaired in the extent that to the judgement of the director or staff member , your child would be placed at risk of harm if released to such an individual, the school district shall ensure that: the child may not be released to such an impaired individual; and Staff members are to contact the students other parent or alternative person authorized by the parents and if that is not available the district will then call the 24-hour State Central Registry Hotline.” Mr. Pennisi said that was put in at the protection of our students for when they are being released.

The other one is Policy 7510. The policy itself was not changed but the fee schedule will be updated. We are trying to be consistent in who is being charged and how much. Dr. Lishak added this to the fee schedule. Nonprofit community based organizations will be responsible for paying the custodial fees.

Public Relations

Mr. Chapman reported that the Public Relations Committee met on January 21st. In attendance were himself, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Cassio, Mrs. Wolak, and Dr. Lishak. The committee reviewed Parent Palooza and ways in which we were going to communicate with the public to try to get attendance to that. We reviewed the district newsletter that was pending to come out. We also discussed uses of social media, our Facebook page, and how we were going to continue to use that to communicate with the public about good and positive information about the district and upcoming events.

Shared Services

Mr. Cassio reported that the Shared Services committee met on January 23rd. In attendance were himself, Dr. Lishak, Mr. Damato, Mr. Both, Mr. Chapman, Councilman Bengivenga, Councilwoman Faustini and Borough Engineer, Len Miller. The committee discussed the SROs. They are implementing programs to increase interaction with the students both during the day and after school.

The committee discussed the hybrid crosswalk on Maple Avenue. He said that we were waiting for a response form the County. Mr. Cassio said that they received a call from the Middlesex County Director of Public Works and Councilman Gary Vesche. The County did award the bid on February 7th. The project now moves into the design phase and then it goes into the construction phase. They are looking at possible Fall of 2019 or Spring of 2020 for installation.

The committee also discussed utilizing the DPW street cleaners for our parking lots. Hopefully they can come in twice a year to clean up our lots and clean up our school district a little bit to help us maintain it.

The committee discussed the Jost Field House permit fees. Mr. Bengivenga suggested that Mr. Damato and Mr. Cullen work out a reduced fee schedule for us to help save the district money. We also discussed putting together a biannual joint newsletter from the town and the school to promote things that are going on in the town.

The committee discussed the DPW getting new gas pumps and doing a possible co-op contract with them once this is put in place. They also discussed the DPW borrowing our leaf blower.

The committee discussed buying some brining equipment for both us and the town and possibly doing a shared service agreement with that. Both Mr. Miller and Mr. Wiggins are investigating pricing on this.

The committee discussed clearing crosswalks after a snow storm. The DPW is having trouble maintaining the crosswalks to try to get the kids to start school on time so they asked for our assistance. Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Miller are working on a schedule to try to coordinate getting this done in a timely manner.

Special Education

Mr. Both said that the committee met here in the High School at the Tiger Café. In attendance were himself, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Wolak, Mr. Pennisi and Mr. Brandon, Director of Special Services. The Tiger Café is a coffee shop essentially run by the MD program which is our special education students in a self-contained classroom. They serve baked goods which they bake themselves as well as coffee, tea, and hot chocolate to not only the adults but also to the students. It is well-received. It allows interaction between these students and students they wouldn't usually interact with and is a great program.

The committee discussed the IEP compliance with Mr. Brandon. Here said that there are just a couple of minor hiccups, essentially with parents that aren't making the meetings because of work conflicts. These are all documented and will be taken care of but there is nothing major out of compliance.

Mr. Both said that they toured the MD life Skills Program. This is a classroom that has washing machines, dryers, as well as cooking facilities. These are things that these students are going to gain at home, generally, but will be reinforced here at school. It's a great program and there is more to come about that.

Mr. Both reported that Mr. Brandon spoke about expanding the Life Program to have some more community-based employment, having our students be able to go out and work in the community and be seen by members in our community rather than be isolated. That used to be the trend 15 years ago and we are trying to get these students out there to be a part of our community.

Mr. Both reported that Mr. Brandon is going to make a presentation on February 19th. It's called, Using Person-centered Approaches in Schools. It is a partnership between our district, Rutgers University, and the NJ Department of Education. All are welcome for that seminar at the Middle School Media Center.

Traffic Liaison

Mr. Cassio reported that there were some concerns with traffic patterns in front of Grant School and Dr. Lishak reached out to Officer Colucci. Mr. Cassio said that they seem to be doing a great job now with more police presence in front of Grant School. There were concerns of parents dropping off across the street as Dr. Lishak mentioned and wanted the police and the SROs to be more present and to direct parents to their proper traffic patterns before someone gets hurt. Mr. Cassio thanked them for their cooperation.

SEPAC Liaison

Mr. Both reported that the SEPAC meeting was initially scheduled for last night and it was changed due to the conflict of the scheduling of the Parent Palooza which was cancelled because of the weather. Both of those events will now be on February 26th.

SEPAC will be in the Media Center at the Middle School. It will be a “Getting Ready for IEP and 504” meeting topic. He said if there is any interest, please come out, it is a great source of information.

Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Boyle reported that the Governor is discussing the IDEA funding. She said that he wants a level playing field for those with disabilities and he wants that directed to that program. Mrs. Boyle said that they spoke about trauma and a setup in classroom space. These are serious events for children who are experiencing constant troubling issues such as emotional adversity, domestic abuse, parent abuse, and incarcerated parents. Mrs. Boyle said that she gave Dr. Lishak a resolution that was set up in San Francisco with regards to the trauma and Dr. Lishak set this program up 12 years ago when she was in Meadow Lakes so she is very on top of this. Dr. Lishak said that she thinks it is a great idea. Mrs. Boyle said that the students need support from the schools and the people around them. They need to have community involvement specialists who help parents work with their children.

Mrs. Boyle also reported the following:

The Governor’s budget presentation will be given on March 5th and the figures will be released on March 7th;

The Governor signed the bill for minimum wage to gradually increase to \$15.00 per hour by 2024. This July it will go up to \$10.00 per hour.

Statewide testing was discussed. She said that Senator Ruiz and Commissioner Lampert are saying that all will graduate even if statewide testing is in place. The classes of 2019 and 2020 will not have a graduation problem.

The Governor has signed into law that there is a 20-minute recess requirement for grammar schools and it cannot be a part of their gym class.

There are ongoing discussions with regards to pensions. She said if the State doesn’t resolve the shortfall on the pensions, money will have to come out of the State budget and not on the backs of the school boards.

The governor signed into law that every school must have a silent alarm.

They are working on sensitivity training for all athletic directors and coaches because of all the recent issues that have come to light and so that should be put into place soon.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Glover, 1324 Jankowski Court, congratulated the Board on an awesome audit. It shows that the district is still moving in the right direction.

Mrs. Glover said that something happened on December 31st where the PARCC was voted out as being the test of choice for graduation. She asked what happens with the class of 2021.

Dr. Lishak said that as of right now, the only information that they provided is what has been released. She said that she is interested to see what they will come up with but we do realize that there will be some type of test but as of right now they haven't specified anything.

Mrs. Glover said that in the past, classes with MCC and Seton hall awarded dual credit for certain courses. She asked if those courses are staying the same and how do they know that in advance. Dr. Lishak said that the classes that are currently listed are the classes that have been confirmed. If other classes are approved, then they will be added.

Mrs. Glover said that in the front of the guide it says that there are courses available for dual credit. She said that they talked to the guidance counselor and it seems like they don't necessarily know if the same courses that we offer are still going to be approved.

Dr. Lishak said that if it is listed and it's in connection with one of our partners they are available. She said that the issue is that the teacher needs to be approved each year. They also have to make sure there is enough students interested in taking the class. She said that they have all intentions of running the classes that are listed but running it depends on how many students are interested and teacher approval.

Mrs. Glover asked, if scheduling is already done, who will parents know if additional courses are being offered. Dr. Lishak said that we would put it out to all of the student and it would be choice. If they wanted to drop one course to pick up a new one that would be a possibility.

Suzanne Ardito, 326 Liboural Road, said that Mr. Cassio is interested in what is being done to rectify the situation with the school meal program. Ms. Ardito said that she had made an OPRA request for information. She said that it was a little bit difficult to deal with because she received a PDF that she couldn't really evaluate. She said that she does have some recommendations for operationally routinely doing school meal applications and things of that nature. She said that she would like to be able to discuss that further to really make sure that it is resolved moving forward.

XIV. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Chapman extended condolences to Mrs. Joffe and her family on the passing of her mom. He said that we all express our deepest sympathy and hope that their family is

dealing with their grief as best as possible.

Mr. Cassio expressed his condolences to the Joffe family. He also expressed condolences to the Alvarez Family. He said that Mike Alvarez passed last week and he knew him personally. He said that he was a good man and he is going to be missed through the Booster Club, Myrtle Beach trip, golf, baseball club and cooking at Friday night football games. Mrs. Cassio said that his presence will be missed.

Mr. Cassio congratulated the high school wrestling team. He said that this is personal to him because he coached a lot of the kids through baseball and he knows how hard they worked to get to this point and what they've sacrificed with eating or not eating and working hard running from practice to practice. He wished them good luck this upcoming week with the individual tournament.

Mr. Cassio said that he wants to give kudos to the administration and to Mr. Wiggins. He said that Mrs. Boyle had mentioned that Governor Murphy had passed Alyssa's Law last week requiring public schools to install silent panic alarms. Mr. Cassio said that we did this before the start of the school year so we were proactive.

Mr. Cassio said that he mentioned in his Shared Services report that Mr. Cullen and Mr. Damato were going to discuss the permit fees for the Jost Field House. The referendum budget for that field house came in a little higher than what we had budgeted for so the savings from the town was greatly appreciated. It is great to be able to work together with them to get projects done and utilize our taxpayer money accordingly to do what is best for everybody and this is not a contest between the town and us and he said that he appreciates them working with us moving forward.

Mr. Giannakis expressed his condolences to Mike Alvarez's family and to Diana Joffe and her family as well. He congratulated the business office and our Superintendent on a great audit.

Mr. Giannakis also congratulate our wrestling team. This is a four-peat for them which is incredible. Mr. Giannakis congratulated our track team, cheer team and girls' basketball team who all had a fantastic weekend. Mr. Giannakis also said thank you for putting up congratulations to our cheer teams, our wrestling teams, our track teams but the track and the cheer are sharing one screen. And for the last ten years we has sign, donated by, can't we give our own kids their own screen instead of sharing it. Dr. Lishak said that someone told her that we now have a plaque so we can take that down.

Mr. Both welcomed home our International Guardsman from Riley School, Senior Airman Martinez. He served us right overseas and he made it home safely. Thank you for your service and welcome home.

Mr. Both said that this past Friday night, there was an event called Night to Shine hosted by the Tim Tebow Foundation. It is a prom for young adults with special needs. Three of our students attended. One of our staff members was a prom date and a spouse of one of

our central office administrators was a prom date. Mr. Both said that an outstanding young lady who was mentioned earlier for doing some very good things on the basketball court was too young to be a prom date but she volunteered her evening to be up there with these young men and she had the time of her life. Mr. Both thanked our volunteers for giving up a Friday night for our students.

Mrs. Boyle sent condolences to Diana Joffe and her family on the passing of her mom, Sylvia. She also offered her condolences to Mike Alvarez's family. She said that Mike was a great guy who was very involved. Mrs. Boyle also offered her condolences to Joan Williams on the passing of her mom.

Mrs. Boyle congratulated Don Panzarella on his retirement and his wonderful farewell dinner. She also congratulates Mickey Wrublewski on receiving the award for the Assistant to the Athletic Director. She said that all of the Athletic Directors voted unanimously to support her.

Mrs. Boyle announced that the baseball team will be hosting their annual used clothing drive on March 23rd across from the PAL behind the pool. She said that they take everything except for toys.

Mrs. Boyle thanked Jim Damato for working on the fee schedule with the Borough. She said that Jim has a great way of working with people and said that he did a great job.

Mrs. Miller offered her condolences to Mike Alvarez's and Sylvia Joffe's families. She congratulated Mickey Wrublewski and also congratulated our wrestling team and girls' basketball team. She also said a special congratulation to Mackenzie O'Brien. This is truly an achievement she should really be proud of. Not many girls reach that achievement and you can see it in the trophy case in the high school.

Mrs. Miller also thanked the business office, especially Mr. Damato and Mr. Fried as well as our Interim Business Administrator for a job well done with the audit report. She said that she has been on this board for over ten years now and this is the best report she has ever seen. She said that they are all to be congratulated on a job well done.

Mrs. Miller reported that she and Mrs. Boyle attended the Middlesex County School Boards Association meeting which was held in North Brunswick. She said that January was School Board Appreciation Month and Ray Pinney, Director of Member Engagement, on behalf of New Jersey School Board's Association, extended his appreciation to all of us for all that we do for our school districts and town. Mrs. Miller said that there was also information on Steam Tank Challenge. She said that she knows that our kids didn't participate in it but suggested that it may be something to think about for next year.

Mrs. Miller reported that she also attended the Governance Training. She said that in Legal Update they reviewed ethics, agency shop fees that can't be deducted from union members without their consent, camera, swipe cards, transgender student rights, RICE

notices, and HIB. She said they also spoke a little bit about the new Superintendent evaluations.

Mrs. Miller said that the student recognition dinner is on March 26th at Old Bridge High School and the next meeting is scheduled for May 1st. She said that Mrs. Boyle is arranging for another mental health program to be brought forth.

Mr. Chapman said that he has been receiving positive feedback about the district newsletter and he thinks that it is fantastic. He said that people are really enjoying seeing the students pictures in there and it is a tremendous thing that they are doing.

Mr. Chapman congratulated all of the student athletes that we heard about this evening. It was a tremendous weekend and a tremendous winter season.

Mr. Chapman thanked the TAP and the Observer for always supporting us when we ask them to do something. They recently put out some information regarding the Parent Palooza to try to get attendance up. He said that he would like to encourage all of the parents to come out to Parent Palooza. You guys ask us for these events to help and educate. The administration puts them together, the teachers, the aides, the administrative staff. Everybody works really, really hard to make these events worthwhile for everyone to come.

Mr. Chapman said that he doesn't think that people give enough appreciation to audits when the reports come out. He said that if you turn the clock back just a mere three or four years on this board three were 13 corrective actions. We had one corrective action on the previous report and two minor corrections on this one. He said that the business office is doing a fantastic job. Mr. Chapman thanked Mr. Smith, Mr. Damato and Mr. Patel for their hard work along with everyone else in the business office that has really worked hard to get the financial ship in order. He said that it really is something that we all, as a community, should be very proud of.

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

7. violations or violations of law 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. Cassio VOTE: 9-0

Mr. Roselle read in the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that, after consideration of the information presented by the parent during this evening's HIB appeal #50-1819, heard in executive session, the Board of Education hereby overturns the administration's H.I.B. determination, in the Board's view, the incident in question does not satisfy the definition of "Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying" under Board Policy and applicable law; and

Be IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is hereby directed to provide written notification to the parent of the Board's decision.

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

XVI. AGENDA APPROVAL

RESOLVED, that the agenda for the regular public meeting on February 20, 2019, as may have been modified, is hereby approved.

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

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the Board, there was a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nilkanth Patel
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary