

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

**Committee of the Whole Meeting - Wednesday, June 12, 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, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Farinella, Mr. Giannakis, Mrs. Miller,  
Mr. Pennisi, Mrs. Wolak, Mr. Cassio, Mr. Chapman

Also Present: Dr. Noreen Lishak, Superintendent; Ms. Mary Malyska, Assistant  
Superintendent; Mr. Alex Benanti, Business Administrator/Board  
Secretary; Mr. Marc Zitomer, 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. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Recognition of Students/Staff for Spring Sports Awards

The Board of Education acknowledged the following students and staff members for Spring Sports Awards:

**Baseball**

Christopher Born - All White Division  
Jordan Hamberg – All White Division, All Conference  
Thomas Massaro – All White Division  
Christopher Shine – All White Division, All Conference

**Girls Lacrosse**

Tammy Zurka - Conference Coach of the Year

**Boys Tennis**

Team Sportsmanship Award  
Scott Cardona  
Ryan Doan  
Alexander Entchev  
Kyle Gallardo  
Wyatt Gerber  
Faizan Khan  
Johnson Nguyen  
Akaash Patel  
Zenen Rivera  
Dana Curcio- Coach

**Softball**

Danielle DeCarlo – All White Division  
Jillian Holoboski – All White Division/All Conference  
Julie Davis – All White Division

**Girls Spring Track**

Melissa Calderon – All Blue Division  
Lauren Calvey- All Blue Division  
Julianne Ferraro – All Blue Division  
Sydney Loiacono – All Blue Division  
Isabella Mont – All Blue Division  
Hailey Palmer – All Blue Division/All Conference  
Tiffany Parajon- All Blue Division  
Samantha Pullen – All Blue Division/All Conference  
Sofia Watson – All Blue Division/All Conference

**Boys Spring Track**

Abdul Cokley – All Blue Division  
Ashwin deGroot - All Blue Division/All Conference  
Jeffrey Heine – All Blue Division  
Keith Lehman- All Blue Division  
Everette Pfeiffer – All Blue Division  
Robert Rivera – All Blue Division

**Athletic Awards**

Luke Niemeyer – Greater Middlesex Conference Sportsmanship Award  
Brianna Slover- Greater Middlesex Conference Sportsmanship Award  
Lynda Farinella- New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Scholar Athlete/  
Greater Middlesex Conference Scholar Athlete

Marc Giordano- Greater Middlesex Conference Scholar Athlete

B. **Recognition of Students Receiving the Seal of Biliteracy**

The Board of Education wishes to recognize the following seniors who are receiving the Seal of Biliteracy from the State of New Jersey:

Sonali Budhan  
Sarah Abdelsalam  
David Loniewski  
Jorge Alvarenga  
Leslie Benitez  
Abigail Melendez  
Michelle Pastuna

Dr. Lishak reminded the public of the following upcoming events:

High School Graduation – June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Jost Field  
Middle School Graduation – June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the HS auditorium  
Grant School 5<sup>th</sup> grade year book signing and awards – June 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m.  
Grant School 6<sup>th</sup> grade year book signing and awards – June 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:45 p.m.  
Franklin School Promotion Ceremony – June 17<sup>th</sup>  
Kennedy School Promotion Ceremony – June 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:45 p.m.  
Riley School Promotion Ceremony – June 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.  
Roosevelt School Promotion Ceremony – June 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.  
Project Graduation – June 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 p.m. – 4:00 a.m. at All Seasons Sports Academy  
Graduate Parent Information Session – June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the High School

VI. AGENDA ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

1. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

VII. CURRICULUM/STUDENT ACTIVITIES

VIII. FINANCE

A. Approval for 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.	Lifeguarding	6/14-16/19	\$375.00 11-402-100-800-22	Elyse Phillips
2.	Water Safety Instructor	6/22-23/19	\$400.00 11-402-100-800-22	Elyse Phillips

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis

SECOND: Mrs. Miller

VOTE: 9-0

B. Resolution of the South Plainfield Board of Education

WHEREAS, the Board has evaluated the Superintendent's performance and determined that, to date, she achieved one (1) quantitative goal regarding the evaluation calibration worth 3.33% and one (1) qualitative goal worth 2.5% regarding the guidance department restructuring; and

WHEREAS, the Board is still awaiting the final data on the remaining three merit goals which will be determined by separate resolution at a future meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Plainfield Board of Education hereby certifies to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools that one (1) quantitative goal and one (1) qualitative goal have been fulfilled by its Superintendent, and requests that the Executive County Superintendent confirm satisfaction of such criterion; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes and directs the submission of this resolution and the necessary supporting documentation to the Executive County Superintendent for review and approval; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Plainfield Board of Education approves payment of a merit bonus to the Superintendent in the amount of 5.83% of the Superintendent's annual salary upon receipt of the Executive County Superintendent's confirmation of satisfaction of the merit criterion, in accordance with the provisions of the Superintendent's employment contract and the terms and conditions of *N.J.A.C.* 6A:2

## DISCUSSION

Mr. Giannakis questioned the water safety instructor and lifeguarding. Dr. Lishak confirmed that it is required certifications for our swim team coach.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis SECOND: Mrs. Miller VOTE: 5-0-4  
Mr. Both, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Giannakis, and Mr. Cassio abstained.

## IX. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

### DISCUSSION

## X. PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Giannakis

The committee met on June 11, 2019 and discussed the garbage disposal bid, summer construction projects, and the purchase of a new truck for the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds.

### Curriculum – Mr. Pennisi

The committee met on June 5, 2019 and discussed curriculum changes for the upcoming school year, fire prevention program, before and after care parent handbooks, the new website for linking online resources for students, curriculum alignment mandates, Junior ROTC surveys, and elementary Genesis grading.

### Finance – Mr. Cassio

The committee met on June 11, 2019 and discussed the bills list and current legal invoice, decrease in district legal fees over the last four years, Difference Card, transportation bid, and the superintendent's cap. They also discussed food service revenues, future projections, Sodexo's final payment, expired inventory buy-out and the inventory buy-out vs. purchasing new. Mr. Benanti noted that Mr. Giannakis did leave the room during the food service discussion due to his conflict as a board member. The committee also discussed Kappa Construction including their remaining punch list items, money that we owe them, and the legal negotiations.

Shared Services / Traffic Liaison – Mr. Cassio

The committee met on May 14, 2019 and discussed traffic concerns, signage placement, placement of an additional crossing guard, parking lot cleaning, and the creation of a biannual shared services newsletter.

SEPAC Liaison – Mr. Both

The SEPAC committee held a parent meeting last evening to network.

Legislative Liaison – Mrs. Boyle

The Middlesex County executive team met with Senator Diegnan on April 8<sup>th</sup> and discussed bills on census-based funding for special education and eliminating the superintendent's cap which has been supported and passed forward. They discussed the persistent underfunding of pensions and school aid, a bill that will make it difficult for a Board of Education to subcontract and tenure and due processing hearing for support staff.

The State Finance Committee will be reviewing the school funding formula and will offer recommendations. The resolution by the Weymouth Board of Education, asking that overfunded district have funds taken away and given underfunded districts has failed.

DISCUSSION:

There was a brief discuss regarding the subcontracting bill. Mr. Zitomer clarified that it will prohibit the board from subcontracting out services such as custodial, maintenance and transportation.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Diana Joffe, SPEA, invited everyone to come to the Kennedy School talent show on Thursday night at 7:00 p.m.

Antoinette Dente, food service worked, questioned the return of Maschio's Food Service. She discussed the workers unhapinees and how they are uncomfortable working for them and explained how Maschio's owe all of the food services workers approximately \$2,000.00 each.

Mr. Chapman told Ms. Dente that Maschio's will not be back next year.

## XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Cassio discussed the prom and how the kids were well-behaved and had a great time. Dr. Lishak said that our kids are amazing and the reports that she receives is how fantastic our students are. Mr. Cassio also thanked Mr. Giannakis for getting Sodexo to donate the food for the Gold Card Picnic.

Mr. Both talked about the Special Olympics at TCNJ and mentioned that the students walked back with a total of almost 50 medals. The athletes also had a great time with Buddy Ball including a whiffle ball game against the South Plainfield Police Department.

Mr. Giannakis talked about what a great testament it is to see all of the students that were recognized earlier this evening. He commended the entire staff for making our district what it is today and being recognized as part of the top 100 schools. He also mentioned that our graduation rate is almost 100 percent.

Dr. Lishak said that it is fantastic that our students are going off to colleges but this year the district has formed a partnership with local trade unions and some of our graduates are set up to take the apprentice test.

Mrs. Miller congratulated Coach Zurka for starting and growing the lacrosse team and asked if we can look into starting a feeder program for lacrosse. She also congratulated all of the award recipients this evening. Mrs. Miller also discussed Project Graduation including how to sign up to volunteer.

Mr. Farinella said that he had the opportunity to attend many of the athletic awards programs and said that the amount of resources that is being provided to our students for their achievements is substantial and commendable. He thanked the people who care about our school community for their outpour of support to make the opportunity for the students that much more profound and significant.

Mrs. Boyle asked Mr. Benanti to get back to her regarding her question on the bills list. She then read a synopsis of bill A3664 which is a tenure like protection for school district support staff. Mrs. Boyle congratulated all of our retirees and student award recipients this evening. She said that the art festival had amazing student talent showcased, the Middle School veterans day program was heartfelt, and she congratulated the Hall of Fame recipient, Brian Donnelly. She said that Senator Diegnan was unable to attend this year due to committee meetings. Mrs. Boyle also talked about the Music Booster events including the coffee café which hosts talented students and their awards dinner. She also congratulated Mrs. Miller for receiving her ten year milestone award.

Mr. Chapman said that he doesn't want to be duplicative in his statement and offered a brief congratulations to everyone that was honored this evening.

XIII. 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: Mrs. Wolak                      VOTE: 9-0

XIV. AGENDA APPROVAL

RESOLVED, that the agenda for the regular public meeting on June 19, 2019, as may have been modified, is hereby approved.

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

XV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business of the board, there was a motion to adjourn at 8:54 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Benanti  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary