

SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

125 Jackson Avenue
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-3509
Telephone: 908-754-4620

**Organization Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, January 2, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.
South Plainfield High School
200 Lake Street
South Plainfield, NJ 07080**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENT

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 and sent to the Borough Clerk's office, Police Headquarters, Public Library, four newspapers and W.C.T.C. on November 27, 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.

III. TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS FOR WHICH MEETING WAS CALLED:

A. Announcement of Newly Elected Board Members

Mr. Smith announced the names of the newly elected Board Members:

Douglas Chapman
John Farinella
Sharon Miller

B. Oath of Office

Mr. Roselle administered the Oath of Office to Douglas Chapman, John Farinella and Sharon Miller.

C. Roll Call- H. Ronald Smith
Interim Board Secretary/Business Administrator

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

Also Present: Dr. Noreen Lishak, Superintendent; Ms. Mary Malyska, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Ronald Smith, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Mr. Joseph Roselle, Legal Council

D. Election of President

Mr. Smith announced that nominations are in order for the office of President. Mr. Pennisi nominated Mr. Chapman, which was seconded by Mr. Giannakis. There were no other nominations. The vote was as follows:

MOTION: Mr. Pennisi SECOND: Mr. Giannakis VOTE: 8-0-1
Mrs. Boyle recused herself.

E. Election of Vice President

Mr. Chapman assumed the chair and opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice President. Mr. Giannakis nominated Mr. Cassio, seconded by Mr. Both. There were no other nominations. The vote was as follows:

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis SECOND: Mr. Both VOTE: 8-0-1
Mrs. Boyle recused herself.

Mr. Chapman congratulated Mr. Cassio.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

A. Agenda Additions and/or Deletions

Mr. Chapman said that he would like to amend the language in Policy 0155. The current policy says that, "committees shall consist of no more than three board members, one of whom shall be the President". Mr. Chapman said that technically says two board members and the president. He said he thinks that is a little restrictive and that he would like to suggest changing it to, "shall consist of no more than four board members, one of whom shall be the President". Mr. Giannakis seconded.

Mr. Roselle said that will be a first reading of this modification. The second reading can be approved at next week's meeting.

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

V. MEETING DATES

A. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING DATES

RESOLVED, that the schedule below showing dates, times for Committee of the Whole agenda fixing sessions and the regular public meetings be approved, and to post said list in each of the school buildings and be sent to the Borough Clerk's Office, Police Headquarters and to fax said list to The Star Ledger, The Home News and Tribune, The Courier News, The Observer, online paper TapINTO South Plainfield and W.C.T.C.

Committee of the Whole Meetings 6:30 p.m. unless noted	Regular Public Meetings 6:30 p.m. unless noted
Wednesday, January 9, 2019	Wednesday, January 16, 2019
Wednesday, February 13, 2019	Wednesday, February 20, 2019
Wednesday, March 13, 2019	Wednesday, March 20, 2019*
Wednesday, April 10, 2019	Wednesday, April 17, 2019
Wednesday, May 1, 2019**	Wednesday, May 15, 2019
Wednesday, June 12, 2019	Wednesday, June 19, 2019
Wednesday, July 17, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.	Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 21, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.	Wednesday, August 21, 2019 – 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 11, 2019	Wednesday, September 18, 2019
Thursday , October 10, 2019	Wednesday, October 16, 2019
Wednesday, November 13, 2019	Wednesday, November 20, 2019
Wednesday, December 11, 2019	Wednesday, December 18, 2019

*Adopt Tentative Budget

**Public Budget Hearing and Adoption

All meetings will be held in the South Plainfield High School Information Center, 200 Lake Street, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

VI. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that the Board shall be governed in its deliberations in all cases in which it is not inconsistent with Statute, Administrative Code, Bylaws of the Board or Robert's Rules of Order (as revised), except that rules or order may be amended at any meeting by a majority of the full board.

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

VII. ADOPT BOARD MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS

RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education adopt the New Jersey School Boards Association Board Member Code of Ethics as shown in Tab VII.

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

VIII. PERSONNEL

Motion by Member Giannakis, seconded by 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. Appointments, Transfers

Code	Name	Action	Position	Deg /Step	Salary/ Hrly. Rate	Location	Date Effective	Date Term.	Discussion
1.	Benanti, Alex	Approve	Business Administrator/ Board Secretary	N/A	\$140,000	District	03/04/19	06/30/19	Pending County Superintendent Approval of Contract Acct.#11-000-251-100-12

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

IX. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY

Pursuant to enacted legislation, P.L. 192-1989, Chapter 254, the South Plainfield board of Education elected Dr. Noreen Lishak to the Representative Assembly of the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey at their meeting held on January 2, 2019 for the period of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.

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

X. FINANCE

1. Approve the Agreement with Nilkanth Patel (Vendor) to Serve as Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the agreement with Nilkanth Patel (vendor) to serve as the Interim

Business Administrator for the period of January 7, 2019 through March 4, 2019, at an amount not to exceed \$21,667.00.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis

SECOND: Mrs. Miller

VOTE: 9-0

X. PUBLIC ADDRESS

A. Public Comments

B. Board Member Comments

Mr. Giannakis welcomed Mr. Benanti as our new Business Administrator. He said that as you may know, we have had a few interims here over the last year and we have a permanent one to look forward to. He also welcome Mr. Patel who will interim for the next sixty days. Mr. Giannakis also congratulated the new President and Vice President of the Board of Education and said that he looks forward to a great year.

Mrs. Boyle said that there was PARCC testing as high school graduation requirement. The appellate division invalidates the use of the PARCC test as a requirement to graduate. She said that she thinks that they have thirty days and it can be appealed but right now students in the graduating class of 2021 and beyond are required to take all applicable end of course PARCC assessments for all courses in which they are enrolled. No substitute competency tests are available to those students and the court has denied that. Mrs. Boyle said that more will be coming out with regards to the PARCC testing. Mrs. Boyle wished everyone a happy, healthy new year.

Mr. Farinella thanked all of the voters who supported his return to the Board. He said that he looks forward to working with everyone in the community and he looks forward to a great year. Mr. Farinella congratulated the President and Vice President. Mr. Cassio welcomed Mrs. Miller and Mr. Farinella back to the Board and congratulated Mr. Chapman.

Mr. Chapman welcomed back Mr. Farinella and Mrs. Miller. He said that he is looking forward to a very productive year. He thanked those on the Board that voted for him for having the confidence in him and said that he will try his best to lead the organization in right direction. He also congratulated Mr. Cassio on being Vice President and he wished everyone a Happy New Year.

XI. 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 to discuss confidential matters pertaining to personnel and legal matters.

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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 fund
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. Miller VOTE: 9-0

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the Board, there was a motion to adjourn at 7:02 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

H. Ronald Smith
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary