

SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

125 Jackson Avenue
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Telephone: 908-754-4620

Regular Public Meeting Minutes –Wednesday, December 19, 2018– 6:15 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 6:15 p.m.

Mr. Seesselberg appointed Mrs. Amy Cicenia as Board Secretary *Pro Tem* for tonight's meeting.

II. SALUTE TO FLAG

III. ROLL CALL- Mrs. Amy Cicenia
Board Secretary *Pro Tem*

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

Also Present: Dr. Noreen Lishak, Superintendent; Ms. Mary Malyska, Assistant
Superintendent; Mrs. Amy Cicenia, Board Secretary *Pro Tem*, Mr. Joseph
Roselle, Legal Council

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. AGENDA ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

VI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

VII. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES/COMMITTEE MINUTES

a.	Committee of the Whole Meeting	November 7, 2018
b.	Executive Session	November 7, 2018
c.	Regular Public Meeting	November 14, 2018
d.	Executive Session 1	November 14, 2018
e.	Executive Session 2	November 14, 2018

The vote for items a. and c. is as follows:

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

The vote for items b. c., and d. is as follow:

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

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Performance by the High School Band and Chorus

Dr. Lishak introduced the South Plainfield High School chorus, orchestra and band to play a few selections from their holiday concert.

2. Presentation of Plaques to Board Members

Dr. Lishak announced that we will be presenting two of our board members with plaques of appreciation for their many years of dedicated service to the South Plainfield Board of Education and our school community. Dr. Lishak invited Mrs. Anesh and Mrs. Boyle to joint her at the podium.

Mrs. Boyle told Mrs. Anesh that he has been a longtime friend and a colleague and she looks forward to her return some day. She said that Mrs. Anesh was a member of the Future Stars PTO from 2005-07 where she held the position of secretary; a member of the Riley School PTSO from 2008-2012 where she held the positions of treasurer and secretary; she was a district substitute; a member of the Grant School PTO from 2012-

2014 where she held the position of treasurer; a parent volunteer for the Middle School PTO dances; is currently a parent volunteer for the South Plainfield High School Music Boosters; she was elected to the South Plainfield Board of Education in 2012; and is a member of the Borough Public Celebration Committee. Mrs. Boyle said that Mrs. Anesh has always been a student advocate who dedicated herself to enhancing student advocacy and she wears her heart on her sleeve. Mrs. Boyle told Mrs. Anesh that she is like a little sister to her and she loves her and will miss her. She said that she is honored to present Mrs. Anesh the plaque this evening on behalf of the Board of Education.

Dr. Lishak invited Mr. Chapman and Mr. Seesselberg to the podium.

Mr. Chapman said that about a decade ago, Mr. Seesselberg decided he wanted to do his part to support our community and make a difference. He threw his hat into the ring and decided that he wanted to become a member of the Board of Education. Since that time, Mr. Seesselberg has been elected by the public to serve three consecutive terms on the Board. During his terms he served basically all of the committee, served as numerous committee chairs, Vice President and two times as President. Mr. Chapman said that Mr. Seesselberg is a humble man. He does not seek recognition or accolades. He wants to get results. Mr. Chapman said that Mr. Seesselberg is probably uncomfortable standing up here right now. Mr. Chapman said that he cannot recall Mr. Seesselberg every saying, "me," but always saying, "we," which is a sign of an excellent leader. Mr. Chapman said to Mr. Seesselberg to please know that you have made a difference, a big difference in the community. He hopes that they will be sitting at this table together again. Mr. Chapman told Mr. Seesselberg that we are going to miss him. He said that with gratitude for his selfless personality, appreciation for his pragmatic approach, and admiration for his tireless efforts that he is proud to present him with this plaque as a symbol of sincere appreciation.

IX. CURRICULUM/STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. Acceptance of the Fire and Security Drill Reports for November 2018

Accept the Fire and Security Drill Reports to the Board of Education for November 2018.

2. Acceptance of Anti-Bullying Report

Approve the Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Reports from November 15 – December 19, 2018

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the following cumulative data regarding HIB incidents from September 5 – December 19, 2018, reported as of this agenda.

School	Number of Alleged Incidents September 5 – December 19, 2018	Number of Verified Incidents September 5 – December 19, 2018
High School	13	5
Middle School	9	4
Grant School	6	1
Franklin School	0	0
Kennedy School	0	0
Roosevelt School	0	0
Riley School	1	0

3. Approval of Device Usage Agreement

Approve the Device Usage Agreement for staff devices in district as shown in Tab IX.3.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Boyle said that we have the administrators who do the report and the investigation of the anti-bullying report. The Board only votes on it and they have nothing to do with the investigation.

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

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

X. POLICY

A. Approval of Second Reading of Bylaws/Policies/Regulations

Approve the second reading of the following Bylaws/Policies/ Regulations/Exhibits and hereby adopts them:

1. Policy 2624 – Grading Student Assessments and Grade Documentation-Revised
2. Policy 5536 – Random Student Substance Testing-Revised
3. Exhibit 5536 E-4 – Eighth-Grade Student Random Alcohol/Drug Consent to Test Form - Revised
4. Policy 5460 – High School Graduation– Revised
5. Policy 8550 - Unpaid Meal Charge/Outstanding Food Service Charges – Revised

B. Reapprove Policy #7510 – Use of School Facilities, including Appendix A

Reapprove Policy #7510 – Use of School Facilities, including Appendix A, shown in Tab X.B1

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Boyle said that she cannot support policy 8550. She said that she understands that we have to have responsibility by the parents for our district but she also feels that no meal shall ever be withheld from any student no matter what grade they are in. She said that she hopes that the district will continue to inform parents, post the policy in the local newspapers and find continuing options.

Mrs. Boyle asked where the fund collected for facility rentals is used for. Dr. Lishak said that they are turned back to the general fund and then are distributed.

Mrs. Wolak said that she also disagrees with the unpaid meal charges and the child's lunches being withheld.

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

The vote for Policy with the exception of A.5 is as follows:

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

The vote for Policy A.5. is as follows:

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis SECOND: Mr. Pennisi VOTE: 6-3

Mrs. Anesh, Mrs. Boyle, and Mrs. Wolak voted no.

XI. 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.)

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

XI.A Resignations, Retirements, Terminations

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

Code	Name	Action	Position	Location	Date Eff.	Discussion
1.	Rastelli, Amy	Resign	Substitute Duty Aide	District	01/02/19	
2.	Forsyth (Pietrucha), Jamie	Resign	Pre School Disabled Teacher	Roosevelt School	01/03/19	Revised Date
3.	Jimenez, Francisco	Retire	Payroll Clerk	Admin. Bldg.	02/01/19	

XI.B Leaves of Absence

Code	Name	Reason	Position	Loc.	Paid FMLA Start Date	Paid Leave (Not FMLA)	Unpaid FMLA Start Date	Unpaid NJFLA Start Date	Unpaid Leave without Benefits	Return Date	Discussion
1.	Employee ID#: 4154	Unpd. FMLA	Teacher	High School				On or about 2/24/19		On or about 3/11/19	
2.	Employee ID#: 5161	Unpd. FMLA	Duty Aide	Riley School				3/4/19	6/11/19	9/01/19	

XI.C Appointments, Transfers

Code	Name	Action	Position	Deg /Step	Salary/Hrly. Rate	Location	Date Effective	Date Term.	Discussion
1.	Clark, Jodi	Approve	Pre School Disabled Teacher	5 MA	\$58,885 (pro-rated)	Roosevelt School	01/02/19	06/30/19	Replacing J. Forsyth(Pietrucha) Acct#: 20-218-100-101-19
2.	Salvatore, Craig	Approve	Physical Education/Health Teacher	Step 6 BA	\$58,235 (pro-rated)	Middle School	02/18/19 or sooner	06/30/19	Replacing D. Panzarella Acct#: 11-130-100-101-02
3.	Loniewski, Andrea	Approve	Paraprofessional	Step 1 6 hrs. per day	\$20,868 (pro-rated)	Grant School	01/02/19	06/30/19	Replacing J. Williams Acct#: 11-213-100-106-18
4.	Metro, Felicia	Approve	Paraprofessional	Step 1	\$13,566 (pro-rated)	Kennedy School	01/02/19	06/30/19	19.5 hrs. per week Acct#: 11-213-100-106-18
5.	Rastelli, Amy	Approve	Paraprofessional	Step 1	\$12,174 (pro-rated)	Franklin School	01/02/19	06/30/19	17.5 hrs. per week 11:25 am to 2:55 pm Acct#: 11-190-100-106-04
6.	Gamaro, Kelly	Approve	Before/After Care Aide	Step 0	\$17.70 per hr.	Franklin School	01/02/19	06/30/19	Acct#: 61-993-100-101-19
7.	Grasso, Kristann	Approve	Substitute Before/After Care Aide	N/A	\$15.00 per hr.	District	01/02/19	06/30/19	Acct#: 61-993-100-101-19
8.	Iacovone, Janet	Approve	Substitute Before/After Care Aide	N/A	\$15.00 per hr.	District	01/02/19	06/30/19	Acct#: 61-993-100-101-19
9.	Eggert, Anthony	Approve	Substitute Before/After Care Aide	N/A	\$15.00 per hr.	District	TBD	06/30/19	Acct#: 61-993-100-101-19
10.	Santacruz, Stella	Approve	Bus Driver	Step 1 6.5 hrs. per day	\$28,782 (pro-rated)	Transportation	11/05/18	06/30/19	Increase in hours by .25 for the remaining school year (from 6.25 on 12/12/19 agenda to 6.5 on 12/19/19 agenda) Acct#: 11-000-270-161-16
11.	Schwiederek, Emily	Rescind	Paraprofessional	Step 1	\$13,566 (pro-rated)	Kennedy School	12/13/18	06/30/19	19.5 hrs. per week Acct#: 11-213-100-106-18

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12.	Hernandez, Jessica	Approve	Paraprofessional	Step 1	\$13,566 (pro-rated)	Kennedy School	TBD	06/30/19	Start date pending successful completion of criminal history background check (replacing E. Schwiederk) Acct#: 11-213-100-106-18
12.	Montoya, Elsa	Approve	Bus Driver	Step 1 6 hrs. per day	\$26,568 (pro-rated)	Transportation	12/20/18	06/30/19	Acct#: 11-000-270-16116

XI.D. Adjustments, Stipends, Degree Changes

Code	Name	Action	Position	Degree/Step/ No. of Hrs.	Salary/ Stipend	Location	Date Effective	Date Term.	Discussion
1.	Fried, Stephen	Approve	ABA	N/A	\$7,058	District	N/A	N/A	Vacation Day Payout Acct#: 11-000-251-100-12
2.	Encinas, Anthony	Rescind	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.	Kraskowski, Jessica	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
4.	Molinaro, Michael	Approve	Volunteer Wrestling Coach	N/A	N/A	Middle School	TBD	03/22/19	N/A

XI.E Paid Medical Leave

Employee I.D. # 4015, is placed on a paid administrative/medical leave, effective December 7, 2018 through January 7, 2019.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Boyle said that she would like to thank Francisco Jimenez for all of the years of service that he has given to South Plainfield and congratulated him on his retirement. She also congratulated Craig Salvatore.

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

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis

SECOND: Mr. Both

VOTE: 9-0

XII. FINANCE

1. Approval of 2018/2019 Fall Transportation Jointure – South Plainfield is Joiner

Approve the following 2018/2019 fall Transportation Jointure. South Plainfield is the joiner:

School	Route #	District	Route Cost
Burlington Cty Alternative HS	ESUT15PM	Rancocas Valley HS	\$25,000.00

2. Approve Line Item Transfers

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the line item transfers for November 2018 shown in Tab XII.2

3. Approval of Bill List for November 2018

Approve payment of bills and claims that have been certified by the Board Secretary and filed in the Business Office. The following is a list of payments being approved

Checks	Payroll Number	Amount
Payroll	11-15-2018	\$ 1,683,818.13
Payroll	11-30-2018	\$ 1,776,607.21

Checks	Check Numbers	Amount
Hand Checks		
Preschool		\$
Latchkey	400051 - 400055	\$ 15,427.03
Adult Ed	500032	\$ 1,121.00
Cafeteria	200026 - 200030	\$ 133,790.91
Trust and Agency	100248 - 100271	\$ 184,193.12
FICA	911151806	\$ 97,291.69
	911301823	\$ 102,080.28
Unemployment	220	\$ 14,875.37
Machine Check	3766 - 4014	\$ 2,451,823.29
FUND 30	700137 - 700142	\$ 61,727.46

4. Receipt of Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the receipt of the Secretary's and

8. Approve Contingency Change Order Credit #1A for VMG Group Relative to the Proposed Roof Replacements at Kennedy and Franklin Schools – <\$39,903.27>

Approve Contingency Change Order Credit #1A for VMG Group to reduce the Project Contingency Allowance for Franklin Elementary School by \$39,903.27 for the Proposed Roof Replacements at Kennedy and Franklin Schools Project. This leaves \$0.00 in the Project Contingency Allowance for Franklin School.

9. Approve Contingency Change Order Credit #1B for VMG Group Relative to the Proposed Roof Replacements at Kennedy and Franklin Schools – <\$41,676.26>

Approve Contingency Change Order Credit #1B for VMG Group to reduce the Project Contingency Allowance for Kennedy Elementary School by \$41,676.26 for the Proposed Roof Replacements at Kennedy and Franklin Schools Project. This leaves \$0.00 in the Project Contingency Allowance for Kennedy School.

10. Approve Non-Public School Technology Initiative Program Purchase Order

Approve the Non-Public School Technology Initiative Program purchase order through the Educational Services Commission of NJ for Al-Minhaal Academy in the amount of \$6,689.90, as shown in Tab XII.10.

11. Approval of Professional Development Expenditures

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.	Person Centered Approach to Transitions	11/1-2/18	\$ 25.42 mileage 11-000-223-580-11	Cynthia Wong
2.	Person Centered Approach to Transitions	11/1-2/18	\$ 25.42 mileage 11-000-223-580-11	Geoffrey Corisdeo
4.	Clinical Strategies to Support Sex Orientation & Gender Identity	1/24/19	\$199.99 11-000-223-580-11	Susan Nydam

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5.	Clinical Strategies to Support Sex Orientation & Gender Identity	1/24/19	\$199.99 11-000-223-580-11	Jessie Wilson
6.	DAANJ Annual Conference	3/12-14/19	\$646.00 11-402-100-500-22	Kevin McCann
7.	NJMEA	2/21-23/19	\$170.00 11-000-223-580-11	Joan Stasio
8.	NJMEA	2/21-23/19	\$170.00 11-000-223-580-11	Tobie Baldwin
9.	Fall Schools Law Forum	10/25/18	\$249.00 11-000-223-580-11 *Omitted from October agenda	Ronnie Spring
10.	NJAHPERD	2/26/19	\$75.00 11-000-223-580-11	Lisa Murray
11.	NJAHPERD	2/26/19	\$75.00 11-000-223-580-11	Bill Pavlak
12	Increase & Accelerate Your ELL Students Learning & Success in School	1/15/19	\$259.00 11-000-223-580-11	Stacey Vozech

13.	Strategies and Structures for Teaching Reading and Writing	2/28/19	\$209.00 11-000-223-580-11	Kim Broggi
14.	Strategies and Structures for Teaching Reading and Writing	2/28/19	\$209.00 11-000-223-580-11	Mary Rodger
15.	Waves Workshop	1/24/19	\$80.00 11-000-223-580-11	Robert Brian Panek
16.	Waves Workshop	1/24/19	\$80.00 11-000-223-580-11	Matthew Goszewski
17.	Contemporary Challenge: Understand and Meeting the Needs of Transgender Students in Accordance with the NJ Law Against Discrimination, Title IX, and Best Practices	1/7/19	\$125.00 Registration/mileage 11-000-223-580-11	Sam Fierra

12. Resolution to Approve Various Purchase Contracts and Orders for the 2018/2019 School Year

Approve the purchase contracts and orders pursuant to NJSA 18A:18A-10 and 18A:18A-5(6) in the 2018/2019 school year for the following vendors. Purchase Order numbers and amounts listed in Tab XII.12.

Academy Construction, Inc.
In-Line Air Conditioning Co., Inc.
Hannon Floors
Supplyworks
GL Group, Inc.
Longo Associates
Grainger Supplies, Inc.

13. Approve Addendum from Mott MacDonald for Professional Engineering Services Relative to the Athletic Field Proposed Improvements Project

Approve the Addendum from Mott MacDonald for professional engineering services relative to the Athletic Field Proposed Improvements Project as follows:

Task 1 – Utility Mark-out Services:

Mott MacDonald will retain an underground utility location service to mark-out existing on-site utilities (gas, water, electric and sewer). It is anticipated that the work will take 1-2 days.

\$2400.00 per day @ 2 days.....\$4,800.00

Task 2 – Supplemental Survey Services:

Mott MacDonald will survey the utility mark-out and transpose the data onto existing site plans.

Lump Sum Fee.....\$1,900.00

14. Approve Non-Public School Security Aid Program Purchase Order

Approve the Non-Public School Security Aid Program purchase order through the Educational Services Commission of NJ for Al-Minhaal Academy in the amount of \$13,000.00 as shown in Tab XII.14.

15. Award Bid #03-19 – Proposed Toilet and Locker Room Building – Jost Field Athletic Complex

WHEREAS, the South Plainfield Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18:18A-1 (et seq.) advertised for sealed bids for Bid #03-19 – Proposed Toilet and Locker Room Building - Jost Field Athletic Complex on November 5, 2018; 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 December 5, 2018. A total of ten (10) bids were received.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the bid be awarded to M & M Construction Company, 540 North Avenue, Union, NJ 07083, in the total amount of \$2,240,000.00, including a \$100,000.00 contingency allowance, subject to the terms and conditions of a contractual agreement pending review by Board counsel, and which the Board President is authorized to execute on behalf of the Board.

16. Approval to Add a Sub-Account for the Broadcasting Club Under the High School Student Activities Account

Approve the addition of a sub-account for the Broadcasting Club under the High School Student Activities Account.

17. Award Bid #05-19 – Sale of Surplus Equipment

WHEREAS, the South Plainfield Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18:18A-1 (et seq.) advertised for sealed bids for Bid #05-19 – Sale of Surplus Equipment on December 8, 2018; 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 December 19, 2018. One bid was received

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the bid be awarded to Marczaks, Inc., 247 Central Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840 as follows:

One (1) Dasani Soda Vending Machine for the sum of \$111.00

18. Approve Transportation Jointure – 2018/2019 – So. Plainfield is Host District

Approve the following transportation jointure beginning on January 2, 2019 for the 2018/2019 school year with South Plainfield as Host District:

<u>School</u>	<u>Route #</u>	<u>District</u>	<u># of Days</u>	<u>Route Cost</u>
Piscataway Regional Day	PRD-AM	Piscataway	93	\$6,975.00

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Boyle thanked Dr. Lishak and Mrs. Cicenía for the response to my questions. I appreciate it and I will recuse myself on myself and on the bills list for myself.

Mr. Seesselberg said that he is proud to see number 15 on here. That is the bid on here for the proposed new field house at the Jost Field Complex and if everything goes according to the planned timeline it will be ready in the Spring.

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

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

Mrs. Boyle recused on herself

Mr. Seesselberg recused on number 10.

XIV. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

XV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Stephen Danyo thanked Mr. Seesselberg for his time as President of the Board of Educations. He said that he has been outstanding and anytime he talks to him he always has provided an answer. He said that may not have always liked the answer but it was

always the truth. He said that is very refreshing and he thanked him for his service.

Mr. Danyo asked if the study with regards to the Crossroads at Durham has been complete. Mr. Seesselberg said that it was finished and presented at the November meeting and it can be found on our website.

Mr. Danyo asked if the report was favorable or is it going to be a nightmare. Mr. Seesselberg said that it will present some challenges. He said that there is some discrepancy about what they say and what the district determines. He said that as a side note, it will also be presented to the planning board meeting.

Dr. Lishak said that she is sorry for interrupting, the board has not received the notice yet but Mr. Haber, who presented the study to us, was scheduled to present to the public at the planning board meeting on January 8th but he had to reschedule and will be presenting in February. Dr. Lishak said that the Board of Education does not need to appear in January but Mr. Haber and a member of the Board will be presenting in February. Mr. Seesselberg added that once testimony is presented then the public can question the testimony.

Mr. Danyo said that he imagines the report is not good but rather very negative. He said that he imagines that the amount of kids that will be coming out of The Crossroads at Durham. He asked how many kids are in Roosevelt School now, is it up to capacity and how many students per classroom do you have.

Dr. Lishak said that the number of student per class varies on the grade level. She said that some of the classes are around 18 and some are at 24. She said that it really has a lot to do with the type of classes that we have. Every room in Roosevelt School is currently being utilized.

Mr. Danyo said that if you add more kids then that school will really be pushed to its limit. Dr. Lishak said that it is currently pushed to its limit.

Mr. Danyo said that the South Plainfield Board of Education is going to have to put trailer there or pay for a new school or you are going to bus these kids all over the place. Mr. Danyo said that he doesn't have any kids in the district and said that his taxes are going to go through the roof with this project. He said that he wishes that the Board of Education will e-mail all the parents of the students that go there and have maybe a thousand people go to the next planning board meeting to confront Mr. Morris about what they are going to do to our school system and our town. He said that to Mr. Morris it is all about money to him. He said that he just wants the project and he doesn't care what it does to consumers, school systems, or our children.

Mr. Danyo said that he wishes we would have a big turnout of parents to confront them and let them know how angry and frustrated we are because every year the taxes go up because of the Board of Education because of the State things and other things that you have to do. He said that he can only imagine what your Workmen's Compensation

charges are, utilities for the buildings, insurance, special education students, salaries and benefits. It is not cheap and with more kids coming in, it's just going to drive our taxes up more. Mr. Danyo reiterated that he wishes that the Board of Education will e-mail more parents and tell them to come out to the planning board meeting because you only get 20 or 30 people at a planning board meeting and we need more people to get up and speak because he is just going to ruin our town.

Mr. Seesselberg thanked Mr. Danyo. He said that he did attend the last planning board meeting and there were a lot of concerns on traffic, sewage, buildings and other concerns. Even though Roosevelt School is the only school on the south side, it will impact all of our schools and we are quite aware of that. He said that he is sure that the incoming 2019 Board, the public relations committee, will get the work out to the residents and the staff. Mr. Seesselberg said that we are not the only town affected rather it is a big problem all over the State. Mr. Seesselberg said that he agrees with Mr. Danyo that we need to get a turnout and voice our concerns. He said that there is not much we can do to change it but at least we can make our voices heard and maybe something will happen. He said that in this State, the developers are not required to give anything to the infrastructure rather they can come in, build, and move on.

Mr. Danyo said that he wishes that we would be able to charge Mr. Morris for a new school on Roosevelt property but that is not going to happen. He said that the terrible thing about this is that this project wasn't decided by our elected officials who you can confront or vote out of office, this isn't decided by your senators or assemblymen. He said that this is decided by a judge that you have no power over. A judge decided this and if you appeal it then the judge can add more units. He said that these judges think that they can rule our State and they are going to ruin our town.

Mr. Seesselberg said that it is at the State level and the town council was very conscientious in trying to fight this. Unfortunately, we lost to the State Court and we have to deal with the ramifications.

James Buchanan, 2620 Audubon Avenue, said that he would like to address the Board of Education on a topic that is very near and dear to him and it has to do with the Middle School and the options that the children have when it comes to playing music ensemble. In previous years, students had the ability to choose one, two, or all three of the band, orchestra, and chorus. This year, the district has backed down on the way that the children get to go to those programs. They pull them out of gym two days a week which certainly can't be good. On top of that, if a child chooses to be in two programs, they get just one day of instruction in each ensemble. If they are in just one, they get two days of that ensemble. In previous years they would get two to five days of instruction depending on how many they were in and they had the ability to be in all three.

Mr. Buchanan said that he is a graduate of the South Plainfield School System, he is a musician and his kids are currently enrolled, one in the Middle School and one in the High School. He said that one of his children performed for you this evening. He said that he is very proud of the quality of music that we have in our schools and he has been

coming to many concerts for years. He said that after the concerts he always sees parents, Board of Education members, teachers, and administration give nothing but compliments about the level and quality of musicianship.

Mr. Buchanan said that he is issuing a warning now that if we are going to limit the options of the children then we have to be prepared four, five, six years from now, to have a dwindling program. To have kids that are forced not to be a part of all three or even if they are only passionate for two they only get one day of instruction per week. Mr. Buchanan said that he talked to the educators at the Middle School and they are not endorsing this, he is speaking for himself, but he knows for a fact that they have to choose easier music. Now, we are no longer encouraging the kids to practice harder music and that's going to suffer the quality of the whole program.

Mr. Buchanan said that in the opening statement he heard President Seesselberg say in the Mission Statement that we have a desire to educate the whole child. He said that he feels strongly and is ready to motivate parents to feel the same way. He said that he doesn't like the way that it is set up now. He thinks that perhaps there is another solution. Maybe it's because the Board has decided not to hire full-time educators in fine arts or maybe it's a scheduling issue but whether we can add an AM or a PM program in the Middle School like they do in the High School or whether we can find another solution or at least work with those educators. Mr. Buchanan thanked the Board for their time.

Heather Olsen, 1917 South Central Avenue, said that she is here to update the Board on our SEPAC Committee. She thanked Mr. Andrew Brandon, Director of Special Services; Joanne Ryan, Supervisor of Special Services and all of the South Plainfield Board of Education members who have been coming out to our meetings. Everyone has been very well informed with SEPAC and we hope to expand on that in the future with open communication.

Ms. Olsen said that October was a meet and greet with our new director and supervisor which was well-attended by the public and by board members. In December they had Mr. Walter Calman come out. He spoke about transition after 18 and then at 21 for our special needs children. He discussed steps that parents would need to start to work on because it is never too early to look toward the future. Mr. Calman provided links to various resources that will be posted on the SEPAC page and hopefully add the district SEPAC page as well.

Ms. Olsen said that in the future they plan to hold a meeting every other month with a general public meeting with different speakers that we hope to work with the Board on many topics. February is anticipated to be the next meeting with the subject, How to Teach Self-Advocacy to our Special Needs Children, as well as their safety in the community.

SEPAC held their Cookies with Santa fundraiser on December 14th and they raised over \$1,680 that they are going to partner with their special athletes and split so that they can do new uniforms or whatever else they may need. SEPAC is also going to be doing a

scholarship this year. There were not enough funds last year so they hope to raise more so that they will be able to.

XVI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Giannakis congratulated the High School ensemble. He thanked Mrs. Anesh for her time on the Board. He said to Mr. Seesselberg that he feels like they sat together on the board forever and that he is going to miss him. He said that he has done a lot of great things and he looks forward to having him back on the Board at some point. Mr. Giannakis thanked Mr. Panzarella who is retired as of January. He has been here forever and has been a staple in this community. He has been our physical education teacher for 40 years and is a phenomenal guy who just keep going. He congratulated Mr. Panzarella on his retirement. Mr. Giannakis also wished everyone happy holiday, Merry Christmas and a happy, safe, and healthy new year.

Mrs. Boyle thanked Mr. Danyo. She said that she knows that he had given his sentiments at the planning board meeting the same way that he spoke tonight. Mrs. Boyle said that the Mayor and Council held a town hall meeting 8 ½ months ago that included the Borough planner and the Master of the Court. There was a PowerPoint presentation and the state mandate was discussed. There was also a question and answer period. Mrs. Boyle said that anyone that would like to view that can find it on the Borough website as well as the Observer website. The planning board will continue to review the reports. There have already been suggestions made by the planning board such as a gated community and the roadway signs. Again, please view the presentation from 8 ½ months ago.

Mrs. Boyle said that the Riley School and Roosevelt School concerts have been very impressive, as have been the High School, Kennedy School, Middle School, and Franklin School. Mrs. Boyle welcomed Mrs. Haughwout on joining the team of professionals and sharing her expertise with the students. The presentation by the musical arts High School students have been musically amazing.

Mrs. Boyle reported that the students who participated in the South Plainfield Borough Green Team Sustainability essay contest will receive awards at the January Mayor and Council meeting.

The Suburban Women's Club and Borough Cultural Arts Commission will host the Spelling bee for the 4th and 5th grade again this year. It will take place on January 30, 2019 at the Senior Center. She said that we can take 30 students that live or go to school in South Plainfield and she said that she has the practice words.

Mrs. Boyle wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Healthy and Happy New Year to our administrators, supervisors, teachers.

Mrs. Anesh thanked everyone for the opportunity to be up here for the last six years. She said that it is unfortunate that she did not feel that she could stay at this time but she does

think that she will be back in the future. Mrs. Anesh thanked Mrs. Boyle because she said that if it wasn't for her then she would have never thought she could come and make a difference which she said she truly feels she did. Mrs. Anesh thanked Dr. Lishak for everything and for pushing our board in a better direction than it was before. Mrs. Anesh wished good luck on the referendum projects. She said that she won't be a stranger but she wanted to thank everyone.

Mr. Pennisi congratulated the students that performed tonight. He said that over the years of being a teacher and an administrator he has heard many concerts and presentations and they were outstanding. Mr. Pennisi said to the gentleman that spoke earlier about the music, he said that we are looking at adding two course in the music department next year. Mr. Pennisi said that he understands what he is saying and being in the business of always worrying about scheduling, he believes that is probably the difficult part of it. Mr. Pennisi said that he is going to ask, not knowing who will be on the committee next year, that be a topic of discussion.

Mr. Pennisi thanked Mrs. Anesh and Mr. Seesselberg for all of their time and effort. He said that he knows that it's always tough making decisions here. He said that you are not always the favorites for everybody but that he can vouch for everyone knowing that everybody always makes decisions, whether in agreement or now, nobody ever makes decisions just form themselves. He congratulated both of them.

Mr. Cassio said that he is going to miss Mrs. Anesh. He said that she always brings humanity and compassion. He said that sometimes we get a little stubborn up here and we make decisions based on business decisions and a lot of times Mrs. Anesh will bring us back down to earth and bring a human element to it and he thanked her for that.

Mr. Cassio told Mr. Seesselberg that he could not think of a better leader to be up here to control the environment and all of the topics we discuss here. He said that we have accomplished a lot on the two years that he has been on the Board. Mr. Cassio thanked Mr. Seesselberg for keeping an even keel and eye on the prize. He said that he is going to miss him for that. Mr. Cassio wished everyone Happy Holiday and Merry Christmas. He also congratulated Mr. Craig Salvatore and said that he is going to be an asset to this district. He told Dr. Lishak that he will be volunteering and coaching.

Mr. Chapman said that the musicians did a great job and the performances were fantastic. He said that he does not have that skill in his body and he admires anyone that does.

Mr. Chapman told Mrs. Anesh not to ever think for one second that she didn't make a difference. She said that she undoubtedly did a great job on this Board. He thanked her. Mr. Chapman told Mr. Seesselberg that he already spoke about him and wished him good luck and he said that he is definitely going to be missed up here.

Mr. Chapman said that he was fortunate to see the Roosevelt School concert last week and that was excellent. He said that the SEPAC Cookies with Santa was great, the kids were bussing around and having a great time. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas,

Happy Holidays and a Happy and Healthy New Year and said he looks forward to seeing everybody in January.

Mr. Seesselberg thanked Kim for her time on the board. He told her that she did two terms and she commends her for knowing how much commitment it takes from the Borough Government and then you jumped in the pool also and you made a difference and kept us in check a lot of times.

Mr. Seesselberg said that he was only able to go to the Franklin School and High School concerts. He said that tonight's music was wonderful and he said that what he realized was that in the elementary schools you go there and it is music but that is where it starts. They start with the recorder in second grade and improve their way up through high school. He said that Mr. Tweed starts the jazz band in fifth grade after just two years of knowing which end of the instrument to hold. He said that it's a wonderful job and a good program. He said that going back to what Mr. Buchanan said, whatever you can do to boost the music program along with the arts will be vastly appreciated.

Mr. Seesselberg said that he believes in the public school system. He said that he entered the South Plainfield School District in second grade at the original Grant School. He attended the Franklin Avenue School, John F. Kennedy School, Cedarcroft School and the old high school. He said that his brothers and sisters attended our schools as did his two sons.

He said that following high school graduation, he had the opportunity to work with Superintendent Leonard Tobias to continue the Summer Drama Workshop as an annual education program for the district. He said that as a side note, he would like to encourage the Board and administration to look into dedicating some location or program to Leonard Tobias who expanded our schools and lead our district for many years.

Mr. Seesselberg said that he had the chance to serve as a substitute teacher in the classroom for a few years and after that he had the honor to be elected to the Board of Education, serving on many committee and as Vice President and these past two years as President. He said that he may not be the only person in town who went from elementary classroom to Board Presidency but said that he is proud of the progress in our district that has been achieved during his time on the Board.

Mr. Seesselberg said that our students and their education are now lead by an excellent central administrative office team lead by a dedicated and exemplary staff in our schools. The curriculum is enriched with technology and 21st century goals. Our buildings have been updated and renewed. He said that our public school system is evolving and thriving.

Mr. Seesselberg thanked all of the board members that he has served with over the last nine years. He thanked two past board members whose example he followed; Mrs. Carol Byrne and Mr. Tim Morgan. He said that he is indebted to the personnel in our schools, from the administration down through the classroom. He said that all of the board

members work is to provide for the classroom. He said that it is challenging at times due to state mandates and restrictions on funding but we do our best to keep our district moving forward.

Mr. Seesselberg thanked the leadership of our staff association, our work at the negotiating tables has been professional and respectful and that is a result of our working together for our students each and every day. Mr. Seesselberg thanked the residents of our Borough for the trust that they not only provided him but for the trust that they give this entire body with their tax dollars to provide a good education for your children in our schools.

Finally, Mr. Seesselberg thanked the students as they are the reason the board sits up here working to provide the best possible learning environment for their growth and achievement. He said that their awards come from the student's success in academic, artistic, athletic and scholastic activities. Mr. Seesselberg said that if there is anyone else that he has not thanked, please be assured that he appreciates everything you have done to assist him in his board duties.

Mr. Seesselberg told the 2019 Board to live the mission statement and respect the administration and their professionalism. He said that they are accountable to the Board and the Board does not manage them. He said to give them space and time to bring their ideas forward and implement them. He said that the golden rule goes with business also, treat this workplace as you would like to be treated in yours. And remember there is a difference between authority and power. One is earned and the other is wielded.

XVII. 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.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the Board, there was a motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Amy E. Cicenia
Board Secretary *Pro Tem*