

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

Committee of the Whole Meeting -Wednesday, July 17, 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. Cassio called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. SALUTE TO FLAG

III. ROLL CALL- Alex Benanti
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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

Absent: Mr. Farinella, Mr. Chapman
Mr. Both and Mrs. Wolak left at 6:03 p.m.

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. Good News and Progress in Our Schools

Dr. Lishak welcomed Mr. Foscolo as the Assistant Principal at South Plainfield High School.

Dr. Lishak reminded parents that the Genesis system will open on August 17th and asked that they log on to complete any necessary forms, including the 2019-2020 lunch application.

High School guidance counselors are available Tuesday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please make an appointment if you can. Walk-ins are welcome but there may be a wait.

Dr. Lishak talked about the numerous projects throughout the district, including the Middle School windows, HVAC upgrades at the elementary schools, ADA compliant bathroom upgrades, new field house, foods lab, new sound systems, and greenhouse. All of these projects are scheduled to be completed prior to the opening of school.

Dr. Lishak said that the one-to-one devices for the High School and Middle School have arrived. Parents will be receiving e-mails beginning on July 26th with additional information on when and where students will be picking up their devices.

Dr. Lishak discussed the changes to the transportation department, including their move to the other side of the building. They will have their own entrance on the Lake Avenue side. Bus passes will be mailed to all eligible students the week of August 19th. If your child is eligible and you do not receive a pass, please contact the transportation department.

VI. AGENDA ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

1. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

VII. CURRICULUM/STUDENT ACTIVITIES

VIII. PERSONNEL

Motion by Member Mrs. Wolak 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:

VIII.A. Appointments, Transfers

| Code | Name | Action | Position | Deg /Step | Salary/ Hrly. Rate | Location | Date Effective | Date Term. | Discussion |
|------|------------------|---------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------|--|
| 1. | Foscolo, John | Approve | Assistant Principal | N/A | \$113.975 (prorated) | High School | 9/15/19 or sooner | 06/30/2020 | Non-Tenured Plus \$630 TD Acct#: 11-000-240-103-01 |

MOTION: Mrs. Wolak

SECOND: Mrs. Miller

VOTE:5-0-2

Mr. Giannakis and Mr. Cassio abstained.

IX. FINANCE

X. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

XI. PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Giannakis reported that the committee met on July 16, 2019. The committee discussed the status of the foods lab, greenhouse, middle school landscaping, signage and installation of new flagpoles. There was a discussion on whether or not to replace or refurbish one of the flagpoles. The committee also discussed Middle School windows, Kennedy and Riely bathrooms, HVAC upgrades, High School carpet removal, and media center ceiling and LED lighting. They also discussed the transportation department move.

DISCUSSION

There was a brief discussion about the age of the flag pole and discussed refurbishment versus replacement. The original quote to refurbish the old flag pole was more than the cost to replace, however Dr. Lishak said that Mr. Wiggins was able to get a quote from another company that will refurbish the one flag pole and add the two new ones for the same cost as it would be to replace the old one and add two new ones.

Curriculum

Mr. Pennisi reported that there was no meeting this month due to curriculum writing.

Finance

Mr. Cassio reported that the finance committee met on July 16, 2019. The committee discussed the bills list, monthly legal bill, additional legal bill pertaining to the lawsuit of Boyle vs. various past and present Board of Education members. The committee also discussed the Difference Card, year to date revenue for Mashios's, cafeteria equipment, Aramark transition, and a new 403b vendor.

Policy

Mr. Pennisi report that there was no meeting this month. There was one update to the HIB policy to clarify the number of days that a parent has to file an appeal. The first reading is included on the regular meeting agenda.

Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Boyle discussed a new bill on HIB and cyber HIB that is expected to be signed by the Governor and passed through all of the houses. She also reported that on May 6th, the Office of Special Education Programs informed the New Jersey Department of Education of non-compliance with respect to New Jersey due process policies and procedures. Mrs. Boyle reported that Governor Murphy signed into law that all gun dealers offer a smart gun. She also reported that Governor Murphy pushed for Senator President Sweeney to post for more gun control bills.

DISCUSSION:

There was a brief discussion on what a smart gun is.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

XIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Cassio briefly discussed the High School graduation. He said that it was an honor to give the commencement speech and he thanked the graduates for allowing him to partake in their special event. He wished the graduates and the district the best moving forward. Mr. Cassio said that Project Graduation was well-organized and he thanked Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Boyle and their team. The students were respectful and well behaved which is a testament to the parents and their upbringing.

Mr. Cassio congratulated the South Plainfield 11U Tigers who made it all the way to the Babe Ruth Mid-Atlantic regional finals.

Mr. Cassio thanked the South Plainfield residents for their patience, generosity, and trust in giving us the resources to move this district to where it is today. The referendum projects are on schedule and coming in within budget.

Mr. Giannakis welcomed Mr. Foscolo to the High School.

Mrs. Boyle said that she had asked for the referendum committee report and has not received it. Mr. Benanti said that he will provide a copy to the Board tomorrow.

Mrs. Boyle said that the district looks wonderful and thanked everyone who is a part of it. She said that she believes that the residents are amazed at the progress.

Mrs. Miller congratulated all of the 2019 graduates. Mrs. Miller said that the 31st Project Graduation was very successful and she thanked all of those involved.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLVED, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 47-:1A-1 *et. seq.*) that the Board meets in closed session at this time to discuss confidential matters pertaining to: (select one or more)

1. a matter rendered confidential by federal or state law
2. a matter in which release of information would impair the right to receive government funds
3. material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy
4. a collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiations related to it
5. a matter involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds
6. protection of public safety and property and/or investigations of possible violations or violations of law
7. pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation and/or matters of attorney-client privilege
8. specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session.
9. deliberation after a public hearing that could result in a civil penalty or other loss

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters discussed in closed session shall be made public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis

SECOND: Mrs. Miller

VOTE: 5-0

XV. AGENDA APPROVAL

RESOLVED, that the agenda for the regular public meeting on July 17, 2019, as may have been modified, is hereby approved.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Benanti advised the board there was a typographical error on the agenda. Under Curriculum and Student Activities, there were two items numbered three. For the minutes, they will be changed to 3 and 3a.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis SECOND: Mrs. Miller VOTE: 5-0

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the Board, there was a motion to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis SECOND: Mrs. Miller VOTE: 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Benanti
Business Administrator/Board Secretary