

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

**Committee of the Whole Meeting – Wednesday, February 14, 2018 – 6:30 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 6:00 p.m.

II. SALUTE TO FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Following the pledge, Mr. Seesselberg asked for a moment of silence for the students, staff and community of the Florida tragedy earlier today.

III. ROLL CALL- James Damato

Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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

Absent: Mr. Chapman

Also Present: Dr. Noreen Lishak; Superintendent; Mr. James Damato, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Mr. Joseph Roselle, Legal Counsel

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. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Lishak reported that Mr. Spring, along with the High School administration, teachers, and students, are working to review the current instructional schedule for possible changes. The committee will review a number of options and review the impact that change may have on the course offerings as well as impacts on the budget. This committee will continue to review options through the 2018-2019 school year.

To give the community an update on our Fios/Verizon situation, for all of the public who watch our meetings and the Borough meetings on Fios, the Fios technician will be out in the district next week to repair the system as well as to install additional cable lines. The broadcast of the District and Borough events will be up and running with the projected date of March 5<sup>th</sup>, hopefully sooner. In addition, you can always watch the school board meetings on the district website under the Board of Education tab. We are hoping to have additional school events recorded and aired shortly.

Dr. Lishak reminded everyone that our eighth grade students will be traveling to the High School this Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> for a High School electives presentation. Students will be greeted by Mr. Spring and the High School Administrative Team, followed by guidance and elective presentations. Our new Director, Mr. Fierra, and the guidance department will be presenting the upcoming schedule process and how to go about choosing your schedule for the coming school year to incoming freshmen.

Riley School would like to let you know that Student Council held a School Spirit day on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Super Bowl and they all wore team jerseys. Everybody was very excited about that.

The next upcoming event for Roosevelt Elementary School is an assembly on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:45 a.m. to promote the Staff vs. Harlem Wizards Basketball Game that is scheduled for Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. A player or two from the Harlem Wizards will be doing a presentation on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at Roosevelt, Grant and Kennedy Schools. In addition to the players, we now have a coach on staff, a staff cheerleading squad, twirlers and a mascot and they are still looking for a team captain. Dr. Lishak said that she has been recruited and she will also be playing in that game.

Congratulations to Grant School students Salma Elgebally, Keira Farrel, Ava Felz and Nina DeSimone who were accepted into the NJ Regional Choral program on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Great job by our students for supporting the Super Bowl food drive and peer leadership FISH program which is a service organization in Dunellen that collects food for the needy in the area.

Dr. Lishak reminded everyone that the Grant School Literary Magazine will be posted on the Grant School website this Friday.

On Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, members from the South Plainfield High School DECA Chapter competed in the Annual Regional Conference at Kean University. After test-taking and a day of role playing and networking, the chapter had ten of its members place in the top 13 of their respective events, ultimately advancing to the DECA State Career Development Conference so congratulations to them.

South Plainfield had 15 students from the Model UN Club attend the Boston Invitational Model UN National Conference held February 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. Nine of our 15 students earned awards. One (1) first place, one (1) third place, three (3) fourth place and four (4) fifth place awards were earned against extremely strong competitors from around the US and the World. Most of the students represented the Country of Norway but there were several other topics of debate including the 1947 Parliament, Student's Debate from the Indian Perspective, another Student Debate from the Pakistani perspective, the Roman Senate and FEMA as well as discussing topics that included Hurricane Katrina.

College Career Day will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the High School.

There are a number of athletic events coming up. Winter track will compete this Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> for a Group State Title. Competition cheering will compete in the Nationals on February 24<sup>th</sup>, upon approval from the Board of Education. Competition cheering finished in second place at the Impact Cheer and Dance Competition this past weekend. Boys and Girls basketball are competing in the GMC tournament this weekend. Girls Basketball qualified for the State Tournament and will play on February 27<sup>th</sup> at the Delaware Valley High School. Varsity Wrestling won the Central Jersey Group III Sectional Championships. They traveled to Toms River for the Group Championships and won the State Title for the third consecutive year. Varsity Wrestling Charity match to benefit the Marisa Tufaro Foundation was held on January 31<sup>st</sup> vs. Old Bridge. It was a huge success. They raised over \$4,000 for the foundation. The Varsity Wrestling will compete this weekend in the District XIV Championship at South Plainfield. The top three wrestlers will move on to the regionals at Union High School. The top four wrestlers from the regions will move on to the State Tournament in Atlantic City.

Dr. Lishak said that she received a list late this afternoon and wanted to announce that Coach Panzarella was named the National Coach of the Year and we wanted to congratulate him. We are going to acknowledge him in a much bigger way in the near future.

VI. AGENDA ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

1. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

Mr. Seesselberg announced that there are a couple of agenda additions. Under Section VII - Curriculum and Student Activities item B, please add “at no cost to the district”.

Also under VII – Curriculum and Student Activities, please add the Winter Color Guard Tournament of Bands Competition in Wildwood from May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. This will also be at no cost to the district.

VII. CURRICULUM/STUDENT ACTIVITIES

A. Approval of the 2018/2019 School Calendar and Paid Holiday List

Approve the 2018/2019 School Calendar and Paid Holiday List as shown in Tab VII.A.

B. Approval for Reach the Beach Nationals Trip

Approve the following trip for students at no cost to the Board:

Target Group: South Plainfield High School Cheerleaders

Ocean City Convention Center  
Ocean City, Maryland  
February 23-26, 2018

Number of students: 15

Trip Proposal: Ms. Jaime Giannakis, Ms. Erin Piazza  
Chaperones: Ms. Jaime Giannakis, Ms. Erin Piazza

C. Approval for Tournament of Bands TIA 2018 Atlantic Coast Championships

Approve the following trip for students at no cost to the Board:

Target Group: South Plainfield Winter Guard

Hotel: TBD upon registration  
Wildwood NJ  
May 3-6, 2018, 2018

Number of students: 11

Trip Proposal: Ms. Amy Meerovich and Ms. Kelly Martini  
Chaperones: Ms. Amy Meerovich; Ms. Kelly Martini; Mr. & Mrs. Sesta;  
Mr. & Mrs. Christilles

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Boyle asked Dr. Lishak if the spring break for 2019 is the same as it was posted on the calendar. Dr. Lishak said that yes, it is the same as the version that you have in your packet.

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

MOTION: Mr. Pennisi SECOND: Mr. Giannakis VOTE: 8-0  
Mr. Giannakis abstained on item B.

VIII. PERSONNEL

Motion by Member Mr. Giannakis, seconded by Member Mr. Pennisi, 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 all salary placements are pending receipt of college transcripts verifying degree status and letter stating years of service in other districts, \*denotes mentoring required.) **\*Indicates subject to change contingent upon contract settlement.**

**VIII.A. Adjustments, Stipends, Degree Changes**

Code	Name	Action	Position	Degree/Step/ No. of Hrs.	Salary/ Stipend	Location	Date Effective	Date Term.	Discussion
1.	McGrath, Sharon	Approve	Presenter at PD Day	N/A	\$243.00	District	02/16/18	02/16/18	Professional Development Training Differentiation 3 hours Acct#:11-213-100-101-00
2.	Fugazzi, Michelle	Approve	Presenter at PD Day	N/A	\$237.00	District	02/16/18	02/16/18	Professional Development Training Differentiation 3 hours Acct#:11-213-100-101-00
3.	Kellerman, Karen	Approve	Presenter at PD Day	N/A	\$243.00	District	02/16/18	02/16/18	DIBELS Assessment/Wilson Kindergarten FUNDation Program 3 hours Acct#: 11-213-100-101-00
4.	Schlem, Nyssa	Approve	Presenter at PD Day	N/A	\$138.00	District	02/16/18	02/16/18	ABA Training 3 Hours Acct#: 11-213-100-101-00
5.	Regan- Monagle, Peggy	Approve	Presenter at PD Day	N/A	\$255.00	District	02/16/18	02/16/18	Speech Therapist Training 3 hours Acct#: 11-213-100-101-00
6.	Patullo, Jessica	Approve	Presenter at PD Day	N/A	\$135.00	District	02/16/18	02/16/18	Professional Skills Training 3 hours Acct#: 11-213-100-101-00

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis SECOND: Mr. Pennisi VOTE: 8-0

IX. FINANCE

1. Award Bid #06-18 – Proposed Synthetic Track Surface Replacement, 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 # 06-18 – Proposed Synthetic Track Surface Replacement, Jost Field, 1250 Maple Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ, on January 16 2018; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with that advertisement, the bids were received, publicly opened and read aloud in the First Floor Conference Room on February 6, 2018. A total of two (2) bids were received.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the bid be awarded to American Athletic Track and Turf, 2050 Route 206, Vincentown, NJ 08088 in the total amount of \$349,900.00, 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.

2. Accept Gift Donation

Accept the donation of fifty-two (52) tickets to a hockey game as well as seventeen (17) parking passes from Mr. Aldo Pigna from the New Jersey Devils to be used as contest prizes for the South Plainfield Middle School students for the Jeopardy Contest to be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> for Black History Month.

3. Accept Gift Donation

Accept the donation of an L Screen, Cage Divider Net, Ball Carrier and Hose Cart and Hose valued at \$1,400 to the South Plainfield High School Baseball Team from the South Plainfield High School Baseball Parents Association to be used at the indoor cage and Varsity Field.

4. Approval to Waive Facility and Custodial Fees for Charitable Event

Approval to waive all facility use and custodial fees for the Athletic Boosters to host a Charitable Volleyball Event on March 11, 2018 at the South Plainfield High School .

5 Approval of Withdrawals, Placements, and Tuition Adjustments of Special Education Students for the 2017-2018 School Year

Approve the withdrawals/placements/tuition changes for the following special education students for the 2017-2018 school year:

- a. Placement of one special education student at Hunterdon Preparatory School for the 2017-2018 school year. Start date will be February 15, 2018. Tuition cost will be \$44,658.00 (pro-rated). State ID No.: 8103821325.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Boyle said that she has a question for the attorney, which was briefly discussed off the record.

Mr. Giannakis said that he doesn't know what that discussion was so he doesn't know if it was related to item number four. Mr. Roselle said that the question was whether an abstention was necessary on that vote and he gave his legal advice.

Mr. Giannakis said that he has a question about that. He said that he is certainly all for charitable causes but his only concern is that by waiving all the custodial fees for this, we are setting a precedent. He said that he thinks the Board should have some discussion about that.

Mr. Seesselberg said that we can discuss it in executive session and since the event isn't until the 11<sup>th</sup> we can pull it until next week.

Mr. Giannakis said he doesn't know if we need to pull it but he is suggesting that the Board discusses it and he doesn't know that it needs to be in executive session.

Mr. Roselle said that Mrs. Boyle's question would be executive session if we all wanted to discuss it because it was a legal issues. He said that if we are just discussing whether or not to waive the fees then that is not an executive session discussion.

Mr. Giannakis said that he is concerned what will happen moving forward if we waive all of the fees for this particular event. Mr. Roselle said that question is not executive session.

Mr. Giannakis said that he is 100% for fundraisers but his only concern is that if we are waiving total custodial fees what happens moving forward when somebody else wants to do something charitable and they ask us to waive the fees. He said that if that's the rule of the Board then he is okay with it.

Mr. Seesselberg asked if there is any set policy as to how this is determined. Mr. Damato said that he believes we charge about \$40 per hour. Amy Cicenía confirmed with Mr. Damato that the overtime fee is \$52.50 per hour. Mr. Damato said that if everybody that was there was working overtime because they had already worked 40 hours then they would be eligible for time and a half at \$52.50 per hour. The charge for two people would be about \$900. Mr. Damato confirmed that two people would be required for that size of an event.

Mr. Pennisi asked if the policy exempts organizations that are attached to the Board such as the booster club. He said that he knows that some places do exempt those groups whereas an outside group, such as the foundation or somebody else, which is not the exact same group, would be charged. We haven't looked at the policy. He asked if that is what we are doing and asked if the policy entitles that?

Mr. Damato said that, to his recollection, the policy does not specifically say that certain groups are exempt from the fees so it really is up to the Board. Mr. Damato said that he certainly can't waive the fees administratively and that is why he brought the matter to the Board.

Mrs. Boyle said that the booster club is not attached to the Board of Education. It is its own entity, has its own bank accounts. She said that she can understand doing this for a charity and this is a charity for a family who is in dire need. She said that you have to take each case on what the facts are and look at each case as it comes up.

Mr. Seesselberg said that, historically, it's always been on a case by case basis. It's a good will thing. He said that part of the issue is that it just says a charitable volleyball event on the agenda. There was no more clarification then that.

Dr. Lishak said that the information was sent to the Board. Mr. Seesselberg said that is correct but the information is not on the agenda. He said that if people go back to the agendas then it will just say, "a charitable volleyball event." He said if we can discuss a little more detail about it then it will be easier to make a decision on the case by case basis.

Mr. Giannakis said that his thought process would be anybody that is having a charitable event, it's going to be something that is somewhat dire. He asked how we decide who gets waived and who doesn't. He said that \$900 on a great scheme of a \$50+ million dollar budget is not a ton of money but we have to be cognizant that once we waive these fees, moving forward, anybody that comes to us will ask us to waive the fees.

Mr. Seesselberg said that he understands that and it should be a case by case basis but on this agenda it just says, "a charitable volleyball event". He suggested maybe we have to come up with a size of the event or something like that.

Mr. Giannakis said that you say it has to be on a case by case basis but how do you determine who is more tragic. Mr. Seesselberg said that this one is sponsored by the Athletic Boosters so it has to go through a legitimate authorized organization. Mr. Giannakis said that he understands that too. Mr. Seesselberg said that doing it that way shows a little bit more legitimacy to the events.

Mr. Giannakis said that he doesn't know what everybody's thoughts are but it seems to him that if we waive one we have to waive them all.

Mr. Roselle said, to answer Mr. Pennisi's questions, the policy does not address whether

a charitable organization should get free use of the building so it would be up to the board on a case-by-case basis.

Mrs. Anesh asked if she is correct in assuming that if it is from the athletic boosters then the event is being run by the students. Dr. Lishak said no. Mrs. Boyle said that it is the family that has the students in the district. Mrs. Anesh said that the charitable event is for students in district.

Mr. Giannakis said that he hears Mrs. Anesh but he is concerned moving forward.

Mrs. Anesh said that she thought our Athletic Boosters are for our students and that she doesn't understand how they are running it. Mrs. Boyle said they charge an entrance fee and they sell t-shirts and all that would go toward the fundraiser. Mrs. Anesh said that it's not the students running the charity. The students aren't going to be there to help out that night or anything like that. Mrs. Boyle said that she is sure they are forming teams to play. Mrs. Anesh said that if students are involved in any way and it is to benefit a family in district she is okay with it.

Mr. Seesselberg said that Mr. Giannakis' concern is that if we do it for this one then we do it for everybody. He said that we don't do many of these each year, maybe five at the most.

Mr. Giannakis said that he would like to hear everybody's opinion on the Board and what does everybody think. Mr. Giannakis said that he will go with the will of the Board but he wants the board to be cognizant going forward. We maybe only do five or six of these a year, that's still four or five thousand dollars. People may realize that we don't have to pay custodial fees and that might turn into ten or fifteen events per year.

Mrs. Wolak said that she doesn't think that people would look at it and abuse it because not only are they going to pay for custodial fees but they have to have people to run the event and take care of things. She said she doesn't think we are looking at an abuse factor and she believes it is a case by case basis. She said that for a family in the district who is in a lot of trouble, there is no question why we should do it.

Mr. Seesselberg asked if, when the event was requested, they requested a waiver of the facility and custodial fee. Dr. Lishak said yes. Mr. Seesselberg said that they specifically requested it so there was stringent consideration of this before it was brought before the Board. Dr. Lishak said they didn't really know what they were asking for but they asked that all fees be waived.

Mr. Giannakis said to Mrs. Wolak that he agrees with her. He said that he has no issue with waiving this fee whatsoever. He just wants us to be aware moving forward. He said that he wants to make sure that everybody is clear that if we do this we are setting some precedent. He asked when the last time was that we waived fees for an outside organization like this.

Mrs. Wolak asked if we just did it for the wrestling. Mr. Seesselberg said that they would

have been here anyway. It was a regular match. We donated the proceeds.

Mr. Seesselberg said, going forward, as long as the organization specifically requests for the waiver of whatever fees and they give justification, we will have the business office determine whether it should come on the agenda and bring it in front of the Board and do it on a case by case basis.

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

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis                      SECOND: Mr. Pennisi                      VOTE: 8-0  
Mrs. Boyle abstained on item 4 due to benefit.  
Mr. Cassio abstained on item 3.

X      BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

**Buildings & Grounds Update - Administration**

DISCUSSION

XI.    PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Giannakis said that the building and Grounds Committee met yesterday. They discussed the bids for the roof replacements that are due in on March 7<sup>th</sup>. They discussed the timeline for Jost Field. The visitor's bleachers are going to be ripped up right after track season is finished. The home bleachers and the track will be ripped up right after graduation so that graduation can be held outside.

Curriculum

Mr. Cassio said that they met on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Some of the items that were discussed were the presentation from the Director of Guidance, Sam Fierra, for the Noviance training. He said that's great that they are going to start to properly implement this program from grades 8-12 and believes it is a great feature. The committee also discussed new courses that are going to be implemented next September. They discussed possibly getting Chromebooks for all of the high school students next year. They also discussed some course collapses in math and science as well as some overnight trips.

Finance

Mr. Damato said that he will give a brief update in Mr. Chapman's absence. The Committee spoke at length about the upcoming budget. We are anxiously anticipating the State aid figures. He said that they are not sure how that is going to pan out. Mr. Damato said that we were told that we were going to get the same as last year. Mr.

Damato reported that they have constructed a budget that is in balance at present time and it is subject to a couple more adjustments and at some point in the next couple of weeks it will be presented to the Board. The biggest problem for us right now is that we are probably not going to get State Aid numbers for another month. Originally, the Governor's Budget Address was going to be on February 27<sup>th</sup> and now it has been postponed, possibly until mid-March. He said that it delays everything. He said that last year the last adoption date was the first week of May so he believes we are going to see a similar situation this year.

We also spoke about the custodial bond account where the monies are held and invested while they are not being used. We received proposals for that and the Board authorized him to make an award and Mr. Damato said that the best qualified and the most appropriate bank to handle our funds is Investors Savings. He said that he made that award today and he expects that they are going to do a terrific job for us and we are going to earn a lot of interest which goes back into our general fund budget.

Mrs. Boyle asked if we will receive a copy of the budget before. Mr. Damato asked before what, and asked if she meant before the Board votes on it. He said, yes, you will definitely receive a copy of it before you vote on it.

Mrs. Boyle said that the Governor's Budget Presentation will be March 13<sup>th</sup>. She said that she was in Trenton on Saturday and she will report on that. She said we will not receive State aid figures until two weeks after the budget presentation. They have no idea whether they are going to remain the same. That's what he is working on. Hopefully it will be up.

Mr. Damato said that hopefully we will get more money. He said that he is optimistic as he is every year and disappointed as he is every year. Hopefully we will get a little bit more money this year. We did get more money last year but unfortunately it was only \$2,000 which you can't do much with. We are going to be awaiting those numbers and Mr. Damato said that he is hoping that we can finalize all of our numbers in the middle of March and present a final budget to the board.

### Policy

Mr. Pennisi said that the Policy Committee met last Thursday. As you can see on the agenda for next week, there are 51 policies that are going to be approved for the first reading. All of them, except for a few, are just minor changes by Strauss Esmay. Everyone received a copy of those policies. There were a few policies that we discussed and recommendations that were brought from administration. One policy that we talked about was honoring People Achievement 5440. We just added co-curricular to that. That allows the administration, if they decide, that they want to give co-curricular teams letters or other awards they can. That was the only thing that was changed on that one. There were some additions to the policy on pupil smoking. Vaping and electronic cigarettes was added to the policy. A new policy that's being recommended is policy 9210B. That is a parent organization. That is for the organizations that are not in existence because of

the school's existence. It was defined as certain parent organizations that wouldn't be in existence if the school wasn't. Those organizations would be covered under this policy is strictly so that we can ask for certain information or certificate of insurance when they want to use our buildings and our fields, our property. That is the new policy. Other than that, everything is from Strauss Esmay, minor changes and from what I understand is that after the first reading they will be posted publicly, everybody can read it and the public can read it and if they have any questions they can ask the questions before the second reading.

Dr. Lishak said that she wanted to clarify that 9210B is to approve groups that are in existence because of the school district so booster clubs and PTO's. It is so that we receive their documentation, insurance. It's not for the ones that don't exist, it's for the ones that do.

Mr. Pennisi said that he thought we got those already and this is for the groups that we do get some things for. Dr. Lishak said that it is for the PTO's, the Education Foundation and any group that exists because we exist as a school district. It is so they fill out the proper paperwork and provide their insurance paperwork prior to the start of each school year so that we don't have to collect it again when they ask to use the facilities. We will already have it on file and approved.

#### Public Relations

Mr. Cassio said that he is reporting on behalf of Mr. Chapman. The committee discussed and reviewed the draft copy of our district public relations plan. They also discussed putting out the press release related to the district's rating from S&P. We discussed the new signs that we put out in front of all the schools listing our projects with the checkmarks and we are getting a lot of positive feedback from the community regarding those signs. They like it. Mr. Cassio said that Dr. Lishak brought this up and we wanted to try and promote a student contest amongst all the schools to design a new tiger logo. There is a concern about eight or nine different tiger logos around the district and we want to design a new one for the press box at the Jost Field. Mr. Cassio said that he looks forward to that in the near future.

Dr. Lishak said that the press box is an off-white color so we are going to put together a contest to design a new tiger and South Plainfield logo that will go on both sides of that off-white press box so it will look very good.

#### Shared Services

No report.

#### Special Education

Mr. Both said that the Special Education Committee met on January 31<sup>st</sup> with Mrs. Castronovo. They discussed the current filling of the open positions within the district.

They discussed the MD class at Grant. Mr. Both said that Mrs. Castronovo stated that we are 100% compliant except for two cases which, unfortunately, the parents cancelled due to the flu epidemic currently going on. Mrs. Castronovo is currently looking into a Shop Rite program for the High School and the Middle School where they will come in and look to set up a mini store so that the children and the students can sell and work toward learning that skill. She's also looking to add a life skills program to the LLD program as well as adding some multi-sensory reading labs. Mr. Both said that they are looking to meet in another six weeks.

Mrs. Boyle said that in the discussion she gave Mrs. Castronovo, Mr. Egan's directive when they first opened ShopRite and he is extremely willing to set up that store and have the students sell. Somebody should have reached out to him a year ago because he is ready and willing to do that.

#### Transportation

No report.

#### Traffic Liaison

No report.

#### SEPAC Liaison

Mr. Both reported that the committee is scheduled to meet on February 28th and that they are currently working on a speaker.

#### Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Boyle reported that the discussion in Trenton focused on non-college bound students with a task force headed by the former State President, Don Webster. The task force is looking at career training and are continuing to fight for IDEA monies. There are issues with the Department of Education in Washington and we need to continue to push for more public school monies. It is very difficult to provide for the special needs students with a two percent cap. Mrs. Boyle reported that they are also trying to move the arts up in placement to be in line with academics and athletics.

Mrs. Boyle reported that Diane Piculli from the Department of Education was at the county meeting to discuss the school performance report which contains information regarding discipline, career, and technology for non-college bound students. Some of the other topics that were discussed include English Language Proficiency growth, free and reduced students, demographics, race, transgender policy, PARCC and graduation requirements for 2021 graduates. They also discussed the Cadillac Tax that is moved to 2022.

Mrs. Boyle reported that the Governor's address will be held on March 13th and school

aid figures will be released two weeks after the address. Mrs. Boyle said the Governor is looking to raise the millionaire tax and allocate it to school funding. Also discussed was the status of the Superintendents salary cap. They discussed the “passing of the trash” bill that was passed with a vote of 31-0.

Also discussed was the need for programs, such as a Jiffy Lube auto maintenance, for low functioning students. They also discussed that colleges cannot ask if a student has an IEP.

The final discussion was related to HIB (Harassment Intimidation Bullying). Mrs. Boyle said that she would like the Board to compose a resolution to ask the State for a more defined definition of HIB. The cutoff date for the Delegate Assembly in May is March 5th at 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Boyle said that she would like to ask for a fine tuned definition of HIB. She would like for the separation of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying because not every case is a bullying case.

## XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Seesselberg opened the floor to public comments on any item. There were no public comments so Mr. Seesselberg closed the floor.

## XIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Boyle expressed condolences to Stan and Ellen Decker Lorys on the passing of Stan’s mom. Condolences to the Frank Licato family. Frank was a former school board member and very involved in other outside organizations.

The South Plainfield Student council and Mayor’s Wellness Committee held their blood drive on February 6th where they collected 78 units of blood, including eight donation on the ALYX machine. The ALYX machine yields two units of blood and takes about 45 minutes. Mrs. Boyle thanked the teachers, student and members of the public for donating. The next blood drive will be held on May 22nd.

Mr. Seesselberg said that he would also like to offer condolences to the Licato family. He said that Fran and Frank were both on the Board of Education at separate times but they were instrumental in the need and design and getting the funding to build this building back in the late 60s and early 70s. As his daughter said at the wake the other night, it wasn’t whether it was, it was when they were going to build this high school. They were very strong factors in getting us a new high school which is now 45 years old and it’s still serving the students.

## 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. Wolak                      VOTE: 8-0

Mr. Seesselberg said that they will be in executive session until approximately 8:00 p.m. and no action will be taken.

XV. AGENDA APPROVAL

RESOLVED, that the agenda for the regular public meeting on February 21, 2018, as may have been modified, is hereby approved.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis                      SECOND: Mr. Pennisi                      VOTE: 8-0

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the Board, there was a motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis                      SECOND: Mr. Pennisi                      VOTE: 8-0

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Damato  
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary