

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**Committee of the Whole Meeting– Wednesday, August 22, 2018 – 6:00 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 6:04 p.m.

**II. SALUTE TO FLAG**

**III. ROLL CALL- H. Ronald Smith**

Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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

Mrs. Anesh arrived at 6:12 p.m.

Absent: Mr. Chapman, Mr. Pennisi

Also Present: Dr. Noreen Lishak, Superintendent; Ms. Mary Malyska, Assistant  
Superintendent; Mr. H. Ronald Smith, Interim Business  
Administrator/Board Secretary; Mr. Stephen Fried, Assistant Business  
Administrator; 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

Mr. Seesselberg said that before moving on to the Superintendent's report he would like to note the passing of Michael English earlier this month. He said that Mike was a pillar of the South Plainfield Community. From his days growing up in town to his time as Councilman and Mayor, Recreation Director and as service to our students as a teacher, mentor and member of the Board of Education.

Mr. Seesselberg said that when Mike appointed him in 1983 as a member of the Public Celebrations Committee, that began a relationship of respect that instilled in him the importance of dedication to the community in which we live. Through his participation and support of athletics in town, he continued to give back to the youth.

During the past two years, you have seen a number of facility improvement projects in our school district. These projects began by Mike standing at the podium and requesting improvements to our athletic facilities. His initiatives spurred the Board of Education to take a look at all of our facilities and put together a bond referendum to give our schools some necessary upgrades. While his initial request for a turf field was not included, many other projects covering athletics, academics and facilities have been started and completed or will be completed in the coming months. By serving on the Referendum Project Review Committee, Mike asked questions and kept the public informed on the use of the public financing entrusted to the Board.

Mr. Seesselberg said that Mike kept the four A's of our district: Academics, Athletics, Arts and Activities in the forefront of all he did and selflessly made South Plainfield a better place. The author, Mitch Album wrote, "Sharing tales of those we lost is how we keep from really losing them." Mr. Seesselberg said to keep Mike's legacy alive by not only sharing his tales but having them influence our lives going forward.

## V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### 1. Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to Retirees

Kennedy School  
Laura McCreesh

Dr. Lishak invited Mr. Hajdak to the podium to present Mrs. McCreesh with her Certificate of Appreciation.

### 2. Presentation on AP Scores

Mr. Spring presented AP Scores for the 2017/2018 school year.

3. Presentation of the School Safety Data System Report  
July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

The School Safety Data System Report will be presented at the September meeting.

4. Presentation of Safety and Security Update  
Dr. Lishak will present a safety and security update.

Dr. Lishak said, as we quickly approach the new school year, we are asking parents and guardians to log into the Genesis Parent Portal and complete all of the necessary district forms, such as health information and internet usage forms. In addition, we ask that you please check your e-mail and child's school website for information pertaining to each particular school building. Student Individual Reports, ISR scores for PARCC will be sent home the week of August 27<sup>th</sup>. These score forms will provide parents and guardians information on their child's PARCC scores as well as a performance analysis on their PARCC assessments as well. The South Plainfield High School Guidance Department will be available to handle any academic issues regarding students schedules next week. An e-mail was sent to parents earlier this week providing them with times that counselors will be in the building to address scheduling concerns.

Dr. Lishak said that the Board of Education and herself are looking to fill the position on the Referendum Review Committee previously held by Mike English. Any interested residents are invited to send a cover letter, outlining their qualifications, to the Superintendent's office by Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Lishak said that she is also going to put this information up on the website with her e-mail address so that anybody that is interested can send their cover letter and resume.

VI. AGENDA ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

1. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

VII. CURRICULUM/STUDENT ACTIVITIES

DISCUSSION

VIII. FINANCE

DISCUSSION

IX. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

DISCUSSION

X. PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Giannakis said that the Buildings and Grounds Committee met a few minutes before the board meeting and in attendance was Mr. Smith, Mr. Fried, Mr. Damato, Dr. Lishak, Mr. Cassio, Mr. Wiggins, Mr. Seesselberg and himself. He said that they discussed the Middle School because they seem to be a little bit behind. There was a need for some abatement in some walls that was found during the renovations. It backed them up by approximately a month but after multiple testing, the building is very safe and it is anticipated to be open on time.

The High School Science Lab, STEM Lab, Graphics Room and bathrooms are all on schedule. The roofs are mostly done. The rain delayed it by some but it will not at all interfere with the opening of schools.

There will be a Jost Field ribbon cutting on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Giannakis emphasized that all schools will be open on time. The committee also discussed the Motorola Project. Over 400 units are proposed to come to this project and it is before the planning board on September 11, 2018. Mr. Giannakis said that, weather permitting, all grounds will be mowed, mulched and beautified by school opening. He said that we are moving right along the way we should and thanked Mr. Wiggins as he has been doing a phenomenal, outstanding job and he cannot say enough kudos to him. Thank you to Tom Wiggins.

### Curriculum

Ms. Malyska said that we had all of our curriculum guides written over the summer. You will see them on the regular meeting agenda. We had over sixty guides written. The teachers worked tirelessly with the supervisors. She said that she appreciates everyone's effort with that. Our next meeting is scheduled the first week of September.

### Finance

Mr. Cassio said that the Finance Committee met yesterday. They dealt with some minor issues. They reviewed the attorney bills and the bills list. He said that they discussed the referendum projects and they also requested a finance report which was presented to the committee this evening at the Buildings and Grounds meeting. He said that is something the committee will be reviewing. In attendance was Mr. Chapman, Mr. Pennisi, Mr. Smith, Mr. Seesselberg and himself.

Mrs. Boyle asked if the rest of the Board will be receiving the financial report as well. Mr. Cassio said that Mr. Chapman will be sending that out.

### Policy

No Report

### Public Relations

No Report

Shared Services

No Report

Special Education

Mr. Both said that there is a meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. He said that they would like to welcome Mr. Andrew Brandon as our new Director and Ms. Joanne Ryan as our new Supervisor.

Traffic Liaison

Mr. Cassio said that he spoke to Councilman Bengivenga on Monday to inform him that Cedarbrook Avenue and Morris Avenue are being milled and paved and are to be completed by next week. The crosswalks that were removed near the schools will be taken care of. He said that Cromwell Place will also be paved and that Officer Delaire will be researching and purchasing the crosswalk for Morris Avenue which he hopes to have by the end of September.

Mr. Seesselberg said that paving project includes the Madison Avenue loop over by the Middle School.

SEPAC Liaison

Mr. Both said that there is a meeting scheduled for September. There are a few changes in the leadership there so that will be addressed in September. If anyone is interested they do have their Facebook page to look at for any updated information about various items going on in the State as well as some other types of issues that they are discussing.

Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Boyle said that she has a meeting scheduled with Congressman Pallone to discuss ongoing education issues and there was an alert that was put out as it is every year for the athletes that are practicing in the extreme heat for the coaches and the students to take caution.

DISCUSSION:

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Boyle sent condolences to Mike English's family. She said that he was a teacher, a mentor, a Board of Education member, a Mayor, a father and an involved caring person

in this town. Mrs. Boyle said that she had asked multiple years ago that he join us on the Hall of Fame Committee. While Michael did not go to this school, he knew everybody in town and with sad eyes he handed her back his folder this year and told her that he wouldn't be needing it anymore. He was a big part of every involvement in this town and we miss him.

Mrs. Boyles said that Grace Farinella was a teacher and a substitute. She was member of the Suburban Women's Club. She said that they gave her a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party last year and even though she turned 90 she still drove and still attended all of the events. Rest in peace Grace and condolences to your family.

Mrs. Boyle said that she asked Dr. Lishak if the tour of the schools will be scheduled for the Board of Education members and that she said they will be with the principals after school begins.

Mr. Seesselberg said that he also asked about the building tour but they are not in any presentation mode yet so the students will see it and will be very amazed and enthralled when they come back but it will come right up to the wire.

Mr. Giannakis said that the schools will be beautified.

### XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

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

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

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis                      SECOND: Mr. Both                      VOTE: 7-0

XIV. AGENDA APPROVAL

RESOLVED, that the agenda for the regular public meeting on August 22, 2018, as may have been modified, is hereby approved.

MOTION: Mr. Giannakis                      SECOND: Mr. Both                      VOTE: 7-0

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the Board, there was a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

H. Ronald Smith  
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary