South Plainfield Board of Education

Special Public Board Meeting Minutes
South Plainfield High School Media Center
June 25, 2026
12:00 p.m. (Via Zoom)

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 – President

Mr. Cassio called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

II. SALUTE TO FLAG

III. ROLL CALL

Board members present:	Mr. Cassio, Mr. Both, Mr. Espin, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Pender, Mr. Pennisi, Ms. Williams
Absent:	Mr. Giannakis, Mr. Seesselberg
Also Present:	Dr. Noreen Tansey Lishak, Superintendent; Dr. Mary Malyska, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Jacqueline Rosa, Assistant Business Administrator; Mr. Joseph Roselle, Legal Counsel
Absent	Mr. Alex Benanti, Assistant Business Administrator

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, Public Library, and TAPinto on June 23, 2026.

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.

IV. PERSONNEL

Dr. Tansey thanked the members of the Board of Education for scheduling this Board meeting so quickly for the purpose of approving the recommendation for a preschool principal for the preschool program. The timing is important as most districts' contractual time requires a 60-day notice of release for employees and we wanted to ensure that we have our preschool principal in place prior to the start of the school year.

Ms. Maria Hennessy has been recommended for the Preschool Program Principal.
Dr. Tansey gave a brief background history for Ms. Hennessy and her accomplishments. She wanted to relay this information before the Board considered their vote.

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

IV.A. Appointments, Transfers

Code	Name	Action	Position	Deg/ Step	Salary/ Hrly. Rate	Location	Date Effective	Date Term.	Discussion
1	Hennessy, Maria	Approve	Preschool Program Principal	N/A	$142,879	Riley/ Roosevelt Preschool Annex	TBD	06/30/27	Plus $425 Time as Admin 20-218-200-103-000-00
2	Berry, Rachel	Approve	BCBA	3-4 MA	$69,485	District	09/01/26	06/30/27	Non-Tenured Plus $15,000 stipend 11-204-100-101-000-18
3	Ramos Michel, Elaine	Approve	Clinical Counselor	12 MA	$83,436	High School	09/01/26	06/30/27	Plus $15,000 Clinical Counselor Stipend Tenured 11-000-218-104-050-01
4	Naranja Escalante, Veronica	Approve	Speech Therapist	2 MA	$68,485	District	09/01/26	06/30/27	Non-Tenured 11-000-216-100-000-18
5	Prott, Antonia	Approve	Elementary Teacher	1 BA	$64,635	Kennedy School	09/01/26	06/30/27	Non-Tenured 11-120-100-101-055-05
6	Lynch, Mia	Approve	Elementary Teacher	2 BA	$65,385	Grant School	09/01/26	06/30/27	Non-Tenured 11-120-100-101-070-03
7	Mercedat, Rebecca	Approve	Music Teacher	1 BA	$64,635	Roosevelt School	09/01/26	06/30/27	Non-Tenured 11-110-100-101-080-07 11-120-100-101-080-07
8	Lubliner, Theodore	Approve	Special Education Teacher	1 BA	$64,635	Middle School	09/01/26	06/30/27	Non-Tenured 11-213-100-101-000-18
9	Diaz, Rafael	Approve	Asst. Football Coach	Step 7	$7,992	High School	08/01/26	11/30/26	Pending substitute certificate and background check 11-402-100-100-000-22

B. Staff Appointment

Linda Ionta, Interim Athletic Director, effective on July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 at $570.00 per day – not to exceed $136,800 annually – contingent upon approval of NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits – Account #: 11-000-240-103-000-22.

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

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

DISCUSSION

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

VI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Miller welcomed Ms. Hennessy and wishes her much success in her career in South Plainfield. She also wishes the same for the other appointments.

VII . ADJOURNMENT

With no further business from the Board, there was a motion to adjourn at 12:06 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Pender SECOND: Mrs. Miller VOTE: 7-0

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Rosa
Assistant Business Administrator