SOUTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
P. O. Box 181
Monmouth Junction, New Jersey

Minutes of the Board Meeting of January 7, 2026

The South Brunswick Township Board of Education held a re-organization meeting on Thursday, January 7, 2026. Mr. David Pawlowski, Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary, opened the meeting.

CALLED TO ORDER AND SALUTE FLAG – Mr. Pawlowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

STATEMENT OF ADVANCE NOTICE – Mr. Pawlowski read a statement in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL - David Pawlowski, SBA, Board Secretary:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Laura Hernandez, Mrs. Deepa Karthik, Ms. Alisha Khan, Mr. Raja Krishna, Mr. Mike Mitchell, Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Deven Patel, Dr. Smitha Raj, Mr. Rajesh Soni

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDAS – There was a motion by Dr. Raj, seconded by Ms. Khan to approve the agendas of January 7. 2026:

Yes: Mrs. Laura Hernandez, Mrs. Deepa Karthik, Ms. Alisha Khan, Mr. Raja Krishna, Mr. Mike Mitchell, Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Deven Patel, Dr. Smitha Raj, Mr. Rajesh Soni

No: None

ANNOUNCE CERTIFIED ELECTION RESULTS – Mr. Pawlowski read the final certified election results from the November 4, 2025 election:

3-year Term

Candidate	Total Votes
Alisha Khan	**7,578**
Kunal Athreya	3,282
Akansha "Ami" Vora	3,917

Abhay Srivastava	4,285
Laura Hernandez	**7,521**
Deven Patel	**5,688**
Maryam Pal	1,691

2-year unexpired term

Candidate	**Total Votes**
Magesh Kamalakannan	5,549
Barry Nathanson	**7,352**

ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS –

Mr. David Pawlowski administered the Oath of Office to incumbents, Mrs. Laura Hernandez, Ms. Alisha Khan, Mr. Barry Nathanson and re-elected Board Member, Mr. Deven Patel.

ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT – Mr. Pawlowski asked for a nomination for president.

There was a nomination for Board President by Mr. Nathanson, seconded by Mr. Mitchell:

There were no other nominations. There was a motion to close the nominations for Board President by Mr. Nathanson, seconded by Mr. Krishna.

Yes: Mrs. Laura Hernandez, Mrs. Deepa Karthik, Ms. Alisha Khan, Mr. Raja Krishna, Mr. Mike Mitchell, Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Deven Patel, Dr. Smitha Raj, Mr. Rajesh Soni

No: None

Absentations: None

Mrs. Hernandez consented to having her name offered as Board President.

There was a roll call voted to nominate Mrs. Hernandez as Board President.

Yes: Mrs. Laura Hernandez, Ms. Alisha Khan, Mr. Raja Krishna, Mr. Mike Mitchell, Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Deven Patel, Mr. Rajesh Soni.

No: Mrs. Deepa Karthik, Dr. Smitha Raj

Abstentions: None

Mrs. Karthik commented she wanted to speak in regards to her vote. Mr. Pawlowski responded they are in a middle of a vote.

NOMINATION OF VICE PRESIDENT

There was a motion by Mr. Krishna, seconded by Ms. Khan to nominate Mr. Mitchell as Vice President. There were no other nominations.

MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS

There was a motion by Mr. Nathanson, seconded by Mr. Krishna to close nominations.

Yes: Mrs. Laura Hernandez, Mrs. Deepa Karthik, Ms. Alisha Khan, Mr. Raja Krishna, Mr. Mike Mitchell, Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Deven Patel, Dr. Smitha Raj, Mr. Rajesh Soni

No: None

Absentations: None

Mr. Mitchell consented to having his name offered as Vice President.

There was a roll call voted to nominate Mr. Mitchell as Vice President.

Yes: Mrs. Laura Hernandez, Ms. Alisha Khan, Mr. Raja Krishna, Mr. Mike Mitchell, Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Deven Patel

No: Mrs. Deepa Karthik, Dr. Smitha Raj, Mr. Rajesh Soni

Absentations: None

There was a motion to move to the regular meeting by Mr. Soni, seconded by Mr. Krishna.

Yes: Mrs. Laura Hernandez, Mrs. Deepa Karthik, Ms. Alisha Khan, Mr. Raja Krishna, Mr. Mike Mitchell, Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Deven Patel, Dr. Smitha Raj, Mr. Rajesh Soni

No: None

Absentations: None

REPORT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – Navya Jain

Winter Spirit Week is from January 20th to January 23rd, Blanket Day on Tuesday, Anything but a Backpack Day on Wednesday, Quarter Zips vs. Nike Tech Day on Thursday, and Class Color Day on Friday. Spirit week wraps up with the Winter Pep Rally on January 23rd. This year's theme is Battle of the Classes, giving each grade the chance to show off their spirit, celebrate the winter sports teams, and compete for the Spirit Cup. They will be hosting daily lunch activities for classes to earn points for the spirit cup!

Earlier today, SBHS Student Council and class council members attended the NJASC 100th Annual Winter Convention at TCNJ. Candidates for State Student Council campaigned today, and the results of the 2026 election were announced at the end of the day. Ms. Jain commented that they are very proud of current SBHS Student Council member, Samaira Tewatia, for serving her year-long term as the 2025 State STUCO Vice President. The Student Council led three student workshops on the topics of Mr. SBHS, Powderduff, and how to run a successful student senate and VLA. They are also proud to share that the Student Council was recognized as an NJASC Honor School for the 19th time, and received the Top 10 Project Award for our Support the Troops collection for Mr. Ostrowski and his unit.

Clubs have been busy as well, tomorrow DECA members are traveling to Kean University for their Regional Competition; the SBHS Pirandello Players are preparing for the opening performance of their winter play; and the Amnesty Club is getting ready for their Write for Rights letter-writing campaign.

Moving on to athletics,

Freshman Joseph Brienza has had an impressive start to his wrestling season, winning his first six matches by pin and placing first at the Brunswick Bear Invitational at 120 pounds. Joseph and his brother, Junior John Brienza, also each earned three pins at the Brunswick Brawl.

Cheerleading Senior Captain Amy Esquivel-Flores was selected by the Athletics Department as the National Girls and Women in Sports nominee for SBHS. She will be recognized during halftime at the University of Rutgers Women's Basketball game against Minnesota.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS – Dr. Bernard Bragen

Dr. Bragen said he will save his report for the next meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He also congratulated the newly appointed board members and looks forward to working with them for the next number of years.

PRESENTATION – Annual Code of Ethics Report

Mr. David Disler from Porzio, Bromberg & Newman, P.C. presented the Annual Code of Ethics training.

He discussed the School Ethics Act, Code of Conduct and hypotheticals. To view the entire presentation visit the district's website at www.sbschools.org board meeting of January 7, 2026.

BOARD COMMITTEES & LIAISON REPORTS -

Mrs. Hernandez commented that the year just started and like last year she asked that the board send her their preferences. Also the mayor reached out and said he has a couple positions that he wants board members as liaisons. She will send out the information to the board.

Old Business – None at this time.

New Business – None at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA REVIEW/WALK THROUGH – David Pawlowski

Mr. Pawlowski reviewed the consent agenda items.

APPROVE ACTION ITEMS – There was a motion by Mr. Nathanson, seconded by Dr. Raj to approve the Action Items for January 7, 2026:

1 BUSINESS/BOARD

1.1 Bill List - upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Warrant List dated January 5, 2026 in the amount of $12,101,781.13 as attached.

1.2 Approve Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Reports – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the determinations and recommendations submitted by the Superintendent, through the date of this meeting, regarding the disciplinary consequences and/or remedial actions as required by the State of New Jersey under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights.

Tracking Number	School	Board of Education/First Read	Results of Investigation (HIB or Non-HIB)	Investigations for Confirmation

300382_GES_12012025	Greenbrook Elementary School	12/18/2025	Unfounded	01/7/2026
299579_SBH_11172025	South Brunswick High School	12/18/2025	Unfounded Inconclusive	01/7/2026
299126_IFE_11052025	Indian Fields Elementary School	12/18/2025	Unfounded	01/7/2026
299094_BAE_11052025	Brunswick Acres Elementary School	12/18/2025	Not Founded for All	01/7/2026
298472_SBH_10272025	South Brunswick High School	12/18/2025	Unfounded	01/7/2026

2 PERSONNEL – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the following personnel items as per the attached spreadsheets:

A. Resignation and Retirement
B. Leave of Absence
C. Certificated
D. Non-Certificated
E. Change
F. Extracurricular/Extra Pay

Yes: Mrs. Laura Hernandez, Mrs. Deepa Karthik, Ms. Alisha Khan, Mr. Raja Krishna, Mr. Mike Mitchell, Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Deven Patel, Dr. Smitha Raj, Mr. Rajesh Soni

No: None

Absentations: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS – A junior at South Brunswick High School congratulated the winners of the election. He talked about the voting system in New Jersey. He said the Board of Education in South Orange and Maplewood passed a resolution in support of ranked choice voting. He asked the Board of Education if they would consider passing the resolution.

ADJOURNMENT – There was a motion by Mr. Nathanson, seconded by Dr. Raj to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm.

Mrs. Hernandez announced the next scheduled board meeting is Thursday, January 22, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



David Pawlowski
Business Administrator/Board Secretary