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

Minutes of the Board Meeting of February 27, 2025

The South Brunswick Township Board of Education held a meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2025. The meeting was chaired by President, Mrs. Laura Hernandez.

CALLED TO ORDER AND SALUTE FLAG – Mrs. Hernandez called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

STATEMENT OF ADVANCE NOTICE – Mrs. Hernandez 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, Mrs. Julie Ferrara, Ms. Alisha Kahn, Mr. Raja Krishna, Dr. Smitha Raj, Mrs. Lisa Rodgers and Mr. Rajesh Soni

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Mike Mitchell

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – There was a motion by Ms. Kahn, seconded by Dr. Raj to approve the agenda of February 27, 2024:

MOTION TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION – There was a motion to move to Executive Session at 6:02 pm by Dr. Raj, seconded by Mr. Krishna:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the Township of South Brunswick hereby moves into an Executive Session, in accordance with Sunshine Law, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 (N.J.S.A.) 10:4-6 through 10:4-21), to discuss the following:

X Student Matters

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the discussion conducted in Executive Session can be disclosed to the public at such time as the matters have been resolved. Formal action may be taken at any meeting.

MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC MEETING – There was a motion to return to the Public Meeting at 7:19 pm by Mr. Krishna, seconded by Mrs. Rodgers.

Yes: Mrs. Laura Hernandez, Mrs. Deepa Karthik, Mrs. Julie Ferrara, Ms. Alisha Kahn, Mr. Raja Krishna, Dr. Smitha Raj, Mrs. Lisa Rodgers and Mr. Rajesh Soni

No: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – There was a motion by Dr. Raj, seconded by Mr. Soni to approve the Board Minutes of January 23, 2025.

Yes: Mrs. Laura Hernandez, Mrs. Deepa Karthik, Mrs. Julie Ferrara, Ms. Alisha Kahn, Mr. Raja Krishna, Dr. Smitha Raj, Mrs. Lisa Rodgers and Mr. Rajesh Soni

No: None

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT – Scott Feder

Mr. Feder congratulated the National Merit Semi-Finalists students being honored this evening. There are also 46 National Merit Commended students that will be recognized at the next meeting.

He said there are a few things happening in the school district that are pretty cool. He talked about The Parent Academy "The Anxious Generation" that Dr. Evelyn Mamman, SEL Committee and Ms. Blair Eiseman put together, it was the first of three nights on this topic. He talked about the algorithms on social media that feeds information that they think people want to hear which causes more anxiety. He thanked the SEL Committee for presenting. Mr. Feder said if parents that have not been able to attend the first, he strongly advises to get to the next two. He said it was one of the best programs he attended. He thanked Dr. Mamman for getting it done.

SB Reads also happened this week and 800 people signed up. They had a special guest reader Board President, Mrs. Hernandez. It was great; there were high school students that presented, and students that wrote books that were published were also there. To all of the librarians it was amazing and they put on a great show.

Mr. Feder commented that he taught Dr. Negreval's Physics class. They talked about how policies get developed at the school level and where does it start. He said the governor in his address set aside $3,000,000 behind having schools go completely cell phone free from bell to bell.

Mr. Feder said the budget state aid numbers came out today, he commented that he gave an incorrect number to the board that the district lost $500,000, but it was only $427,000. Last year when they passed a bill the district was able to get 45% of the state aid back, about $645,000 but that is also gone for this year. This year the district is starting with $1,000,000 less from the state then they had last year and with the 2% cap it's worse than that. There were 177 districts that lost money and all of the other districts got money and maybe five districts didn't get money and stayed flat. Newark got $75,000,000, New Brunswick got another $11,000,000 to $12,000,000 and half of the Middlesex County School Districts lost money. They capped the district's loss at 3% of last year's state aid, which he will talk about during budget season.

Mr. Feder also said he received texts from the chief of staff of Senator Zwicker's office and a call from Assembly Frieman. He said if there is a champion for schools right now it is Assembly Roy Frieman and he is not happy about this. Assembly Frieman asked Mr. Feder what are some actionable steps he can take do to see what is possible. Last year he was a champion along with Senator Zwicker and Assemblywoman Michelle Drulis that helped pass a bill so the district can get some of their money back.

Mr. Feder also talked about a committee to look at the impact on enrollment and funding. He said there are currently 3,177 to 3,400 homes to be built in South Brunswick, there are currently 200 homes online and expecting about 800 homes to be occupied by next July. He will discuss more on Old Business. He said by the 2026 – 2027 school year they will have to do something either redistrict or reconfigure.

The 2024 – 2025 Educator and Educational Support Person of the Year Recognition nominations are due by March 6, 2025.

Mrs. Rodgers thanked Mr. Feder for his update and asked if there are any plans or is it too early to discuss what they did last year where they gathered the students, parents and the taxpayers to head to Trenton for testimony.

Mr. Feder responded not right now.

RECOGNITION – 2025 National Merit Semi-Finalist Student Scholars and Honored Educators -

Mr. Peter Varela, Principal of South Brunswick High School announced he is fortunate to honor tonight these distinguished students and teachers. These students are recognized for their performance on their scholastic aptitude test or PSAT which is also the National Merit Scholarship qualifying test. Being recognized by the National Merit organization is one of the most prestigious honor a high school student can achieve. National Merit Semi-Finalists represent the top 16,000 out of the 1.5 million students who took the PSAT at the same time. Mr. Varela said he is pleased to say

South Brunswick High School has 8 Semi-Finalists and as Mr. Feder shared next month they will be honoring 46 commended students.

Keeping with South Brunswick tradition, Mr. Varela said they invited students to identify and honor outstanding educators who made a significant impact on their academic life. Each student has subscribed a message to his or her honoree in a book selected for the teacher. After each student is recognized they will read their inscription and present their teacher with the book. Certificates of appreciation on behalf of the Board of Education will be presented by President, Mrs. Hernandez to all the honorees.

Mr. Varela also thanked his secretary Ms. Ramona Baker for coordinating the special honors program and Mrs. Lurdes Amado-Luis, Assistant to the Superintendent for her assistance in creating the certificates.

Mr. Varela also presented colleges that the semi-finalists students applied and the some of the ones that were accepted to.

The following students and educators were recognized:

Student Scholar	**Honored Educator**
Mayank Deoras	Matt Miller
Aryan Gupta	Amanda Auerbach
Neha Gupta	Richard Luca
Rhea Gupta	Ellie Nichols
Medha Iyer	Stephen Trainor
Tanishka Kulkarni	Subha Eswaran
Julie Pechera	John Noble
Sendalan Sasikaran	Shumaila Chishti

Mr. Varela thanked the Semi-Finalists students for picking the right books for their teacher and sharing the impact they had on their academic careers. He also thanked the teachers for making a difference in the lives of the students and acknowledged the parents of the students for their hard work and support.

Mrs. Hernandez commented it is the best part of the meeting when the students come, she said they are proud of them and know they are going to do great things. She acknowledged the teachers who never know the impact they have on the kids, and thanked them for what they do every day.

The meeting recessed for two minutes.

BOARD COMMITTEES and LIAISON REPORTS –

Mrs. Rodgers, Chair of the Finance Committee, commented they will meet again in March now that they have an update from Mr. Feder regarding the State's presentation of the budget. She will have an update at the next meeting.

Mr. Krishna, Chair of Operations, commented there is no update to report.

Dr. Raj, Chair of the Education Committee, commented they did meet and the board can be expecting an update shortly.

Ms. Kahn, Chair of the Policy Committee, reported the committee met on February 15th, prior to the board meeting and went over Policy Alert 234 that is on the agenda for a 1st Reading. She asked the board members to review the policies and ask any questions before the next meeting on March 13th where there will be a 2nd reading and adoption.

Mrs. Hernandez commented that she attended the Lion King play at Brunswick Acres School and the teachers did an amazing job and the students were awesome. Shout out to Brunswick Acres!

OLD BUSINESS – Enrollment

Mr. Feder commented that the K-5 work that is going to be done is being looked at by Mr. Peter Rattien, Director of Special Projects, Mrs. Cristina Vildostegui-Cerri, Principal of Cambridge Elementary School and Mr. Robert Sears, K-12 Music Supervisor. They will be extending invitations from now until December on the work they are doing. They are also interested in hearing from people that have experience on redistricting. The primary challenge is going to be the enrollment and how will that impact class size, staffing and the budget. The work is a proactive measure to address realities they are facing both financially and enrollment. Right now they were able to survive the budget cuts due to the decrease in enrollment. If the budget cuts continue and they are adding students every year it is a problem that doesn't have a real financial solution. It will be a lot of work and the board will receive updates from the committee leading it. There is also another committee with about 50 to 60 people.

The calendar is back on the agenda. There is misinformation out there and Mr. Feder said he wanted to clear it up. He said at no time for any holiday did any board member or administrator recommend or oppose that Christmas be removed from the calendar. Also, he said for the last eight years the district has not made any change to any calendar that has been in existence. Mr. Feder presented a calendar from two years before he arrived in the district, the school closure calendar for 2015 – 2016 school year. This is not the full district calendar. The full district calendar is online and lists holidays including Christmas. For the school closing calendar if the holiday falls on a weekend on winter break or spring break the holiday is not mentioned.

Mrs. Hernandez commented that this is the third meeting they are discussing the calendar and the issue of Christmas. Mrs. Hernandez said after the last meeting Mr. Feder and she received multiple emails from board members and residents regarding adding Christmas to the school closing calendar. After some discussion and research they decided to put it back on the agenda and ultimately a vote. She said this is a very diverse community and it is important to recognize all holidays celebrated by citizens of South Brunswick. The holiday that the district currently acknowledges with the days off encompasses the faith of South Brunswick. Regardless of winter or spring break, we would recognize these holidays with a day off. She said she is aware of neighboring districts, such as West Windsor Plainsboro that opted to not identify any holiday on a school closure calendar and it has always been that way. She said Randolph School District and recently Montclair has always recognized holidays on their school closing calendar whether or not it was winter or spring break. They tried to change the whole calendar to school closed like West Windsor but it didn't go well in either district and they changed it back. She said they would be adding one word (Christmas) to a closed calendar to respect the wishes of the diverse community.

Mrs. Hernandez said she also recognizes that the district is a public school entity where they celebrate many things and many say religion doesn't belong in a public school, but noting it is taught in school but not the same as it would be taught in a church, synagogue, mosque or temple. She said what you practice is a core of who you are and to tell people this is a public school but not to bring with them their core values is unrealistic. She said so why wouldn't we add one word for a day we already have off.

She said she proposes to the board for these holidays that we are already closed to be noted on the school closure calendar whenever a holiday falls on a Monday to Friday between the days of September 1st through June 30th during winter and spring break. By adding the days it hurts no one and cost nothing and celebrates the Christian faith.

Mr. Pawlowski commented that if the board decides they want to change an already approve calendar they need to follow the parliament procedure to and make a motion to rescind and a 2nd then a discussion. For a motion to rescind to pass it needs 2/3 yes votes and with eight board members present they need five yes votes to pass.

There was a motion by Mrs. Hernandez, seconded by Mrs. Karthik to rescind the school closing calendar previously approved on February 13, 2025, Item A. 1.16, a discussion followed:

Mrs. Rodgers commented that as women of catholic faith she supports any references to catholic holidays on the district calendar along with any other religion. When concerns were raised about Christmas or some being pushed out, it was not true. Nothing has changed; there was no removal of the holiday. South Brunswick has always been a diverse community. It is disheartening that anyone would suggest that the board made such a drastic change. As Mr. Feder explained the calendar in question is the days off calendar, it is voted on and approved as the dates indicated when schools are

not in session during break. This calendar is a just like the state and federal calendar, the PTO and sports all have their own calendar and none list the holidays, these along with others roll in the master school district calendar which lists the every holiday. She said parents want an uncluttered view of when they have to bring their kids to sports or when testing takes place. That is the objective of the school closure calendar. Over the years it was helpful for parents to know why schools were closed on a particular date. She also noted that if holidays fall on the weekend there were no references of holidays on the school closing calendar. She also said surrounding districts don't recognize holidays on their school closing calendar. She proposes on this calendar that they reconsider how they present the school closing calendar. She also handed out to the board a copy of the West Windsor calendar that follows this approach. She agrees this approach would be affective it is precise and keeps the focus on school closures. She suggests that the board take this approach and would avoid highlighting one holiday over others. It would reduce administration burden and staff to allow the board to focus on what matters most, educating the kids, dealing with the funding challenges and many uncertainty that they will soon be facing.

Mrs. Ferrara commented she feels that the town has become a beautiful diverse town and for the board to adopt this school closing calendar with nothing on it to denote the diversity that we all share in this town is sad. She said she thinks it is good for the parents to look at when their children's classmates are off for their religious holiday and to take care not to bother them with visits. She also commented on the way they dress on their specific holiday and the joy and pride they take in that. That kind of pride she said she seen in this town that she lived in for 36 years.

Mrs. Ferrara also addressed Mr. Feder and said Christmas was always listed on the school closing calendar when her children went to Greenbrook, Crossroads South and South Brunswick High School. She doesn't know when it came off but she can guarantee it was originally on the school closure calendar. She said her kids are in their 40's so they may have to go back a while. She said diversity is something they celebrate and there wasn't a sense of inclusion for the Christmas holiday and that winter break is specifically tailored to allow Christians to celebrate. She personally thinks it's a boring calendar and doesn't celebrate the diversity and to recommends putting Christmas on the school closing calendar as Mrs. Hernandez suggested is inclusive and doesn't hurt anyone.

Dr. Raj said that Diwali is a holiday that her and her family celebrates and it means a lot to them. Seeing Diwali on the calendar reminds her that she lives in a society where Diwali can be celebrated. She said many countries across the world Diwali cannot be celebrated because of restrictions and violence whenever Diwali is celebrated. It is not a simple thing to celebrate, but it is a privilege here that she lives in a society where she can practice her religion as well as celebrate festivities that are meaningful to her. Having Diwali on the calendar is a reminder for her and she appreciates having the religious holidays on the calendar. She supports having religious holidays on the calendar.

Mrs. Karthik commented she appreciates her colleagues giving all their comments and thoughts on this. She said she is a practicing Hindu as Dr. Raj proudly says; it is reassuring and great sense of pride and acknowledgement when their holidays are recognized. When they come together as board members or community members they bring their whole self and values that means so much to her.

Mrs. Karthik said she studied in a convent too and she has a lot of friends who are Christians and lot of friends that are other faiths as well. She said seeing that Good Friday and Christmas specifically comes on recess of school and seeing that not acknowledged she sees how that comes across for people that practice that faith. This is going to happen every year and it is important as community members because the school is on a scheduled break. She said she made her views clear when they talked about it last time.

Mrs. Karthik said she appreciates this discussion as a board, but they have far more issues they should be spending time discussing rather than discussing this issue. She supports acknowledging religious holidays and it means so much to the diverse community. It is important to the community it is our school district calendar, we can take pointers from what happens in other school districts, but it doesn't prevent them from doing their work. She doesn't think they are driven by what West Windsor Plainsboro is doing, they are here to make their own policies and what is agreeable to them as a board. She is here to support the entire community and she supports Good Friday and Christmas on the school closing calendar.

Mr. Soni agreed having those days on the calendar helps to know what other religions are celebrated. Students have the opportunity to wish each other their particular faith and broader awareness of each other. It doesn't hurt to have religious holidays being mentioned on the calendar.

Mrs. Rodgers said she appreciates that but if they are going to do that than they have an obligation because it is a public school district and if you are going to acknowledge you need to acknowledge all holidays. She said you have other religions out there that are not acknowledged on the school closure calendar and she said it is offensive to those that celebrate other holidays.

Mrs. Hernandez replied that any other holiday when schools are not off will not be acknowledged on the school closure calendar. Christmas always falls during winter break and it is one word to add to the calendar. She also agreed that if there are other holidays that fall during spring or winter break on a Monday through Friday from September 1st through June 30th they should also be added to the school closure calendar.

Mrs. Rodgers clarified Mrs. Hernandez response regarding any other holidays being listed if schools are closed on the school closure calendar.

After discussion there was a roll call vote to rescind the school closing calendar previously approved on February 13, 2025, Item A. 1.16:

Yes: Mrs. Laura Hernandez, Mrs. Deepa Karthik, Mrs. Julie Ferrara, Dr. Smitha Raj and Mr. Rajesh Soni

No: Ms. Alisha Kahn, Mr. Raja Krishna and Mrs. Rodgers

There was an additional motion by Mrs. Hernandez, seconded by Mrs. Karthik to change the school closing calendar to notate holidays during days off Monday through Friday:

Yes: Mrs. Laura Hernandez, Mrs. Deepa Karthik, Mrs. Julie Ferrara, Dr. Smitha Raj and Mr. Rajesh Soni

No: Ms. Alisha Kahn, Mr. Raja Krishna and Mrs. Rodgers

NEW BUSINESS – None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Mrs. Hernandez read a statement in regards to public comments and asked that members of the public be respectful.

Mr. Arthur Napolitano, a resident of South Brunswick since 1997, commented that his son graduated from South Brunswick Highs School and a daughter that is a senior. He commented he came to the meeting to talk about the calendar he heard after Saturday night's mass that Christmas was not listed on the calendar. Since then there was a petition with over 400 signatures, which he said is no longer needed. He applauded the board for their decision and thanked them.

Mr. Michael James, a resident of Monmouth Junction for 30 years thanked the board for their previous discussion. He said he came tonight because he wanted to ask the board if they are true to the district themes, values and goals that are posted on the website. He commented on the holidays that are listed on the calendar. He said he did the research and the state statues denotes Good Friday and Christmas Day as state holidays, It is not acceptable to ask to put Easter Sunday on there because it is a Sunday and the calendar covers Monday to Friday. But Good Friday is a rotating day and will be April 3, 2026 and Christmas will fall on Thursday next year. He thanked everybody and said to remember their values that they state "Equity begins with me."

Mr. Barry Nathanson, resident of 40 Dunston Lane, said he wasn't going to speak but there were some misconceptions out there. He stated that there has never been Christmas listed on the calendar and he is happy to send it to the board. He said there is a live calendar now that is different when he moved into the town and when he came on the board. He said they received a one sheet calendar that listed Christmas but it was never listed on the school closing calendar. He also said in the Jewish religion

they have approximately 15 to 20 holidays, the only two that are on the calendar are the days off. He said when he went to school he had to take the day off for Jewish holidays. Mr. Nathanson said they rescinded a vote which they are allowed to do and the next vote has to be done by NJ State Law at the following meeting not the same meeting. He said Mr. Pawlowski should look it up so the rest of the public has a chance to speak on the revised change.

Mr. Pawlowski said they will review and if needed, there will be a motion on the next agenda.

Mr. Frank Morelli, township resident for 36 years, commented his children went through the school system in South Brunswick. He said he came to speak because he was disturbed and disappointed on the outcome of the discussion from last meeting. He said he was upset about last week's discussion about inclusion of Christmas, which is not only celebrated by Christians, it is a federal holiday. He commented he is happy of the outcome the board revisiting the conversation based on some input. He came to speak as a Christian after he heard what happened last week he said he will pray for all of them.

Mrs. Lisa Garwood, township resident of Heathcote, also spoke about last week's meeting discussion about the school closing calendar, as a parent and teacher. She said the days off calendar is a quick reference for staff and families and the more information the more crowded it becomes. She also referenced West Windsor's calendar. She said if all religious holidays are going to be on the calendar that no religion is giving accidental preference treatment in the diverse community. She also provided handouts of the state holiday calendar to the board. If all the holidays should be added to the live calendar they have to be sure all holidays are listed.

Mrs. Chris Resnick, township resident of Kendall Park, said she has a real problem and doesn't know where the separation of church and state falls into this; but the problem she has is that a school board member going to a priest who then announces it the congregation what the public schools are doing.

CONSENT AGENDA REVIEW/WALK THROUGH – David Pawlowski
Mr. Pawlowski reviewed the Action Items.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA – There was a motion by Mr. Krishna, seconded by Dr. Raj to approve the consent agenda items for February 27, 2025.

1 BUSINESS/BOARD

1.1 Approval of Transfers – upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the transfers for the month ending January 31, 2025 as submitted by the Superintendent of Schools, as authorized by N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1.

1.2 Approval of Financials - to accept the South Brunswick Township Board of Education's certification that the Superintendent, Scott Feder, recommends that the Board of Education accept the monthly financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Moneys for the month ending January 31, 2025 and recommends in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(3) that the Board of Education certify that no major account or fund has been overexpended and that as of this report sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

1.3 Bill List - upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the Warrant List dated February 21, 2025 in the amount of $6,775,448.00 as attached.

1.4 Accept Donation – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the South Brunswick Board of Education accept a donation from the Brunswick Acres PTO in the amount of $3,827. The funds are being donated for the purchase of two soccer goals for Brunswick Elementary School.

1.5 Approve Allocation – IDEA Basic & Preschool Funding – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the South Brunswick Board of Education approve the revised allocation of the IDEA Basic and Preschool Grant from the New Jersey Department of Education for the 2024 – 2025 school year:

IDEA Basic Original Allocation	$1,959,901.00
Carryover	$110,227.00
Revised 2024 – 2025 Allocation	$2,070,128.00
IDEA Preschool Original Allocation	$69,682.00
Carryover	$1,541.00
Revised 2024 – 2025 Allocation	$71,223.00

1.6 Approve Agreement for DOT Testing Services – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the Agreement for DOT Testing Services from PSI Prevention Specialists, Incorporated as per the attached Testing Fee Schedule for drug and alcohol testing for CDL licensed employees for the 2025 – 2026 school year. The cost of these services should not exceed $5,000.

1.7 Approve Lease Purchase Agreement – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the South Brunswick Board of Education approve the following lease purchase agreement:

Resolution of the Board of Education of the Township of South Brunswick in the County of Middlesex, determining to finance the acquisition of (3) 2025 Ford F-250 Trucks and (1) 2025 Ford F-550 Truck through the New Jersey State Contract and ESCNJ cooperative bid process, recommendation of award and execution of a lease purchase agreement, approving the form of certain

agreements including a lease purchase agreement, authorizing certain officials of the board to execute such agreements and authorizing other actions necessary to accomplish the transaction.

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of the Township of South Brunswick in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey (the "Board" when referring to the governing body, and the "School District" when referring to the legal entity and the territorial boundaries that are governed by the Board) has determined to lease purchase finance the acquisition of (**3) 2025 Ford F-250 Trucks and (1) 2025 Ford F-550 Truck**, and other miscellaneous costs required to enter into a Lease Purchase Agreement ("Lease, Agreement") for an amount of approximately $264,661.51 which will allow for any additions, substitutions or deletions (collectively, the "Acquisition").

WHEREAS, The Board has selected The Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission to serve as financial advisor (the "Financial Advisor") to conduct competitive bids (BIDS) for the Lease Purchase to finance the cost of the Acquisition; and

WHEREAS, The Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission has conducted the Competitive Bids for the Lease Purchase on February 12, 2025 and has made a recommendation of award to the Board;

WHEREAS, The Board wishes to expedite the payment of the respective vendors of the Acquisition;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Township of South Brunswick in the County of Middlesex, as follows:

The Board hereby awards the lease purchase transaction to First American Commercial Bancorp, Inc. and approves the execution of the Lease to the Lessor in order to finance the acquisition and authorizes the sale of the Lease to CN Financing, Inc. as Lessor, after Board Counsel has reviewed the Agreement. This award is to be made in accordance with the bid proposal form submitted by First American Commercial Bancorp, Inc. to the Board Secretary as of the date of 2/12/25, said proposal shall be attached hereto, and kept on file with the Board Secretary.

The Board hereby awards the lease purchase transaction to First American Commercial Bancorp, Inc. at an interest rate of 4.469% for the five-year schedule to the lease. Should this lease not fund prior to March 15, 2025, this interest rate may be adjusted according to the following terms:

Bid Results:

Respondent	**Rate Lock 30 days**	**Purchase Option Penalty (% of**	**Rate Bid (*Yield including fees)**	**Additional Fee**	**Recommend**

		outstanding principal balance)			
First American Commercial Bancorp, Inc., NY	Rate lock for 60 days	Yield maintenance	4.469%	None	Recommend for award.
Cogent Leasing and Financing, Inc., FL	Rate lock to 3/15/25	102%	4.39% *4.484%	$500	
US Bancorp NJ	Rate to 5.10.25	101%	4.989%	None	
Baystone Public Finance. KS State Bank, KS	Rate lock for 30 days	103%	5.26%	None	

The Board authorizes the Board President and/or the Board Secretary to approve any changes or deletions to the Lease Agreement or related documents as may, in the judgment of Counsel be necessary, advisable and in the best interest of the Board.

The Board hereby delegates the President and the Board Secretary the ability to execute the lease purchase agreement and other related financing documents with First American Commercial Bancorp, Inc. serving as the Lessor and purchaser of the lease purchase agreement (the "Lessor" and "Purchaser").

The Lease is hereby designated as a "qualified tax-exempt obligation" for purposes of Section 265 (b) (3) (ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

1.8 Record and Award Bids – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the following bids for In-District Displaced Students and Out-of-District Special Education Transportation, Bid No. 24-24, opened on February 13, 2025 be recorded as per the following:

Vendor	**No. of Routes**	**Total Per Diem**	**Total Per Diem Price After Bulk Bid %**
Bright Start Transportation LLC Perth Amboy, NJ	2	$650.00	$617.50

Durham School Services, L.P. Lisle, IL	1	$558.22	$558.22
Emanuel Trans, LLC East Brunswick, NJ	2	$553.00	$541.94
First Student Inc. Monmouth Junction, NJ	1	$525.00	$525.00
Happy Lime, LLC Spotswood, NJ	2	$602.00	$595.98
Joy Transport Somerset, NJ	1	$430.00	$408.50
K&D Bus Service Somerset, NJ	2	$728.00	$728.00,
Kero Trans LLC East Brunswick, NJ	1	$267.00	$267.00
Nanda Transportation LLC Piscataway, NJ	1	$159.00	$143.10
Saint Mary Transportation Bordentown, NJ	2	$666.00	$692.00
Taykz Tyme LLC Somerset, NJ	2	$620.00	$620.00
Roots Transportation Dayton, NJ	2	$542.00	$542.00

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the following bids for In-District Displaced Student and Out of District Special Education Transportation, Bid No. 24-24, opened on February 13, 2025 be awarded as per the following:

Vendor	**Description**	**No. of Routes**	**Total Per Diem**	**Price After Bulk Bid %**
Happy Lime LLC Spotswood, NJ	Route #DIS1	1	$141.00	$5,640.00
Roots Transportation Dayton, NJ	Route #COL*	1	$344.00	$17,888.00

1.9 Approve Extension of Professional Services and Increase in Not-To-Exceed Amount – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the South Brunswick Board of Education approve extension of professional services and an increase in the not-to-exceed amount for Educational Consulting Services for the 2025 – 2025 school year:

Previous Board Approval Date	Vendor	Service	Previous Not-to-Exceed Amount	Increased Not-to- Exceed Amount
01/23/ 2025	Lift As We Climb Consulting, LLC	Educational Consulting	$34,400.00	$55,000.00

1.10 Approve Resolution Awarding Contract and Authorizing Purchase Over the Bid Limit – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the South Brunswick Board of Education award the following contract over the bid limit:

BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 that the Board approves the following purchase that exceeds the bid threshold, utilizing Sourcewell National Cooperative Contract #012320-SCC, Office Supply Catalog Solutions, with Staples Contract & Commercial LLC, of Framingham, MA, for the purchase of Chromebooks.

Quantity	Product Description	Total Price
500	HP Chromebook 11 G9 Education Edition	$112,075.00
500	Google Chrome OS Management Console	$16,000.00
	SUBTOTAL	**$128,075.00**

1.11 Approve Resolution Authorizing the Use of the Competitive Contracting Process – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the South Brunswick Board of Education authorize the use of the competitive contracting process:

WHEREAS; the Board of Education desires to seek proposals from qualified providers for the following contract:

- **Gifted and Talented Identification Screener Services**

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Brunswick Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.3 (a), authorizes the use of the Competitive Contracting procurement process for the purpose of entering into contract for Gifted and Talented Identification Screener Services.

The Competitive Contracting process shall be administered by the School Business Administrator pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.3 (b).

1.12 Approve Student Field Trips – upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the student field trips and destinations as per the following for the 2023 – 2024 school year.

School	Destination	City	State	Date(s)	Grade(s)
SBHS	FBLA @ Michelin EDC Meeting	Edison	NJ	3/5/2025	11, 12
Crossroads North	Steinert High School (Jazz Festival)	Hamilton	NJ	3/8/2025	6, 7, 8 MS Jazz
Crossroads South	Steinert High School (Jazz Festival)	Hamilton	NJ	3/8/2025	6, 7, 8 MS Jazz
SBHS	STUCO @ NJASC Executive Meeting @ East Brunswick High School	East Brunswick	NJ	3/17/2025	11
SBHS	AP African American Studies Students at the Museum of African American History	Washington	DC	3/27/2025	9, 10, 11, 12
Constable	East Jersey Old Town and the Low House	Piscataway	NJ	3/26/2025	4
Constable	East Jersey Old Town and the Low House	Piscataway	NJ	3/27/2025	4
SBHS	HOSA @ State Leadership BCIT Westampton	Westampton	NJ	3/29/2025-3/30/2025	9, 10, 11, 12

SBHS	STUCO @ NJASC Executive Meeting @Kinnelon High School	Kinnelon	NJ	4/28/2025	11
Constable	Howell Living Farm	Hopewell	NJ	5/13/2025	2
SBHS	Junior Prom @ Cornucopia	Perth Amboy	NJ	5/16/2025	10, 11, 12,
SBHS	Pirandello Players @ Central Jersey Marquee Awards @ Carteret Performing Arts and Events Center	Carteret	NJ	5/19/2025	9, 10, 11, 12
Monmouth Junction	Howell Living Farm	Lambertville	NJ	5/20/2025	2
SBHS	NJ Convention & Expo Center	Edison	NJ	5/28/2025	10, 11, 12, JKC
SBHS	Pirandello Players - Papermill Rising Stars Awards@ Paper Mill Playhouse	Millburn	NJ	6/3/2025	9, 10, 11, 12
SBHS	Senior Prom @ Marigold	Somerset	NJ	6/6/2025	10, 11, 12,
SBHS	PEER @ Reichler Park	Monmouth Junction	NJ	6/17/2025	12
SBHS	Project Graduation @ Colonial Bowling	Lawrence Township	NJ	6/27/2025-6/28/2025	12

1.13 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
286694_GES_02042025	Greenbrook ES	02/13/2025	Not Founded for All	02/27/2025
286131_CES_01232025	Cambridge ES	02/13/2025	Founded All Offenders	02/27/2025
285940_CES_01212025	Cambridge ES	02/13/2025	Founded All Offenders	02/27/2025
285814_CES_01162025	Cambridge ES	02/13/2025	Unfounded	02/27/2025

1.14 Approve Resolution for Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement – upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement for the staff listed on the attached sheet.

WHEREAS, the South Brunswick Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive prior approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only as described in NJOMB Circular Letter 06-02, including amendments or revisions thereto, a threshold amount below which Board approval is not required; and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable are excluded from the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq.; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as per noted on the Board of Education Approval of Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement Form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the travel and related expense reimbursements as listed on the attached Board of Education Approval of Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement Form.

Last Name	First Name	School/Bldg.	Date(s)	Name of Conference/ Workshop	Destination (City, State)	Fees	Total Cost
Eiseman	Blair	Admin. Office	4/7/2025, 04/8/2025	NJASA Annual Women's Leadership Conference	The Palace at Somerset	Registration	459
O'Connor	Maura	High School	3/6/2025, 3/7/2025	The Association of Student Assistance Professionals of NJ 38th Annual Conference	Crowne Plaza, Scudders Mill Rd, Plainsboro, NJ	Registration	300
McQuarrie	Kara	High School	3/6/2025, 3/7/2025	The Association of Student Assistance Professionals of NJ 38th Annual Conference	Crowne Plaza, Scudders Mill Rd, Plainsboro, NJ	Registration	300
Rossi	Collin	High School	3/19/2025 3/26/2025	Contemporary Literature: Flash Fiction, Twitter Narratives and Other Short Stories	The College of New Jersey		0
Morris	Lauren	High School	3/24/2025	NJASC Advisor Workshop	Melvin H. Kreps Middle School, East Windsor, NJ	Registration	35

Olsen	Harlee	High School	3/24/2025	NJASC Advisor Workshop	Melvin H. Kreps Middle School, East Windsor, NJ	Registration	35
Johnson	Jeffrey	High School	3/12/2025 3/14/2025	2025 DAANJ Annual Conference	Hard Rock Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ	Lodging, Meals, Mileage, Registration, Parking	1195.71
Bufis	Rebecca	High School	3/12/2025	MSU Theatre Teacher Day PD	Montclair State University	Registration	175
Trader	Jillian	High School	3/12/2025	MSU Theatre Teacher Day PD	Montclair State University	Registration	175
Taranto	Natalie	High School	3/18/2025	Farm to School Academy 101	Fullfill, 3300 Route 66, Neptune, NJ		0
Pemberton	Christi	Cambridge	4/7/2025, 04/8/2025	NJASA and NJPSA/FEA 8th Annual Women's Leadership Conference 2025	The Palace at Somerset Park, Somerset, NJ	Registration	459
Greco	Jennifer	Cambridge	5/19/2025	Artificial Intelligence in the Math Classroom: The Good, Bad and Ugly	Rowan University	Registration	199
Honig	Peter	High School	6/12/2025	AP Language Exam Online Reading Training	Online		0
Janis	Cristina	High School	6/2/2025	AP Reader Training	Online		0
Finkelstein	Amy	High School	3/6/2025, 3/7/2025	The Association of Student Assistance Professionals Annual Conference	Crowne Plaza, Scudders Mill Rd, Plainsboro, NJ	Registration	375

1.15 Approve Out-of-District Placements – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the South Brunswick Board of Education approve the attached Out-of-District Placements for the 2024 – 2025 school year for the student whose initials appear on the attached sheet. Placement includes tuition and transportation costs paid by the South Brunswick School District.

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

Mrs. Rodgers asked if the district is still using Chromebooks from way back when they started testing and are they still using that technology.

Mr.Pawlowski responded no, the Chromebooks were purchased using some grants during covid. The other Chromebooks are absolute.

Mrs. Rodgers asked if they have they updated all of the technology. Mr. Pawlowski responded every year they budget money to update the technology and Chromebooks.

Mr. Soni asked for clarification on the lease purchase. Mr. Pawlowski responded it is how school districts purchase, at the end of the five years the district owns those vehicles.

Mr. Soni also said they looked at the option of buying new or pre-owned but the cost was the same. Mr. Pawlowski said he sent Mr. Soni some documentation on a RFQ for all of the dealers that are on the State contract for older vehicles and after outfitting those vehicles were about $10,000 dollars more than the new vehicles that are leased.

Mr. Soni asked if there is a schedule ever year. Mr. Pawlowski responded the district is on a rolling schedule for the whole district about $1,000,000 a year in payments and every year two three leases falls off, they either bypass a year or replace with a lease that is close to the same price.

Mr. Soni also talked about instead of owning their own fleet of trucks for snow removal they can have a service provide it and something to consider.

Mr. Pawlowski said it could be talked about in committee.

Yes: Mrs. Laura Hernandez, Mrs. Deepa Karthik, Mrs. Julie Ferrara, Mrs. Alisha Kahn, Mr. Raja Krishna, Dr. Smitha Raj, Mrs. Lisa Rodgers and Mr. Rajesh Soni

No: None

Absentations: None

Mrs. Hernandez said the next scheduled board meeting is scheduled for March 13th.

ADJOURNMENT – There was a motion by Ms. Kahn, seconded by Mrs. Ferrara to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



David Pawlowski
Business Administrator/Board Secretary