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

Minutes of the Board Meeting of January 6, 2022

The South Brunswick Township Board of Education held a reorganization meeting on Thursday, January 6, 2022. The meeting was chaired by Business Administrator/Board Secretary David Pawlowski.

CALLED TO ORDER – Mr. Pawlowski called the meeting of 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: Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Ray, Kuehner, Mr. Raja Krishna
Mrs. Joyce Mehta, Mr. Mike Mitchell, Dr. Smitha Raj,
Mrs. Lisa Rodgers & Mr. Joseph Scaletti

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Mr. Pawlowski announced the Start Strong Presentation is being removed from the agenda. There was a motion by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Mehta to approve the agenda of January 6, 2022:

Yes: Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Ray Kuehner, Mr. Raja Krishna
Mrs. Joyce Mehta, Mr. Mike Mitchell, Dr. Smitha Raj,
Mrs. Lisa Rodgers & Mr. Joseph Scaletti

No: None

ANNOUNCE BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION RESULTS –

Mr. Pawlowski announced the members elected to the Board of Education as per the certified election results from November 2, 2021.

Barry Nathanson	4,337
Lisa M. Rodgers	4,103
Deepa Karthik	3,512

ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO BOARD MEMBERS –

Incumbents Mr. Barry Nathanson & Mrs. Lisa Rodgers and newly elected Mrs. Deepa Karthik took their oath of office.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT –

There was a motion by Mrs. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Scalletti to nominate Mr. Kuehner as Board President.

Mrs. Rodgers in her statement in regards to her nomination of Mr. Kuehner as president, she spoke of the importance of the board president's role, and their availability at all times to respond to emails. Board Presidents also serve as ex-officio to all Board Committees. Mr. Kuehner has served as Chair of the Budget Committee. Mr. Kuehner has proven that he is an "effective" board member. He will listen to all sides then make a clear and consensus decision. Mrs. Rogers commented that it is best for students when there is collaboration between the board for all students and not one particular group.

Mr. Kuehner consented to his name offered as president.

Yes: Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Ray Kuehner,
Mrs. Lisa Rodgers & Mr. Joseph Scaletti

No: Mrs. Deepa Karthik, Mr. Raja Krishna, Mrs. Joyce Mehta,
Mr. Mike Mitchell, Dr. Smitha Raj

Motion did not pass.

There was a second motion by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Dr. Raj to nominate Mrs. Mehta as president.

Mr. Mitchell is his statement in regards to the nomination of Mrs. Mehta as president commented that Mrs. Mehta successfully won two elections; she is an effective leader and communicator and an active community partner that will support the clear vision of the district. Mrs. Metha serves as Chair of the Policy Committee and is on the NJSBA Board of Directors, the NJSBA Equity Committee, and the South Brunswick Township Commission on Women and is a liaison to Indian Fields/Dayton Elementary Schools.

Mrs. Mehta consented to her name being offered as president.

Yes: Mrs. Deepa Karthik, Mr. Raja Krishna, Mrs. Joyce Mehta,
Mr. Mike Mitchell, Dr. Smitha Raj

No: Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Ray Kuehner
Mrs. Lisa Rodgers & Mr. Joseph Scaletti

Motion passed, Mrs. Mehta was nominated as president and presided over the rest of the meeting.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT – There was a motion by Mr. Krishna, seconded by Dr. Raj to nominate Mr. Mitchell as Vice-President.

Mr. Krishna is regards to the nomination of Mr. Mitchell as Vice-President commented that Mr. Mitchell in his first year has made strides to the students and staff of the South Brunswick community. Since being elected he involved himself in the state, county and local level serving as Vice Chairman of the Election Committee of the Middlesex County School Boards Association and has attended meetings regularly. He also attends the delegate assembly meetings and the legislative committee meetings. Mr. Mitchell has also received his new board member certification.

Mr. Mitchell accepted the nomination of Vice-President, there were no other nominations.

Yes: Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mrs. Deepa Karthik, Mr. Raja Krishna, Mrs. Joyce Mehta, Mr. Mike Mitchell, Dr. Smitha Raj

No: Mr. Ray Kuehner, Mrs. Lisa Rodgers & Mr. Joseph Scaletti

Motion passed, Mr. Mitchell was nominated as Vice-President and assumed his position on the dais.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT – Mr. Scott Feder

Mr. Feder congratulated Mrs. Mehta for the nomination of president and Mr. Mitchell for his nomination as Vice President. He welcomed newly elected Mrs. Deepa Karthik to the board. He wished everyone a Happy New Year!

Tonight we were going to present the Start Strong Presentation but we have moved it to another meeting.

Mr. Feder commented on the Virtual Meeting held with the Township Health Department and Dr. Phan the district's physician.

Dr. Diszler shared information about Launching the Career Academy.

The next Parent Academy will be a High School Career Academy – Computer Science Information Night on January 11, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Information regarding registration was sent home.

There will be a Transportation/School Start Times Committee Meeting on Monday, January 10th. Look out for more information on forums and surveys.

The Board Retreat is scheduled for January 13th.

Schools are closed Monday, January 17th in observance of Martin Luther King Day. Schools will be back in person beginning Tuesday, January 18th.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS – Mrs. Mehta read a statement in regards to public comments. No member of the public commented on the Agenda Items.

AGENDA REVIEW -
Agenda Section Walk Through – Mr. Pawlowski reviewed the agenda items.

Mr. Nathanson acknowledged the donation from Indian Fields PTO.

Mrs. Rodgers asked about the Curtis McGraw Foundation donation. Mr. Pawlowski responded it is a scholarship.

A. Old Business
   i. Tabled Item - Board Comments – The tabled item will be discussed at the board retreat.

APPROVE ACTION ITEMS – There was a motion by Mr. Nathanson, seconded by Mrs. Rodgers to approve the Action Items of January 6, 2022:

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 November 30, 2021, as submitted by the Superintendent, as authorized by N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1.

1.2 Approval of Additional Transfers – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve additional transfers for the month ending June 30, 2021, as submitted by the Superintendent, as authorized by N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1.

1.3 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 November 30, 2021, and he 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 over-expended and that as of this report sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

1.4 Bill List - upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Warrant List dated December 22, 2021 in the amount of $6,787,513.39 as attached.

1.5 Accept Donations – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education accept the following donations:

A. from the Indian Fields PTO in the amount of $5,400 for the purchase of a Coach Cliff's Gaga Ball Pit to be constructed on the 4th & 5th grade playground at Indian Fields Elementary School Main Building.

B. from PNC Bank in the amount of $2,500 to offset the cost of the printing of the District's Annual Calendar.

C. from the Curtis W. McGraw Foundation in the amount of $5,000 for the Carleton W. Rose Foundation.

1.6 Approve Non-Public Technology Purchase Order – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the purchase orders for non-public technology equipment/supplies for St. Augustine School from the Education Services Commission of New Jersey.

	Technology
St. Augustine School Technology Allotment	$13,482.00
PO's 1-3 previously approved	-$12,541.66
Balance	$940.34
PO4	$413.68
Balance of Allotment	$526.66

1.7 Approve Sidebar Agreement – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the attached Sidebar Agreement between the South Brunswick Board of Education and the Head Custodial and Custodial Foreman Association (SBHCCFA) and the South Brunswick School Maintenance Association (SBSMA).

1.8 Approve Resolution for Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement -

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 attached 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 as per the 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
Frost	David	Administrative Office	1/26/22 – 1/27/22	NJASA Techspo 2022	Atlantic City, NJ	Mileage, Registration Tolls	$556.95

1.9 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.

Case Number	Investigation Results Superintendent Recommendation to Board of Education	HIB or Non-HIB	Date of Board Approval
(04) Elem. 2122-11-003	December 14, 2021	Non HIB	January 6, 2022
(04) Elem. 2122-11-004	December 14, 2021	Non HIB	January 6, 2022
(13) MS – 2021-11-03	December 14, 2021	Non HIB	January 6, 2022

1.10 Record and Award Bids – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that Board of Education accept the bids for HVAC Upgrades at Crossroads North and South Middle Schools, Bid No. 28 – 21, opened on Thursday, January 6, 2022 as per the following:

Vendor	Total Price
Central Pack Engineering Hibemia, NJ	$6,468,147.00
Comfort Mechanical Long Branch, NJ	$6,434,000.00
H&S Construction & Mechanical Elizabeth, NJ	$5,683,000.00
Preferred Mechanic Keyport, NJ	$5,949,000.00
Thassian Mechanical Contracting Belford, NJ	$5,705,000.00
Unitemp Somerset, NJ	$5,499,000.00

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the award for HVAC Upgrades at Crossroads North and South Middle Schools, Bid No. 28 – 21, opened on Thursday, January 6, 2022 as per the following:

Vendor	**Total Price**
Unitemp Somerset, NJ	$5,499,000.00

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

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

Yes: Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Ray Kuehner, Mr. Raja Krishna, Mrs. Joyce Mehta, Mr. Mike Mitchell, Dr. Smitha Raj, Mrs. Lisa Rodgers & Mr. Joseph Scaletti

No: None

Abstentions: Mrs. Deepa Karthik

BOARD COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS –

Mrs. Rodgers reported on the Curriculum Committee meeting held on December 8th. Dr. Diszler shared the final draft of the first career academy which will launch in September 2022. She also gave perspective on how it pertains to the strategic plan.

Mrs. Rodgers reported the high school course booklet will be sent out to each board member for review after their next meeting, originally scheduled for January 19, 2022 moved to January 18, 2022.

Mrs. Mehta announced the South Brunswick Commission on Women Conference is planning for their annual conference on March 19, 2022. Scholarship opportunities will available. Registration should be opening soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jim Lavin, a township resident and parent of a special education student, asked the administration to consider prioritizing the special education students that are most "vulnerable" if schools are not going back in person, since sports are currently taking place.

Mr. Lorenzo Richardson, a resident of Jersey City, speaking on his own behalf not as a board member, congratulated the newly elected board members. He commented he has been watching what is been going on in South Brunswick. He has been advocating for public education for 29 years. He commended the Board of Education, the community and Superintendent Scott Feder for their diligence.

Mrs. Deepa Karthik thanked the community for the opportunity and promised to serve with intelligence and honesty and looks forward to working with all the board members together as a team. Mrs. Karthik also thanked all the board members that have served in the past and her family who supported her through this journey.

Mrs. Mehta thanked everyone and extended her gratitude to her fellow board members. She thanked her husband and her daughters for their support. She thanked her friends who came out to support her. Mrs. Mehta commented she will continue to do as best as she can as president of the board.

ADJOURNMENT – There was a motion by Mr. Nathanson, seconded by Mrs. Rodgers to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



David Pawlowski
Business Administrator/Board Secretary