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

Minutes of the Board Meeting of May 7, 2024

The South Brunswick Township Board of Education held a meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. The meeting was chaired by Vice-President, Mrs. Laura Hernandez.

CALLED TO ORDER AND SALUTE FLAG – Mrs. Hernandez called the meeting to order at 7:00 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. Julie Ferrara, Ms. Alisha Khan, Mr. Raja Krishna, Mr. Mike Mitchell, Mr. Barry Nathanson, Dr. Smitha Raj

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Lisa Rodgers and Mrs. Deepa Karthik

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – There was a motion by Dr. Raj, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve the agenda of May 7, 2024:

Yes: Mrs. Laura Hernandez, Mrs. Julie Ferrara, Ms. Alisha Khan, Mr. Raja Krishna, Mr. Mike Mitchell, Mr. Barry Nathanson, Dr. Smitha Raj

No: None

REPORT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – Difan Li

Student Council is excited to announce that Powder Puff, our annual girls' flag football game, is taking place on May 22nd. Over 200 students are participating and the teams from each class are working hard to prepare decorations. This will be a free event to attend, but we will be collecting donations for South Brunswick's very own Hugs for Brady Foundation.

Student Government Election Day is this coming Thursday where students will vote for individual class councils, as well as the school wide student council. May has some upcoming spirit days including Star Wars Day on May 8th, Red White and Blue Day on May 24th, and Viking Commitment Day on May 29th, where graduating students will don their outfits representing their next step after high school.

The Class of 2027 and Class of 2025 are each hosting a Great Adventure Trip is open to all students in each grade level. Junior Prom will take place May 17th aboard the Cornucopia Cruise Ship out of Perth Amboy.

SBHS Pirandello Players' Mamma Mia took place on May 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, and was a huge success. Robotics Club tryouts are taking place on June 3rd , 5th, and 7th at the Crossroads South Middle School Cafeterias and are only open to underclassmen students.

Viking Volunteers is hosting an Earn4Earth Recycling Drive to promote environmental awareness and sustainable projects. They will be collecting plastics in front of SPS starting Monday, May 6th to Monday, June 10th. Chess Club is hosting a District-Wide Chessathon on Saturday, May 18th with an escape room, Grand Master, life-size chess, and more!

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS – Scott Feder

Mr. Feder announced they have three groups to acknowledge tonight. The first group is our PTO Presidents Council. These are the presidents that come every month to a meeting. Mr. Feder thanked them and said they are "awesome" and it is his favorite meeting.

This is teacher appreciation week, if it is ever needed it is now, we need to be appreciating everybody. Mr. Feder said on behalf of his team this place is nothing without the teachers.

Tomorrow is National School Nurses Day and Mr. Feder congratulated the nurses for all they do.

Congratulations to Crossroads South Middle School for winning the Empowered at Home Epic Pizza Challenge. This initiative educated students about energy-saving practices they can implement in their households and allowed students to act as leaders by teaching members of their school and home community various ways to save energy. The students at Crossroads South collected 932 pledges to save energy, placing them first out of fifty schools in the program. Good job Bonnie Capes, Principal at Crossroads South.

Just a quick note we are back in school on Friday, May 24th and Tuesday, May 28th due to our inclement weather closing days that were used. We have Monday, May 27th off for Memorial Day.

Mrs. Hernandez said happy teachers' day, week, and year. She mentioned as a teacher herself she knows what they go through.

RECOGNITION –PTO Presidents Council

Mr. Peter Rattien, Principal of Indian Fields speaking on behalf of the principals and assistant principals. He quoted a question from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "What are you doing for others? He said tonight we honor those who undoubtedly answered that question in so many ways. These individuals go above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of students and families at their child's school and in South Brunswick. Mr. Rattien said the schools and the district are a better place because of those who serve on the PTO Presidents' Council. He thanked them for all they do and presented a video of some of the events they sponsored. The following PTO Presidents' Council were recognized with a gift.

Brooks Crossing Elementary School	Dhruti Chokski	Co-President
Brooks Crossing Elementary School	Nicole DeMattia	Co-President
Brunswick Acres Elementary School	Arya Nadkarni	Co-President
Brunswick Acres Elementary School	Kelli Sanchez	Co-President
Cambridge Elementary School	Rami Lee	Co-President
Cambridge Elementary School	Elizabeth Eureyecko	Co-President
Constable Elementary School	Cheryl Crick	Co-President
Greenbrook Elementary School	Lisa Browning	President
Indian Fields Elementary School	Lynn Monday	President
Monmouth Junction Elementary School	Maryam Pal	Co-President
Crossroads Middle Schools	Ena Bedi	President
South Brunswick High School	Deepika Chandola	President

Catherine Oliver – PTO Presidents' Council Coordinator

Mrs. Hernandez thanked the PTO Presidents Council for all they do.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2024 – 2025 School District Budget

Mr. Feder commented on the Agenda they were going to discuss.

- School Funding – State Aid & 2% Cap
- SBSD Funding Impact – Staffing, Programs & Fees
- Tax Impact
- Second Question (s)
- Future Fiscal Concerns
- Legislation

After the presentation there will be a Q & A for staff and parents or anyone who would like to speak and ask questions regarding the budget.

Mr. Feder shared a slide on why the district keeps losing money from the school year 2018 – 2019 through 2024 – 2025 school year. He commented it has nothing to do with spending it is based upon the two metrics the evaluation and the district income. By no fault of anybody in the township, we needed to collect $110,610,310 local fair share in 2018 – 2019 then in 2019 - 2020 we needed to collect $128,404,744. It was no fault of anyone but the sale of warehouses that brought the value of the town up. If you look down to 2024 – 2025 the next school year you will see from 2018 – 2019 to 2024 – 2025 it is almost 3 billion more and that has caused the primary problem. The formula is saying you are not collecting enough tax, but we can't collect more tax because there is a 2% cap.

Deficit Model Budgeting we are allowed to increase our budget by 2% but it takes 4% to roll over a budget.

- We always work in an "always cut" model (You can never keep up with a 2% cap.)
- Compounded with S2
- No means to move above the 2% cap
- System was put in place when the economy was poor
- Ratables have saved the taxes, the town continues to grow in value but since 2019 there has been a decrease in taxes.

Mr. Feder presented a synopsis of the reduction in state aid since 2018 – 2019 through 2024 – 2025 school year along with impact of the 2% cap. Since 2018 – 2019 it has been a loss of $30,000,000. The funding crisis is a crisis in revenue not a crisis in spending.

The numbers for 2024 – 2025

• 2024 – 2025 State Aid Cut	$1,400,000
• 2% Cap	$3,400,000
• Reduced Stabilization Aid	$1,400,000
Total rollover funding	$6,200,000

Last year's budget we received in Stabilization Aid, $2,800,000, next year they are only giving us $1,400,000. We have to do this -$6,200,000 that is what the district has been feeling.

Mr. Feder presented next year's budget what the board will be voting on.

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	$153,336,608	$124,865,927
Special Revenue Fund	$10,150,685	$0
Debt Service Fund	$6,800,475	$5,757,484
Total Base Budget	$170,287,768	$130,623,411

Mr. Pawlowski commented that the Special Revenue fund is grants from the State and Federal resources. Debt service fund is the loan payment for the building that was done at the high school and other projects. Mr. Feder said the debt service is money that was borrowed by a referendum. Right now we owe $6,800,475 annually on that debt, we collect from the taxpayers $5,757,484 and we get debt service aid from the state which is the remainder of the debt. We can only collect 2% tax levy on the $124,865,927.

Mr. Feder presented information on the impact of losing $6,200,000.

Staffing Impact

- 40 K-12 teacher positions
- 1 guidance position (Retirement)
- 5 Assistant Principal and Supervisor Positions
- 6 Secretary Positions
- 1 Nurse
- 8 Paraprofessional positions
- 6 Custodial Maintenance Positions

  Total # of positions = 67

The only good news about this that it is not all people, we have retirement and resignations. But there are a lot of people impacted and it is brutal.

Program Impacts

- Increases Class sizes regular and special education
- Elementary G&T Cycle Program removed
- K-12 Support Staff
- High School Course Flexibility
- Less support for Discipline and HIB
- Reduced Security
- Reduced Coaches and Advisors
    - No New Clubs
    - No MS B Teams – this is an example of doing things better for less money. The middle school along with Mr. Hendricks came up with a plan to have intermurals instead of the B teams. We saved about $25,000 and we can do more for kids.

Class Size

- K-5 Can go as high as 25 – 27 per class
- 6-8 classes start at 25 and some start at 25 and some will go to 28 – 30
- 9-12 classes start at 25 and some will go over 30

2024 – 2025 Fee Increase

- Lunch prices increase TBD
- Pay to Play 20% increase per activity, increase family cap $300 - $350
- AP Testing increase from $105 - $130
- AM Middle School Music Bus $175 - $200
- Parking Fees $50.00 - $80.00/Year
- NEW – Late Bus Fee $50 per season or $100 annual
- NEW – Subscription Busing Service - $720 year

Who qualifies for Subscription Busing:

- K-8 Students who live between 1.0 – 2.0 miles from their school
- High School Students who live between 1.25 – 2.5 miles from their school

Students that still qualify for free bus service:

- Students who live on a designated "Hazardous Route"
- Students who live farther from their school that the designations above
- Students with IEP transportation accommodations
- Students who are transported to a district program at a school other than their home school

Annual Tax Impact at 2.78% increase is $48.10 annually for a home assessed at $200,000 in South Brunswick. This year there is a 3.5% increase in health care, the law allows districts a health insurance waiver to go to .78% above the 2% cap for an increase in health care costs.

Mr. Feder commented that the average homeowner saw a reduction over six year period of -$54.75 in taxes because of the ratables. Good news is the debt service of $5,000,000 discussed earlier drops off the debt and is no longer collected in taxes.

Mr. Feder discussed the second question. It is a question that goes to the voters for approval. If they vote yes on the question, the district can never remove the service or choose to spend the money somewhere else. If the voters vote against the question, the district can never implement the service.

If the funding changes for next year, the district can still cancel the second questions. These questions are some of the main issues to make sure we have for kids. The impact to taxpayers is $46.50 annual if they vote yes to both questions.

Question #1 provides for Community, Security and Inclusiveness -

- This question will provide funding for security by having our SBPD patrolling and being present to take care of our schools.

- This question will open up the tennis courts and track for full use by South Brunswick residents, including night-time tennis courts.

- Provide the facilities for our Recreation Department to use for its programs for the township youth.

- Allows the district to hire a facilities manager to manage all of the above.

Question #2 Student Mental Health Supports

- This question provides the necessary funding for the district to put in place K-12 student School-Based mental health program.

Question # 1 &2 will be on the ballot unless something changes and the board pulls it from the ballot.

If nothing changes in the funding for next year for the 2025 – 2026 planning for the next school year the district will start the budget season -$8,000,000.

The Assembly already passed a bill which will allow the district some flexibility over the 2% cap and give back some money. On Thursday the Senate there will be hearing that bill and another bill that will move the date in which a school district can alter its budget. The other good news should the bill pass on Thursday through the Senate on Monday it will be up for a final vote, if it passes it will have passed the Assembly and the Senate. The governor will need to sign the bills to become law.

Mr. Feder commented that "we must stay unified, advocate vigorously, avoid finger pointing, stay informed and address disinformation."

Public Comments Budget Hearing Only

Mrs. Hernandez on behalf of herself and the board spoke of the hard work that Mr. Feder and Mr. Pawlowski and their team worked on the budget.

(The full budget presentation and all comments for the board meeting of May 7, 2024 are available on the district website at www.sbschools.org Board Meeting of May 7, agendas, minutes and video, names for public comments were listed in the minutes if signed-in.)

Members of the community commented and asked questions.

If the 2.78% Insurance Waiver is that in addition to the possible 10% tax increase? Mr. Feder responded they asked the same question and is waiting for clarification.

If the governor passes the bills and you can welcome your staff back, how would you get them to come back if they have a trust issue and are not sure what the future holds in the district? Mr. Feder responded that they were trying to get the bills done in time for the exact same reason and even talked about it in the testimony.

If they get to the second questions, who will be paying for it, the township or the school board? Mr. Feder responded it is a one-time tax that becomes part of the budget if it is passed. He then asked what is the total cost. Mr. Feder responded if both questions pass it is $46 for the average assessed home. Mr. Feder commented the vote will be done during the election and there will be no new cost.

Question directed to the board. If the bill passes and you can raise taxes what are the other criteria you considered for raising the percentage of taxes. Did they consider the demographics, the condition of the town and what study assessment or research have you done to come up with the number? That information would be highly appreciated and transparent. He also commented they receive a lot of information from administration and they keep us up to date, I think we are missing and opportunity where you are representatives from the community perspective where the board can start communicate more often topics like this.

Thank you to administration for the presentation for the PTO Presidents. Thank you to Mr. Feder for keeping them updated all year on the budget and for all the support and leadership it was not an easy decision making at all. If the questions are final, do you see any risk in keeping the community services and the security together in question 1, given there is a high impact of a no response on that question.

Mr. Feder responded they had that conversation at the last meeting about having just one question with all three, two questions or three questions. They did speak with some people that have done these before on some suggestions on how to approach it. He did say they could change it and swap them out.

If mental and security is the most important, is there a way to put those things together and put the recreational separate.

If the staffing impact of the budget cuts and the impact of losing 67 positions, and they were not necessary people. Out of that 67 number how many actual people were involved in that number and the average length of service, are they mostly non-tenured that have spent four years or less in the district or the people that have spent five, ten, fifteen or twenty years plus years in the district.

Mr. Feder responded it is about 30 people. He also responded that is not only non-tenured there is also two teachers that have been here a long time, but it is mostly non-tenured. Mr. Feder also responded that it involves other positions, not only teachers. He also said it is not 67 because of attrition when someone retires or resigns they restructure that can save positions.

Would the second question be included in part of the operating budget for 25 – 26 if they pass?

Mr. Feder responded the second question is part of this budget and if it passes it is permanent. Mr. Pawlowski also responded that it would be part of the 24 – 25 budget.

If nothing changes for 25 – 26 budget with $8,000,000 being cut, due to allocating budget money to that second question would that mean more things would have to cut in other places?

Mr. Feder responded the money raised for the 2nd question is collected every year it becomes part of the taxes and it is earmarked into an account for that question.

A comment on the discussion of last meeting of going immediately to the 10%, it is hard to live within a budget and inflation is not going away. Also made a comment about the expenses of nursey school.

Mr. Feder responded that tax payers do not pay for nursey school.

Marc Lifland, President of SBEA commented last time he spoke he appreciated that included in the discussion was the teachers and the impact it has on them. He asked if any cuts were made at the central office, Director or above.

Mr. Feder responded there were none. The problem is the State keeps adding all this workload that has to be addressed; we will look how to best manage that.

Another speaker that spoke earlier commented on the agenda observation and why it sounds good the board is being made the scapegoat and he said many of you would have not signed up for this when you have to make township level tax decisions. He also asked the board to consider utilizing an external service to get to a better educated responsible decision.

Mrs. Hernandez responded yes it is up to nine of them if they are raising taxes; but she said they have a very diverse background on the board of education. We have people that live in the most expensive houses some that live in the not so expensive homes. We have liberals; we have conservatives; Christians; Jews; and Hindu, we represent the diversity in this township from the people that voted us in.

Mrs. Hernandez spoke on behalf of President, Mrs. Rodgers and says she taps into so many Board Presidents and gets information on what those boards are doing and she shares the information with the board. Mrs. Hernandez commented that she believes strong leadership enhances their weaknesses. She said Mr. Pawlowski, Business Administrator is amazing when it comes to numbers. She also commented that they pick their brain constantly regarding different options of going to the 10% cap and they do take this serious and ask a lot of questions. In order to have the quality education we have to make the tough decisions.

Mr. Nathanson commented so the public understands this is something that has been going for a long time. We had budget committee meetings with the township several times. We had budget meetings at various schools with presentations by Mr. Feder. They have spoken to legislators and he also sits on the NJ Legislative Committee. Speaking to some comments, in the past the budgets were voted on by the public and they were held in April with the election moved to November it took away the vote from the public for the budget. The problem is and continues to be the formula. He also said even with the vote on the budget in 2010, we had a bad year; the governor at the time went into the district's budget and pulled what is called free balance of $6,000,000 out of the budget.

Mr. Nathanson said as a long time board member, Mr. Feder, Mr. Pawlowski and the assistant superintendents and their staff do an unreal job and that's what makes South Brunswick great.

Dr. Raj asked if the staffing impact of the teachers and special education teachers are positions or people? Mr. Feder commented it is a combination of both. Dr. Raj commented that it was sad because they struggled to fill those positions. She asked about the nurse being eliminated. Mr. Feder replied it was preschool and it was moving positions around.Dr. Raj asked when will the 2nd question language be available. Mr. Feder responded they have until May 14th. She asked about the Facilities position. Mr. Feder replied the position is managing all the rentals trying to increase rentals. She asked if they would still need Facilitron. Mr. Feder said she can't answer that yet. She asked if there are talks about reforming the formula. Mr. Feder responded the conversation started happening the Senate invited them to a meeting to discuss the formula, and he testified on the formula.

Mrs. Ferrara asked Mr. Feder to explain the waiver for healthcare. Mr. Feder responded that the waiver becomes available when there is an increase in your healthcare. The reason they haven't accessed in prior years is because they didn't need it, the cost didn't increase where they qualified for the waiver. Mrs. Ferrara asked about the cost of healthcare. He replied that contributions went down that paid for part of the healthcare, they used to collect $5,000,000 but now they collect $4,000,000 because of Chapter 44. He reviewed the slide again on the healthcare waiver.

Mrs. Hernandez asked about the 10% increase over the 8 year span. Is that going to be retro where they will be hit with those taxes. Mr. Feder replied no it was on the slide.

COMMITTEES & LIASON REPORTS

Dr. Raj commented on the Mamma Mia show at the high school. It was "awesome" and was like a broadway show. Kudos to everyone involved and congratulations to the kids and the parents!

Mr. Mitchell also commented on the Mamma Mia show and said they had an honored guest attend, the President of the New Brunswick Board of Education and she enjoyed the show.

Mr. Nathanson commented that Catherine Oliver, the Coordinator of the PTO who was in attendance earlier. He commended her for her 19th year as head of the PTO and for doing an "amazing" job.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only – Mrs. Hernandez read a statement in regards to public comments. No members of the public commented on agenda items.

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 by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Krishna to approve to approve the Action Items for May 7, 2024:

1 BUSINESS/BOARD

Administration recommends that the following items be approved:

1.1 Bill List - upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the Warrant List dated April 30 2024 in the amount of $10,030,570.79 as attached.

1.2 Accept Donation – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education accept an additional donation in the amount of $1,122.90 from the Brooks Crossing PTO. The donation is for the additional cost of the sound system project at Brooks Crossing Elementary School.

1.3 Approve Acceptance of Funds – Chapter 192 & 193 – Revised Allocations – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education accept the following revised funds from the New Jersey Department of Education for Chapter 192 & 193 for the 2023 – 2024 school year:

Chapter 193 Non-Public Handicapped

- Initial/Annual Exam $41,522.00
- Corrective Speech $22,134.00
- Supplementary Instruction $27,835.00

1.4 Approve Purchases Over the Bid Limit – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the following purchase over the bid limit utilizing Somerset County Cooperative Pricing System Bid #2-SOCCP, Contract #CC-0045-22 – Unleaded Gasoline with National Fuel Oil, Inc. of Newark, NJ, over the bid limit as part of the NJ Start Public Procurement procedures.

Below are fuel purchases necessary for the transportation department vehicles throughout the 2023 – 2024 school year:

National Fuel Oil, Inc. - $287,000.00

1.5 Award EUS – Health Benefits Broker – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education award an Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services (EUS) contract for Broker of Record Services – Employee Health Benefits to Integrity Consulting Group for the purpose of procuring health insurance coverage, monitor federal and state law and code, monitor carrier compliance and claims services, when requested by district, attend board of education meetings, board committee meetings, and negotiations, serve as a liaison and intermediary for District, manage the district's health benefits program and employee online portal, and when requested the broker shall provide to the district any guidance as it pertains to health benefits plans to district retires, and that said contract shall be in effect from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; and, that Broker of Record Services require expertise, and extensive training and conditions such that bid specifications are not practicable to create; and, furthermore; the contracted vendor has a proven reputation for providing said services; and, this contract is being awarded after solicitation of request for proposals which, along with the specifications, are on file in the Board Secretary Office.

1.6 Receipt of Bids – RFP 2024 – 25 Naming Rights – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education acknowledge that no proposals were received for RFP #2024-05 Naming Rights for South Brunswick High School Sports Stadium or Sports Complex scheduled to open on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 11:00 am.

1.7 Approve Adoption of the 2024 – 2025 School District Budget –

BE IT RESOLVED upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the South Brunswick Board of Education approve the FY 2024 – 2025 School District Budget for submission to the county office as follows:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	$153,336,608	$124,865,927
Special Revenue Fund	$10,150,685	-0-
Debt Service Fund	$6,800,475	$5,757,484
Total Base Budget	**$170,287,768**	**$130,623,411**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of $946,100.00. These funds will offset the loss of contributions due to the implementation of the New Jersey Educators Health Plan and Garden State Plan.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in this budget the option for South Brunswick Township residents to vote on proposals that if passed equate to $1,700,000 permanent funding for security, public use of facilities, and mental health programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED whereas, School District Travel Policy 6471 and NJAC 6A:23B-1.2 (b) provides that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum for 2024 – 2025 school year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED - that the South Brunswick Board of Education spent **to-date** for the 2023 – 2024 school year on district travel the sum of $52,163.27.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the South Brunswick Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2024 – 2025 school year at the sum of $80,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

1.8 Approve School Bus Advertising Renewal – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the School Bus Advertisement renewal with JMI Enterprises, LLC Contract #JMI4242022 for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

1.9 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 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 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
Levonaitis	Rachael	High School	7/15/2024-7/18/24	APSI at UCF Div of Digital Learning	Virtual	Registration	700
Sollena	Ariel	Cambridge	7/22/2024-7/26/24	NGSS Summer Institute at Raritan Valley Community College	Raritan Valley Community College	Registration	400

1.10 Approve Student Field Trips and Destinations - upon 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)
Brunswick Acres	Terhune Orchards	Princeton	NJ	5/14/2024	4
Cambridge	Plainsboro Preserve	Plainsboro	NJ	5/17/2024	2
SBHS	FBLA @State Officer Meeting	Union	NJ	5/20/24	9, 10, 11, 12
SBHS	SB Helping Hands @ Monmouth Junction Elementary School	Monmouth Junction	NJ	5/20/24	9,10, 11, 12
Cambridge	Washington Crossing State Park	Washington Crossing	PA	5/22/2024	5
SBHS	**Hershey Park**	**Hershey**	**PA**	**5/24/2024**	**9, 10**
SBHS	**Edison Expo Center**	**Edison**	**NJ**	**5/29/2024**	**9, 10, 11, 12**
SBHS	**SB Environmental Club @ Freedom Trail Cleanup**	**Monmouth Junction**	**NJ**	**6/1/2024**	**9,10,11,12**
Crossroads South	**Reichler Park**	**Monmouth Junction**	**NJ**	**6/3/2024**	**7, 8 (Beta Gamma)**
Crossroads North	**FunPlex**	**Mount Laurel**	**NJ**	**6/13/2024**	**8**
Monmouth Junction	**NJ State House**	**Trenton**	**NJ**	**6/13/2024**	**4**
Crossroads South	**Dorney Park**	**Allentown**	**PA**	**6/17/2024**	**8**
Crossroads North	**Reichler Park**	**Monmouth Junction**	**NJ**	**6/18/2024**	**7, 8 (Sigma, Kappa, Rho)**

1.11 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
263645_CES_04082024	Cambridge Elementary	4/25/24	Unfounded Inclusive	5/7/24
263505_BCE_04022024	Brooks Crossing	4/25/24	Unfounded	5/7/24
262083_SBH_03112024	SBHS	4/25/24	Unfounded	5/7/24

1.12 Approve Out-of-District Placements – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board approve the Out-Of-District Placements for the students whose initials appear on the attached sheets for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Placement includes tuition and transportation costs paid by the South Brunswick School District.

1.13 Approve In-District Tuition for 2024 – 2025 School Year – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the tuition for in-district students as per the attached sheet in accordance with the agreement with the South Brunswick Board of Education.

1.14 Approve Preschool Education Program Contract – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education approve the Preschool Education Program Contract for the 2024 – 2025 school year between the South Brunswick School District and Lightbridge Academy, Monmouth Junction, NJ.

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. Julie Ferrara, Ms. Alisha Khan, Mr. Raja Krishna, Mr. Mike Mitchell, Mr. Barry Nathanson, Dr. Smitha Raj,

No: None

Absentations: None

PUBLIC COMMENT – 2nd Opportunity for any topic. No members of the public commented.

The next scheduled board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 30th.

ADJOURNMENT – There was a motion by Dr. Raj, seconded by Mrs. Ferrara, to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session at 9:22 pm.

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 Discipline Matter

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.

Respectfully submitted,

David Pawlowski
Business Administrator/Board Secretary