

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

Minutes of the Board Meeting of March 29, 2016

The South Brunswick Township Board of Education met on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 in the Auditorium at Crossroads North School. The meeting was chaired by President Dr. Stephen F. Parker.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Stephen F. Parker, Mrs. Azra Baig, Mr. Daniel Boyle, Mr. Harry J. Delgado, Mr. Patrick Del Piano, Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Deven M. Patel, Mr. Arthur Robinson and Mr. Peter St. Vincent

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

CALLED TO ORDER AND SALUTE FLAG – Dr. Parker called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and asked the audience to stand for the pledge of allegiance.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA - There was a motion by Mrs. Baig, seconded by Mr. Delgado to approve the agenda for March 29, 2016:

Yes: Dr. Stephen F. Parker, Mr. Daniel Boyle, Mrs. Azra Baig, Mr. Harry J. Delgado, Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Deven M. Patel, Mr. Arthur Robinson and Mr. Peter St. Vincent

No: None

Abstentions: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – There was a motion by Mr. Boyle, seconded by Mr. Robinson, to approve the Executive Minutes of February 8, 2006, (Residency Hearing), Executive Minutes of February 8, 2016 (HIB), Board Minutes of February 8, 2016, Executive Minutes of February 22, 2016 and Board Minutes of February 22, 2016.

Yes: Dr. Stephen F. Parker, Mr. Daniel Boyle, Mrs. Azra Baig, Mr. Harry J. Delgado, Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Deven M. Patel, Mr. Arthur Robinson and Mr. Peter St. Vincent

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No: None

Abstentions: None

REPORT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – Sophia Balsamo

Ms. Balsamo reported the following:

Activities

- Mr. SBHS will be held next Friday, April 8th, come out and see the Men of Television as they compete for the ultimate title of Mr. SBHS. Tickets are being sold by class council and student council members, so make sure to reserve your seats.
- Junior Prom tickets are on sale this week for “A Night Under the Stars”.
- A Senate meeting was held on the 15th, and new Student Council election procedures were voted on and approved. Prospective student council candidates must submit a resume, undergo an interview process with Ms. Boyer, and receive teacher recommendations in order to be approved for candidacy.
- April is Autism Awareness Month! Remember to wear blue on April 28th and donate by buying t-shirts for \$10, sunglasses for \$5, lanyards for \$2, and pencils for \$1.

Athletics

- Boys and Girls Lacrosse will have their opening day tomorrow, and all other spring sports will hold their opening day on April 1st.

Performing Arts

- The Winterguard will be heading to their National Competition in Dayton, Ohio on April 6th.
- Tomorrow at 7pm is the Small Ensembles Concert, featuring performances by the Flute Choir, the Clarinet Choir, the Women’s Ensemble, the Men’s Ensemble, the Saxophone Ensemble, and the Brass Ensemble.
- The Concert Choir and a number of String Ensembles will be performing at the upcoming District Art Gallery.

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- Finally, the Jazz Band performed at a music festival at Steinert High School and won awards for Best Saxophone Section and Best Trombone Section, with an Outstanding Musician Award for David Juro.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT – Dr. Gerard M. Jellig

Mr. Martin Abschutz, President of the Education Foundation of South Brunswick, announced the Foundation has returned more than \$100,000 back to students and staff in grants. He reminded the community about the upcoming “Tour de South Brunswick” bicycle ride fundraiser on Saturday, May 28th. There will be a 25-mile, 10-mile and 4 mile bike ride. Mr. Abschutz announced schools can also earn grant money based on their participation. Further information can be found at www.edfoundationsb.org.

Dr. Jellig commented on the reports of lead content in drinking water. He announced the State has asked Districts’ what they are doing to ensure the children have safe drinking water. The District has contacted the South Brunswick Utilities Department which routinely test the water used to supply the facilities and no elevated levels of lead were found. The District has also decided to conduct its own testing and is currently going through the process more information will be shared at a later date.

Dr. Jellig announced the following:

- The seven National Merit Semi-Finalists from South Brunswick High School have all advanced to finalists.
- The District Art Gallery will be held on March 31st at South Brunswick High School from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.
- April is Autism Awareness Month!
- April 5th is an early release day for Professional Development for staff.

PARCC UPDATE – Suzanne Luck-Born, Director of Assessment gave an update on what’s being done in 2016 in preparation for PARCC testing. She announced the 2015 ESEA Participation Plans were approved in March and submitted to the county office.

Dr. Jellig announced he will share the plans once approved by the State.

Dr. Parker announced the Board cannot respond to personnel matters in public. He addressed John Lolli’s, President of SBEA, questions he raised at the last meeting regarding a meeting on grievances and the sudden departure of key employees of the district. Dr. Parker announced a meeting has been scheduled. Dr. Parker also announced that is not uncommon for turnover of 50 to 70 staff per year.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Ms. Lois Jones of Monmouth Junction announced she was concerned with the constant turmoil and the current state of the district, key people leaving the district, renovations done at the board office including the new kitchenette, concerned for the taxpayers.

Dr. Parker addressed the renovations and announced there was no kitchenette, a second floor professional development suite was created and it is used multiple times a day.

Joyce Mehta, Dayton, announced she came to the Board last year regarding the physical and well-being of the children in regards to the homework policy, since then they have not received any feedback from surveys conducted from any of the Committees regarding the homework policy and no one has contacted them. She announced 491 parents with their concerns have signed a petition.

Dr. Jellig responded that early last fall 100 faculty members met and set a goal, a survey was created and had been shared and updates have been given.

Tina Schlesinger, Monmouth Junction asked about PARCC refusal letter being sent back after the deadline and if children will have to stay in testing room.

Dr. Jellig responded if no letter is received the children will remain in testing room and will be provided reading material.

Kristin Romanok, Momouth Junction, asked the board to consider passing a resolution as other districts have done to not use PARCC as a graduation requirement.

Dr. Jellig announced he is not opposed to a resolution. Dr. Parker announced a Committee will be formed to look at the information and may consider it.

Lee Blankstein, commented on Dr. Jellig's recent trip to India and asked how his time is being charged to the district.

Dr. Jellig announced he used professional development days for the trip.

Melissa Katz, Monmouth Junction, questioned how come Dr. Jellig is approved as treasurer of school monies.

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Mr. Tonzini announced the law to abolish the treasurer position was created several years ago and the board saved money by appointing the chief school administrator, but overall the School Business Administrator and Kimberly Ahern, Comptroller for the district completed the necessary duties of the treasurer.

Christine Resnick, Kendall Park, asked why 17 district employees attended Techspo, including 12 administrators a conference in Atlantic City at a cost of over \$12,000. She commented that North Brunswick School district sent one employee and New Brunswick sent two employees.

Bob & Lisa Rodgers, Monmouth Junction, addressed renovations at Blackhorse Lane, asked for transparency to voters. Mrs. Rodgers asked what is happening in South Brunswick?

Lori Siemon, board employee, commented on the past and current climate of the district, and the recent resignations of top administrators. She also stated that there was a kitchenette and a wall built at the board office 3rd floor and no one uses that space but the superintendent and his secretary. She asked Dr. Parker if he has seen the space.

Dr. Jellig responded it is a storage space with a microwave and no running water.

John Lolli, SBEA President, made several comments, noting on all levels of employment has reached out to him raising their concerns and fear of retribution. He also mentioned 3 out of the 5 top administrators are leaving the district and when was the last time. He asked the board to come together and “work as one” and they won’t stand by all that they stand for is diminished.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Mrs. Baig reminded the community about the upcoming Women’s Leadership conference at South Brunswick High on Saturday, April 2nd.

APPROVE ACTION ITEMS – There was a motion by Mr. Nathanson, seconded by Mrs. Baig to approve the Action Items of March 29, 2016:

- 1.1 Approval of Expenditures** - That the warrant list dated March 29, 2016 as certified by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary be approved. It is further certified that there are no overexpenditures in the major accounts: Current Expense, Capital Outlay and Debt Service and that the monthly Financial Status Report indicates that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year (N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13).

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Warrants dated:	March 29, 2016	\$1,488,829.79
Payroll	February 12, 2016	\$3,761,676.37
	February 29, 2016	<u>\$3,841,920.48</u>
Total approved for payment		<u>\$7,603,596.85</u>

1.2 Approve Transfers - That the transfers of budget appropriations between expenditure codes of the 2015 – 2016 Budget, as specified on the attached sheets, be hereby authorized.

Transfers for February 2016

1.3 Approve the Report of the Board Secretary – That the attached Reports of the Board Secretary be approved: **Board Secretary’s Report for February 2016.**

1.4 Approve Bank Reconciliation Statement - That the Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statements from the Treasurer of School Monies, agreeing with the balance computed in the school district Business Office, be approved as follows:

Statement as of February 29, 2016 \$24,114,729.23

1.5 Authorize Lease Purchase Process – That the Board of Education approve the Hunterdon County ESC NJ State approved cooperative pricing system #34HUNCCP to seek Lease Purchase Financing for the procurement of two (2) Thomas Built 19 plus 3 wheel chair passenger school buses from H.A. DeHart & Son under the Hunterdon County ESC Bid #TRANS 13-04 renewed though May 6, 2016.

Furthermore, authorize that the Board of Education approve the Hunterdon County ESC NJ State approved cooperative pricing system #34HUNCCP to seek competitive Lease Purchase Financing for the procurement of one (1) Thomas Built 54 passenger school buses from H.A. DeHart & Son under the Hunterdon County ESC Bid#TRANS 13-05 renewed through July 31, 2016.

1.6 Approve Purchases through #34HUNCCP Over the Bid Limit –

That the Board of Education authorize the following purchase utilizing NJ State approved Co-Op #34HUNCCP #TRANS 13-04 for H.A. DeHart & Son, Inc. of Thorofare, NJ as renewed through May 6, 2016:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
2	Thomas 051MS 19 Passenger	\$63,975.81	\$127,951.62

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That the Board of Education authorize the following purchase utilizing NJ State approved Co-Op #34HUNCCP#TRANS 13-05 for H.A. Dehart & Son, Inc., of Thorofare, NJ as renewed through July 31, 2016.

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
1	Thomas C2 54 Passenger Bus	\$99,285.04	\$99,285.04

1.7 Approve an Increase in Not-to-Exceed Authorization – That the Board of Education authorize an increase in the expenditure for EffectivEnergy Solutions, LP of West Chester, PA as awarded through RFQ 2015-01 as awarded on June 19, 2015 for Energy Engineer of Record to \$250,000 for the 205 – 2016 school year.

1.8 Record, Award & Reject Bids –

A. That the bids for Spring Athletic Trips, Bid No. 2015-19, opened on March 16, 2016 be recorded as per the following:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>No. of Trips</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
American Dream Coaches, Inc. Staten Island, NY	42	\$18,400.00
	Cancellation Fee	\$0.00
Suburban Trails, Inc. New Brunswick, NJ	42	\$22,824.00
	Cancellation Fee (day of trip)	\$200.00

That the bids for Spring Athletic Trips, Bid No. 2015-19, opened on March 16, 2016 be awarded as per the following:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>No. of Trips</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
Suburban Trails, Inc. New Brunswick, NJ	42	\$22,824.00
	Cancellation Fee (day of trip)	\$200.00

B. That the bids for Spring Athletic Trips, Bid No. 2015-19, opened on March 16, 2016 be rejected for failure to submit Consent of Surety.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>No. of Trips</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
American Dream Coaches, Inc. Staten Island, NY	42	\$18,400.00
	Cancellation Fee	\$0.00

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1.9 Approve Acceptance of Funds – That the Board of Education approve the acceptance of the following additional funds from the New Jersey Department of Education for the 2015 – 2016 school year:

- Chapters 192/193 for Exam & Classification \$3,416.00
- Chapters 192/193 for Supplementary Instruction \$297.00

1.10 Approve Student Field Trip Destinations – That the Board of Education approve the student field trip destinations as per the attached for the 2015 – 2016 school year.

1.11 Approve Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Report – 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.

1.12 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

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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.

2 PERSONNEL - Administration recommends that the following personnel items be approved:

2.1 Accept Resignation – That the Board of Education accept the following resignations:

A. Resignation

Name	Assignment	Location	Effective Date	Date of Resignation Letter
Jamie Diamond	Speech Language Specialist	Brunswick Acres	05/13/16	03/15/16
Eileen O'Driscoll	Teacher	Indian Fields	03/30/16	03/16/16
Stephanie Lovero	Teacher	SBHS	06/30/16	03/13/16

B. For the Purpose of Retirement

Name	Assignment	Location	Effective Date	Date of Resignation Letter
Rhonda Erdreich	Teacher	Crossroads South	05/12/16	03/14/16
Ellen Jane Galaro	Finance Secretary	.5 Brooks Crossing / .5 Cambridge	06/30/16	03/14/16

2.2 Approve Leaves of Absence – That the Board of Education of Education approve the following leaves of absence:

Name	Assignment	Location	Period of Leave	Type of Leave
Elizabeth Hayston	Teacher	SBHS	09/12/16 thru 12/02/16	Unpaid Family Leave (FMLA)
Elizabeth Hayston	Teacher	SBHS	12/05/16 thru 06/30/17	Unpaid Child-Rearing Leave

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Nicole Hunter	Teacher	SBHS	09/01/16 thru 11/25/16	Unpaid Family Leave (FMLA)
Lorie Ruina	Teacher	Crossroads North	09/01/16 thru 11/25/16	Unpaid Family Leave (FMLA)
Lorie Ruina	Teacher	Crossroads North	11/28/16 thru 06/30/17	Unpaid Child- Rearing Leave

2.3 Rescind Leave of Absence Request – That the following leave of absence request be rescinded:

Name	Assignment	Location	Period of Leave	Type of Leave	Previously Approved
Tracey Dovas	Teacher	Crossroads South	04/26/16 thru 06/30/16	Unpaid Family Leave (FMLA)	01/04/16
Tracey Dovas	Teacher	Crossroads South	09/01/16 thru 06/30/17	Unpaid Child- Rearing Leave	01/04/16

2.4 Approve Appointments – That the Board of Education approve the following appointments:

A - Certificated

Name	Assignment	Location	Salary	Reason for Vacancy	Effective Date
Cassie Porter	School Psychologist	Greenbrook	\$59,960.00 (MA+30, Step 1)	Vacant Budgeted Position	03/15/16

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B. – Extra-Curricular - SBHS

Name	Position	Stipend	Effective Date
Jeffrey Goldhagen	Assistant Coach - Spring Track	\$5,541.00	2015-2016

2.5 Approve Change in Salary – That the Board of Education approve the following change in salary:

Name	Assignment	Location	Salary - From	Salary – To	Reason for Change	Effective Date
Ann Smoke	Paraprofessional	Greenbrook / Monmouth Junction	\$23,254.84 (\$21.16, Step 17Li)	\$24,926.48 (\$21.16, Step 17Li)	Increase in Hours	03/15/16

2.6 Approve Job Descriptions – That the Board of Education approve the following job descriptions:

Title	Effective Date
A. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction	03/29/16
B. Business Administrator / Board Secretary	03/29/16
C. Director of Buildings and Grounds	03/29/16

2.7 Approve Vouchered Positions – That the Board of Education approve the following vouchered positions:

A. Stipends

Name	Location	Assignment	Vouchered Stipend	Reason for Stipend	Effective Date
Sheila Barry	Community Education	School Age Care Manager	\$3,000.00	Additional Responsibilities	03/29/16
Kelli Williams	Community Education	Assistant Manager for Children's Programs	\$3,000.00	Additional Responsibilities	03/29/16

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B. Vouchered Staff

Name	Assignment	Location	Voucher Hourly Rate	Effective Date
Maureen Dreher	SAT Instructor	SBHS	\$45.00	4/5/2016

2.8 Approve Community Education Resignation – That the Board of Education approve the following Community Education resignation:

Name	Assignment	Location	Effective Date	Date of Resignation Letter
Victoria Holmes	Before/After School substitute	District	02/26/16	02/24/16

2.9 Approve Community Education Change in Location – That the Board of Education approve the following Community Education change in location:

Name	Assignment	Location - From	Location - To	Reason for Change	Effective Date
Amisha Johnson	After School Group Leader	Cambridge	Greenbrook	Staffing needs	3/29/2016

Yes: Dr. Stephen F. Parker, Mrs. Azra Baig, Mr. Daniel Boyle, Mr. Harry J. Delgado, Mr. Patrick Del Piano, Mr. Barry Nathanson, Mr. Deven M. Patel, Mr. Arthur Robinson and Mr. Peter St. Vincent

No: None

Abstentions: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Bob Rodgers, Monmouth Junction commented on the lack of transparency of the renovations at the board office.

John Lolli, SBEA President, commented on cutting of stipends, the new professional development suite, kitchenette, the Atlantic City trip and the grievances. He announced he will be happy to meet with the board tomorrow.

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Lisa Rodgers, Monmouth Junction, announced she was very upset it was really unfortunate the level of mistrust between, teachers, parents, staff and the board members.

Joyce Mehta, Dayton, asked Dr. Jellig to look at remedies from other districts and reach out to the parents. She also commented on the 491 signatures of parents she had.

BOARD COMMENTS /COMMUNICATIONS -

Mr. St. Vincent thanked the speakers for coming out; he also mentioned it was becoming a toxic environment. He commented that the renovations at Blackhorse Lane were planned, the Atlantic City trip falls under the contracts for professional development.

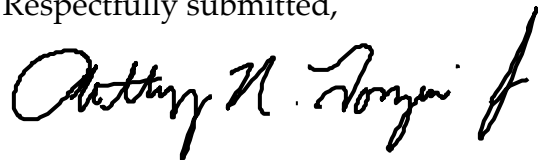
Mr. Delgado thanked everyone for coming and announced it gave him a lot to reflect on and the public comments will not be ignored.

Mr. Robinson also thanked everyone for speaking.

Dr. Parker also thanked the speakers and announced the board is listening.

MOTION TO ADJOURN - There was a motion by Mr. St. Vincent, seconded by Mr. Nathanson to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony N. Tonzini, Jr., CPA
Business Administrator/Board Secretary