

President Staci Endicott called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

Open Public Meetings Statement

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to two newspapers, posted on the bulletin board of City Hall and on the doors of the three schools as required in the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, and as amended by P.L. 2020, c.11.

Flag Salute was led by Mrs. DeCicco

Roll Call:

Members Present: Mrs. Stacie Brookbank, Mr. John Conover, Mrs. Jenna DeCicco, Mr. Michael Sweeder, Mrs. Karen Tomasello, Mrs. Heather Samuelson, Vice President, Mrs. Staci Endicott, President

Members Absent: Dr. Kathleen Dolton, Dr. Alice Myers

Other Present: Dr. Michelle Carney-Ray-Yoder, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Julie Gallagher, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mrs. Amy Houck Elco, Attorney

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, seconded by Mrs. Brookbank to approve item A; Motion was carried with a Roll call vote of 7-0

A. Minutes

Resolved that the following meeting minutes be approved as presented and available for release to the public upon request and according to policy:

Regular Meeting- 8/18/2022

Executive Meeting- 8/16/2022

Presentations

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, seconded by Mrs. DeCicco to approve item B. Motion was carried with a Roll Call Vote of 7-0

A. Superintendent's Presentation

Administrative Reports

- Curriculum & Instruction
- Dawes Avenue/ Special Education
- Jordan Road
- Assistant Principal/ ELL

Next month:

- School highlights
- Students of the Month for September
- Staff of the Month for September

B. Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction

Approve the Local Educational Agency Guidance for Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program for the 2022-2023 school year as recommended by Michelle Carney-Ray-Yoder, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools.

Public Forum-Agenda Items Only

Open Meeting to Public/Guidelines for Public Forum

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES: Public participation at a board meeting is intended to allow individual members of the public the opportunity to address the board and administration and comment on issues of public concern. If you have a question pertaining to litigation, student or personnel items, please see the Superintendent after the meeting as the Board does not discuss these matters in public as they retain their rights to privacy. Please be further advised, that the Board does not endorse, or intend to endorse, any statements made during public comment periods and the person submitting such statements is responsible for any statements made which may be found to be slanderous, defamatory, or in violation of the law. If you would like to make a comment, please come up to the microphone and provide your name and address. All comments must be directed to the Board President and made in a respectful manner. Public comment is limited to three minutes per person. At the end of the three minutes, you will be notified your time is up. You are not allowed to "give" your minutes to anyone else. We will now be open to public comment. Public comment is limited to thirty minutes. President Staci Endicott opened the meeting to the public at 7:20pm and closed the meeting to the public at 7:21pm.

School and Community

Correspondence

Letter to the Board from Ms. Russell regarding Phillip Pallitto

Board Communication - Pallitto.pdf (46 KB)

Student and Community Affairs Committee Report

- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Safety and Security
- Public Relations

Foundation for Education Liaison Report

- Donut Fundraiser
- Trail of Two Cities November 5th
- Lillian Frisco reaching out to see if anyone is interested in joining the foundation
- The Foundation will be receiving a new website

City Council Liaison Report

- No Report

Finance/Operations

Finance Committee Report

- Dawes Bathroom
- Auditor
- Facilities update
- New York Ave
- Personnel
- Board Goals
- Medical Inspector-Dr.Raab
- Kelly Services Substitute 2022-2023 Contract
- Fund Raising Activity
- Facilities
- Donations

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, seconded by Mrs. DeCiccò to approve items B-K. Motion was carried with a Roll Call Vote of 7-0.

B. Transfer of Funds

Approve the Adjustments for the Budget as presented and made a part of these minutes:

AUG 2022 Appropriations.pdf (482 KB) Monthly Transfers 0822.pdf (213 KB)

C. Secretary Report/Cash Report

Approve the Report of the Secretary for the month ending August 2022, as presented, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3 and that they certify that as of August 31, 2022, after review of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Report (Appropriations Section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of their knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)4 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. The board further approves the Cash Report for the month of August 2022

Monthly Board Certification 0822.pdf (74 KB) Cash Report 0822.pdf (91 KB) Secretary Report 0822.pdf (2,015 KB)

D. Treasurer's Report

Approve the Report of the Treasurer for the month ending August 2022 as presented, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c) and that they certify that as of August 31, 2022, after review of the Treasurer's Monthly Financial Report (Appropriations Section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of their knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)4 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Treasurer Report 0822.pdf (99 KB)

E. Bills for Payment

Approve the Bills List as presented and made a part of these minutes:

GENERAL - \$ 976,204.64
 CAPITAL - \$ 13,726.76
 PAYROLL - \$ 198,914.49
 TOTAL - \$ 1,188,845.89

September 15 2022 Bills List.pdf (496 KB)

F. Contracts

Approve the following out of district contracts for the 2022-2023 school year:

Name of Contract	Student ID#	Cost
ACSSSD - Tuition	15267787	\$48,240
ACSSSD - Personal Aide	15267787	\$49,860
ACSSSD - Tuition	998515	\$45,000
ACSSSD - Tuition	998720	\$45,000
ACSSSD - Tuition	998575	\$46,440
Yale - Tuition	999070	\$67,172.40
Yale - Extraordinary Services	999070	\$44,910

G. Facilities

Approve the following facilities items for the 2022-2023 school year:

Description	School	Room #	Alternate Method
Toilet Room Facilities	Dawes	102	The district's alternate method of compliance: No Child or group of children will be left unsupervised at any time when traveling to or from the facilities. Provisions for toileting include adult supervision that does not infringe upon instruction time. The toilet facilities for both boys and girls meet the administrative code and are readily accessible and the toilet room and signage shall be visible to the child from the classroom door.
Toilet Room Facilities	Dawes	103	The district's alternate method of compliance: No Child or group of children will be left unsupervised at any time when traveling to or from the facilities. Provisions for toileting include adult supervision that does not infringe upon instruction time. The toilet facilities for both boys and girls meet the administrative code and are readily accessible and the toilet room and signage shall be visible to the child from the classroom door.
Toilet Room Facilities	Dawes	104	The district's alternate method of compliance: No Child or group of children will be left unsupervised at any time when traveling to or from the facilities. Provisions for toileting include adult supervision that does not infringe upon instruction

			time. The toilet facilities for both boys and girls meet the administrative code and are readily accessible and the toilet room and signage shall be visible to the child from the classroom door.
Toilet Room Facilities	Dawes	105	The district's alternate method of compliance: No Child or group of children will be left unsupervised at any time when traveling to or from the facilities. Provisions for toileting include adult supervision that does not infringe upon instruction time. The toilet facilities for both boys and girls meet the administrative code and are readily accessible and the toilet room and signage shall be visible to the child from the classroom door.

H. Out of District Travel

Approve the following Out of District Travel:

Name	Date	Reason	Place	Cost
Michelle Carney-Ray-Yoder	10/06/2022	NJASA 2022 Commissioner's Convocation	Stockton University	Travel Only
Julie Parker	21-22 Year	Master teacher agreement	Mullica	\$364.56 Mileage only

I. Fund Raising Activity

Approve the following fundraising activities from Boscov's Friends Helping Friends - Discount Shopping Pass benefiting District Renaissance, as recommended by Michelle Carney-Ray-Yoder, Ed.D.

Club/Organization	Date(s)	School	Description
Boscov's Friends Helping Friends	10/19/2022	District	Discount Shopping Pass
Student Council	10/24/2022 - 10/28/2022	JRS	Candy-Gram Sale
Student Council	02/09/2023	JRS	Special Someone Dance

J. Donations

Approve the following donations:

1. Acceptance of materials for Mrs. Fischer's classroom from DonorsChoose
2. Acceptance of clothing from Kathy Pack for the nurses office at Dawes Ave.
3. 12 backpacks with school supplies included that were donated by an anonymous donor.

Donation-Donors Choose -Mrs. Fischer.pdf (48 KB)

K. Disposal of Fixed Asset

Approve the disposal of fixed assets below

Item	Fixed Asset Tag
Xserve Server - Apple	4193
Xserve Server - Apple	4194
Xserve Server - Apple	4195
Computer Cart	4277
Computer Cart	4352
Computer Cart	4273
Computer Cart	4274
Computer Cart	4353

Curriculum

Instruction Committee Report

- Support JRS
- AIR Job Description
- District Goals
- Principal Updates
- New Teacher Introduction
- Professional Development Focus Sessions
- Virtual Coaching Institute
- NJSLA Results
- Academic Calendar
- Affirmative Action Officer & Anti-Bullying Specialist Training
- Test Administration Notice

Motion was made by Mrs. DeCicco, seconded by Mrs. Brookbank to approve items B-I. Motion was carried with a Roll Call Vote of 7-0

B. Out of District Professional Development

Approve the following Out of District Professional Development for the 2022-2023 school year for the following staff at a cost not to exceed \$6000 as recommended by Michelle Carney-Ray-Yoder, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools.

Name	Date	Location		Cost
Julie Antell	10/06/2022	NJ State Bar Foundation- New	ABS Training	Not to exceed \$100 for

		Brunswick		Travel/tolls/parking
James Scarano	10/06/2022	NJ State Bar Foundation - New Brunswick	ABS Training	Not to exceed \$100 for Travel/tolls/parking
Laura Trapani	10/27/2022	Tropicana Atlantic City	CPI Re-certification	\$1549.00
Deanna Haas	10/3-5/22	Virtual @ JRS	CoGat Training	Registration - \$250
Dr. Michelle Kaas	9/21-23/2022	Virtual	ABC Training	Registration - \$500
Dr. Michelle Kaas	10/17-19/2022	Virtual	AAO Training	Registration - \$500
Amanda Winslow	Fall Semester, 2022	Virtual	Instructional Coaching Institute	Registration - \$1995 Salary - not to exceed \$1000

C. Professional Development for Teachers

Approve Dr. Kim Leback to provide professional development on instructional strategies for staff during the 2022-2023 SY at a cost not to exceed \$4200 paid through grant funded ETTC hours as recommended by Dr. Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, Superintendent.

D. Director of Special Education - County Meetings

Approve Dr. Laura Venello to attend County Director's meetings on the dates listed below as recommended by Dr. Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, Superintendent.

DATE OF MEETING	PRESENTER	PLACE OF MEETING
September 21, 2022	Ray Roester	Atlantic County Special Services
October 17, 2022	Thomas Gambino	Absecon School District
November 21, 2022	Michele Kaas	Dawes Avenue School, Somers Point
December 19, 2022	Holiday Meeting	
January 23, 2023	Meg Gawalis	Absegami High School
February 27, 2023	Ray Dorso	Egg Harbor Township
March 20, 2023	Marylyn Stecher	Hess Complex
April 24, 2023	Lisa Glick	Brigantine Community School
May 15, 2023	Last Meeting	

E. Atlantic County Association of Student Assistance Professionals (AC-ASAP) Meetings

Approve Joe Schmidt to attend Atlantic County Association of Student Assistance Professionals (AC-ASAP) meetings on the dates listed below, as recommended by Dr. Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, Superintendent of Schools

Date	Location
October 13, 2022	ETTC
December 08, 2022	ETTC
February 09, 2023	ETTC
April 20, 2023	ETTC
June 08, 2023	ETTC

F. Director of Curriculum - County Meetings

Approve Dr. Michelle Kaas to attend County Curriculum meetings on the dates listed below as recommended by Dr. Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, Superintendent of Schools

Date	Presenter	Location of Meeting
9/29/22	Devan Blackwell	SRI-ETTC
10/20/22	Michelle Kaas	Somers Point
11/17/22	Devan Blackwell	SRI-ETTC
12/15/22	Devan Blackwell	SRI-ETTC
12/16/22	Lindsay Reed	Absecon
1/9/23	Devan Blackwell	SRI-ETTC
2/24/23	Chloe Sheplin	Brigantine
3/16/23	Devan Blackwell	SRI-ETTC
4/21/23	Devan Blackwell	TBD
5/18/23	Devan Blackwell	TBD
6/9/23	Devan Blackwell	TBD

G. Professional Develop Focus Sessions

Approve the following staff for Professional Development focus sessions at the contractual hourly rate not to exceed \$15,000, as recommended by Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, EdD Superintendent.

Ready Math

Name	Building	Grade Level
Tracy Esposito	Dawes	1st
Michelle McKeon	Dawes	2nd
Phil Pallitto	District	Coach
Theresa Rosenberg	Jordan	Specialist 4-8
Leslie Rutkowski	Dawes	3rd

Edwina Rahter	Dawes	MTSS
Emily Ford	District	Coach
Amanda Winslow	District	Coach
Deanna Haas	District	GT
Jackie Wootton	Jordan	MTSS

EL Education

Name	Building	Grade Level
Mason Henry	Dawes	1
Edwina Rahter	Dawes	
Stephanie Faber	Dawes	3
Betty Levering	Dawes	K/1
Phil Pallitto	District	Coach
Emily Ford	District	Coach
Amanda Winslow	District	Coach
Sara Steckler	Dawes	2
Deanna Haas	District	GT
Jackie Wootton	Jordan	MTSS

Using Movement to Enhance Instruction

Name	Building	Grade Level
Nicoletta DiGiacomo	Dawes	K-3
Taylor Fussner	Dawes	1st
Anika Feher	Dawes	K
Tracy Esposito	Dawes	1st
Phil Pallitto	District	Coach
Nicole Stanewich	Dawes	K
Theresa Rosenberg	Jordan	Specialist 4-8
Zubayeth Syed	Jordan	Specialist 4-8
Kelle Venturi	Dawes	pre-k
Jennie Lick	Dawes	K
Sue Fischer	Dawes	Self contained k-3
Shannon Johansen	Dawes	MTSS k-3
Paige Schaffer	Dawes	K
Dawn McGhee	Dawes	Pre-K
Jackie Wootton	JRS	MTSS
Tiffany Unsworth	JRS	PE/Health
Deanna Haas	District	Gifted
Amanda Winslow	District	Coach
Emily Ford	District	Coach
Karlie Gruccio	Dawes	
Karen Flower	Dawes	Speech
Donna Strandwitz	Dawes	

All Things Special Education

Name	Building	Grade Level
Phil Pallitto	District	Coach
Betty Levering	Dawes	K/1
Gianna Cottone	Dawes	Paraprofessional
Alyson Carroll	Dawes	Pre K
Dawn McGhee	Dawes	Pre K
Liam Doyle	Dawes	1st grade
Carly Decker	Jordan	Para
Laura Brown	Dawes	Para
Amanda DiDomenico	Dawes	Para
Nancy Mensch	Dawes	Pre K

Emily Ford	District	Coach	
Amanda Winslow	District	Coach	
Karlie Grucio	Dawes		
Deanna Haas	District	GT	
Kristen Trusty	Jordan		5-8
Larry Randour	Jordan		4-8
Julie Parker	Dawes	PreK	
Jackie Wootton	Jordan	MTSS	

H. Home Instruction

Approve the following Home Instruction, as recommended by Michelle Carney-Ray-Yoder, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools,

- Edwina Rahter for home instruction for student #998338 for 10 hours a week from 09/06/22 until further notice
- To be determined for home instruction for student # 998785 for 5 hours a week from 09/09/2022 until further notice

I. CAP Program

Approve the Child Assault Prevention program for all students which will be grant paid as recommended by Michelle Carney-Ray-Yoder, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools.

Personnel

Negotiations Committee Report

- No Report

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, seconded by Mrs. DeCicco to approve items B-N

Final Resolution: Motion passes 7-0

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Stacie Brookbank, Mr. John Conover, Mrs. Jenna DeCicco, Mr. Michael Sweeder, Mrs. Karen Tomasello, Mrs. Heather Samuelson, Mrs. Staci Endicott.

B. Resignations

Approve the resignations of the following staff recommended by Michelle Carney-Ray-Yoder, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools:

Name	Position	School	Effective Date -Last Day In District
Kerry Ceccanecchio	Teacher of the deaf	Jordan	October 21, 2022
Jenna Oliver	Paraprofessional	Dawes	June 30, 2022
**Robyn Nichols	Special Ed.-ICS	Dawes	November 18, 2022

C. Retirements

Approve the following retirements as recommended by Michelle Carney-Ray-Yoder, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools,

Name	Position	School	Effective Date of Retirement	Last Day In District
Edward Doran	Custodian	JRS	09/16/2022	09/06/2022

D. New Hires

Approve the following new hires pending all proper documentation as recommended by Michelle Carney-Ray-Yoder, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Name	Position/Location	Step/Rate	Salary	Effective Dates
Theresa Mazzeo	Sign Language Interpreter Jordan	BA Step 1	\$51,198	TBD

E. FMLA / NJFLA Leave / Leave of Absence

Approve the following employees for FMLA/NJFLA/Leave of Absence as recommended by Michelle Carney-Ray-Yoder, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools.

Employee ID	FMLA/NJFLA	Dates
5494	NJFLA	09/06/2022 - 11/28/2022
5547	Medical Leave	02/07/2023 - TBD
**5797	FMLA/NJFLA	11/01/2022 - TBD
**5279	Intermittent FMLA	09/12/2022 - TBD

F. Stipends-Clubs/Activities

Approve the following Clubs and Activities, as recommended by Michelle Carney-Ray-Yoder, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools:

EMPLOYEE	POSITION	RATE
Oscar Madrigal	Choral Director	\$2,430
Krystal Tardif	Detention Supervisor	\$39.00/hr

G. Transfers

EMPLOYEE	TRANSFER
Larry Randour (Jordan Road)	AIR Program - Jordan Road

H. Annual Appointments

Approve the following appointments for the 2022/2023 school year:

- New Jersey School Safety Specialists Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools and Timothy Williams School Safety Officers, as Safety Specialists.
- Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.) and Custodian of School Funds- Julie Gallagher, Business Administrator/Board Secretary as Public Agency Compliance Officer (PACO) and Custodian of School Funds.
- Adoption of Official Seal of the District, which is in the possession of Julie Gallagher, Business Administrator/Board Secretary.
- Custodian of School Records- Julie Gallagher, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, as Custodian of School Records.
- Purchasing Agent - Julie Gallagher, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary, to award contracts up to the bid threshold, and to set the quote threshold at 15% of the bid threshold amount, as required in 18A: 18-3.
- Authorization to Advertise for Bids - Julie Gallagher, Business Administrator/Board Secretary (Purchasing Agent) to advertise for bids for supplies, equipment and services over the bid threshold of \$44,000 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-3a
- Safety & Health Designee - Julie Gallagher, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Authorization to Invest Surplus Monies -Motion to authorize Julie Gallagher, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Affirmative Action Officer and Chief Equity Officer - Michelle Kass Ed. D, Director of Curriculum and an alternate as needed, designated by Superintendent of Schools.
- 504 Compliance Officer and ADA Coordinator - Laura Venello Ed. D, Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services
- Substance Awareness Coordinator (SAC) Joseph Schmidt
- Anti-Bullying Coordinator and Specialists - Michelle Kass Ed. D, Director of Curriculum, as the District Anti-Bullying Coordinator, Jim Scarano as the Anti-Bullying Specialist at Jordan Road School and Julie Antell as the Anti-Bullying Specialist at Dawes Ave. School and New York Avenue School
- Title / NCLB Coordinator - Michelle Kaas, Ed. D, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction
- Indoor Air Quality Designees - Keith Nelson, Timothy Johnson (alternate) and Jeffrey Kendall (alternate)
- Asbestos Management Officer - Keith Nelson
- Integrated Pest Management Coordinator - Keith Nelson
- Hazard Communication Program Coordinator (Right to Know Officer) - Keith Nelson
- Chemical Hygiene Officer - Keith Nelson
- District Coordinator of Special Education Medicaid Initiatives (SEMI) - Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, Superintendent/Director of Special Services
- Bank Reconciliation- Lisa Woolston, Payroll Specialist, as board designee
- District Approved Insurance/Tax Deferred Savings Plans - reaffirm the Board's right to approve all insurance and tax savings plans not to exceed four (4) plans be administered by the District annually as follows: Tax Plans - Lincoln Investments, Siracusa, AXA Equitable, NY Life Insurance Plans - Prudential (disability) Insurance of America, and AIG (disability) American General Life.
- Wage Works and Aflac - Aflac Wingspan Cafeteria Plan & Wage Works Flexible Spending Account Plan to enable a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) for Unreimbursed Medical and Dependent Day Care to comply with NJ Pensions Law Chapter 7B at no additional out-of-pocket expenses.
- Designation of Official Depository - Resolved, that Republic Bank be designated as the Official Depository according to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-34; and Resolved, to appoint and designate the following signatories for the following accounts currently with Republic Bank;

Account	Signatories	Number of Required Signatures
General Checking	President or Vice President Business Administrator Superintendent	3
Capital Project	President or Vice President Business Administrator Superintendent	2
Payroll	Business Administrator Superintendent	2
Payroll Agency	Business Administrator Superintendent	2
Student Activity	Business Administrator Superintendent	2
State Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund	Business Administrator Superintendent	2
FSA Cafeteria Plan Wage Works	Business Administrator Superintendent	2

And Be It Further Resolved, that the following be approved as official depository(s) for investment of idle funds periodically in Certificates of Deposits; Republic Bank NJ/ARM.

I. Academic Advancement

Approve the academic advancement, as recommended by Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools.

- Kelle Venturi, P/K teacher, from BA+15 to BA+30 on the salary guide for the 2022-2023 school year

J. Substitute Custodian

Approve the following substitute custodians for the 2022-2023 school year at the rate of \$15.00 per hour as recommended by Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools:

Benito Aceves Anaya
Laura Aceves Anaya

Christophèr Gitsas
Marie-Andre

K. Medical Inspector - Dr. Raab

Approve a contract with Dr. Raab, as Medical Inspector, for the period of 7/1/2022 through June 30, 2023 at a fee of \$10,500.

L. Home Instruction Personnel

Approve all teachers as home instructors for the 2022-2023 school year as recommended by Michelle Carney-Ray-Yoder, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools.

M. Director of Nursing Services

Approve Margo Moses, nurse at Jordan Road School as the Director of Nursing Services for the 2022-2023 school year as recommended by Michelle Carney-Ray-Yoder, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools.

N. Athletics-Field Hockey

Approve the resignation of Sara Steckler who was previously approved to split the field hockey coaching duties and stipend. Approve Aubrey Giglio to receive the full stipend to continue the field hockey program as an intramural/instructional program as recommended by Michelle Carney-Ray-Yoder, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools.

Due to low participation numbers, we are unable to field an official team. We would like to continue the field hockey program as an instructional/intramural feeder program and open the program up to 5th graders.

Policy

- No Report

Public Forum

Open Meeting to the Public/Guidelines for Public Forum

Recommended Action: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES: Public participation at a board meeting is intended to allow individual members of the public the opportunity to address the board and administration and comment on issues of public concern. If you have a question pertaining to litigation, student or personnel items, please see the Superintendent after the meeting as the Board does not discuss these matters in public as they retain their rights to privacy. Please be further advised, that the Board does not endorse, or intend to endorse, any statements made during public comment periods and the person submitting such statements is responsible for any statements made which may be found to be slanderous, defamatory, or in violation of the law. If you would like to make a comment, please come up to the microphone and provide your name and address. All comments must be directed to the Board President and made in a respectful manner. Public comment is limited to three minutes per person. At the end of the three minutes, you will be notified your time is up. You are not allowed to "give" your minutes to anyone else. We will now be open to public comment. Public comment is limited to thirty minutes. President Staci Endicott opened the meeting to the public at 7:39pm and closed the meeting to the public at 7:54pm

- Jennifer Rowe - Stated that each new administration that comes into the district does what perceives to be correct. When will the focus shift to what has been successful with our kids in our classrooms, in our school and in our district. The moment we bring up clarification or bring up practical questions it is taken as negative change. For example, when the district changed to the 4-6 model we went through many emotions and many questions, a lot of the questions were with what was coming up with new plan. In the district, we have concluded why should we bother to ask questions or bring up concerns because no cares and will viewed as being a negative complainer. We are professionals and we need you to trust us to work with you. Healthy dialogue is what is needed in our district.
- Ersi - Stated that he would like to know two things about the dress code. Why can't we wear what we want like crocs and slides? And why can't we wear a jacket but we can wear a zip up sweatshirt, they are the same thing?
- Margie Sinock - Stated that she would like to know what the cost will be for changing 4th-6th grade will be and what additional costs are anticipated with the change?
- Tara Ursino - Stated that she has a few concerns with the start of the school year. Her first concern was the outdated dress code and how her 5th grader is terrified to wear the wrong thing each morning. She had a pair of jeans that she was excited to wear and they had a few rips in them but when she asked to wear them the one day with leggings underneath she got very upset and when I asked her why she was upset she said because she didn't want to get dress coded. My heart was broken for her because at 10 years old she was afraid to wear her clothes that she bought for school. I am 100% behind a dress code but one that fits the times that we live in. It states in the handbook that studies have shown that those who dress appropriately for school come with a more positive attitude. Ms. Ursino also stated that her second concern is with the safety Officer at Daves. The ropes and poles that were put in place to keep the parents from running up to the teachers were a good idea but once it was in place it was easy to see that it wasn't the safest idea. It took a pole falling onto a small child and a safety officer shaming the parents and being called out on it for the poles to be removed. On the days where I tried to keep my son with me and off the grass he has to be pulled from me screaming to go into school. I have stopped fighting it and let him play with his classmates while we wait in the morning he now runs right up to his teacher. The one day one of the rope poles were sticking out on an angle and I removed it so no one would get hurt and the next day it was put back with the same dangerous angle. I happened to look over and it was falling on a child and I removed it. The safety officer came up to me aggressively asking where the kid went that pulled on the rope. I told him that I removed the rope and he said that he saw what happened. When I tried to explain what happened he went on a rant about how it's the parents' fault and they need to control their kids. No concern for the pole falling that he witnessed. He also felt the need to tell me that he has 3 children who would never act that way. Whether you call it Parent shaming or bullying how he acts towards parents in the community is not ok and needs to be addressed. I know the school board is committed to the safety of all the children.
- Theresa Dougherty - Stated that the clock is very intimidating and that it looks like it is meant for intimidation and she also stated how it was dismissed in community affairs about the dress code and how it used words like cleavage and suggestive clothing about our little girls and that what we said didn't matter and it's very disappointing. She also stated that she feels like the board sits up there and they send their children to different schools and they have no idea what it's like and they think they are better than us and know more than us and that is not true. We know what we need. She stated that her daughter wrote her a letter on back to school night stating her feelings on how the school is run from no recess, to not having much time to go to her locker and how they don't switch 4 classes anymore they only switch 2 and the changing of the dress code. They had 50 people sign a petition about the dress code and they would like to be heard. A lot of changes are happening and Ms. Dougherty feels that she is not being heard and that she doesn't want to leave this school and community and to please look over the dress code and what children are wearing that is in style.
- Anna Sturgis - Stated that she thinks the dress code is outdated and misleading. In the handbook it says jeans should have no rips above mid-thigh and not exposing skin which is misleading. The rips only exposed my knee I can sort of see the jeans that are ripped at mid-thigh but students wear shorts that show more skin than my jeans do. When she was read the handbook in multiple classes it put her in an uncomfortable position. She did not want to speak to the principal because she felt uncomfortable and then she was pulled out of class to speak about it and then a couple days later when entering the school, she received verbal warning. This should be communicated with the teachers too.
- Abigail Sullivan - Stated that it is unfair that they don't have a regular recess because she needs to go out outside and have fun. When they do go outside it feels like it's time to come right back in. She needs time to rest and have fun.
- Shannon Gitsas - Stated that she would like to know about the scores being sent home from the NJSLA and when will the teachers see the scores? Dr. Kaas replied that there will be a data presentation in the October meeting.
- Dr. Cry - Stated that there was no intention of keeping the poles and ropes full time. We are working on having teacher and parent eye contact and that is very hard when parents are coming up close to the stairs and it was making it very difficult at dismissal. Poles and Ropes have been taken down and another process will be put in place for the safety of everyone. Dr. Cry also stated about the dress code that there is a process and procedure to change a policy that is made. That this dress code had been put into place long before she even started working here and that herself along with Mr. Pugliese and Mrs. Wagner are open to hearing about changes in the dress code and that they understand the concern. If leadership would like to show their concerns and add feedback about any changes about the dress code they are ready to listen.

Board Forum

- John Conover-He wanted to address one of the comments that was made during public comment. He stated he took personal offense to it. You live across the golf course from me and you could have come to me and asked me why I don't send my daughter here and send her somewhere else but instead you chose to write in speech that the board members look down on you. Not that I owe anyone an explanation of why one of my children go to a different school but I will explain why and I do also have a student that attends this school district and started this year. Mr. Conover states the reason his daughter goes to another school is because when covid hit she started pre-k and as one of the board members who wanted to keep this school open it didn't happen and I wanted my child to experience school at her appropriate age and I chose St. Joes for my child because they were doing in person. Since then she loves St. Joes and I choose to work overtime and scrap money because she loves it so she can attend. I took personal offense that you would demean the board members for their child's education that they choose. Please do not through insults. Come to me and ask me why I chose what I chose.
- Stacie Brookbank- Stated that the crossing guard at Pierson Avenue is making a difference. Appreciates a change and constant reevaluation of the dress code. The dress code is being enforced for the first time and it is making it a negative climate and culture. Parents should know when conversations will be about the dress code and the children should know that in leadership that they have the power to talk about change. Mrs. Brookbank also states how she appreciates the concerns about the preschool drop off being constantly evaluated.
- Dr. Cry- Stated that the leadership committee can address the dress code at the next leadership meeting which will be next month but she wanted them to know that this problem cannot be fixed tomorrow. As administration this is not part of our daily discussions but we are working on it and that we do want the leadership committee to share their different ideas about the dress code.
- Stacie Brookbank- Stated that it should be a focus just like recess should be and that it shouldn't be pushed off. This is the first time that she has seen children speak at a board meeting since she became a member and they deserve answers. It seems like we are focusing on the wrong things and saying that the dress code has been there forever just doesn't work. I haven't seen 50 families gather to sign something since I have been here. People are affected by it. A lot of the kids came to also discuss recess and they deserve answers.
- Dr. Cry- States the recess is not required for 7th and 8th grade students. That is something I want the students to understand. Primary instruction is our main focus. There is a chain of command in the district and it should be brought to the principal, Mr. Pugliese and some people have brought it to his attention but there are some that have not and have taken it to social media and I understand everyone has their right on social media. We need the opportunity to address those concerns and it has to be done through chain of command. We have been in school a month and I haven't had time yet to address these issues.
- Stacie Brookbank- States that she understands what Dr. Cry is saying and that with the petition that was signed that was going around to be brought to the administration for letting their known concerns and that she is asking for Student and community affairs to address the situation and come up with a timeline for when a discussion will take place and if that happens that will be a step forward.
- John Conover- Asked a question if they can get how many students have been pulled out of class because of the dress code? Dr. Cry Responded with yes, she can do that.
- Mrs. Staci Endicott- Asked about the new plan for preschool Drop off. Dr. Cry stated that there is a new plan and then Dr. Venello stated that the new plan for pre-school will be a drop and go with the pre-k teachers each having a sign out front for each teacher and the children when dropped off will stand behind the sign and when most students have arrived they will bring them in and there will be another teacher out there for the students who do not make it in for the first round and then will be taken in with that teacher. There is constant staff out there so no children are waiting to go in. We are also constantly working with transportation so that any bus situations that come about are being handled.
- Mrs. Stacie Endicott- Stated the fire up leadership training went well again. She also had the opportunity to attend both back of school nights and it was nice to be back in the building again and you don't realize how many changes have taken place with being out of the building for that amount of time. The back to school nights were well attended and everything ran great. Wanted to give a thank you for the donations that were received. Also wanted to Congratulate and thank Ed Doran for his service in the school district.
- Mrs. Jenna DeCicco- Stated the importance of a committee that she is on and that the committee does not write the handbook and what you need to understand it is our job to all agree that there should be a dress code and we like to have the children to have guidelines in life because that is important. The dress code was brought up and we in fact wanted the dress code and we supported Mr. Pugliese and Dr. Venello in enforcing a dress code. That's where the committee's role ends. For anybody that thinks the committee is to rewrite the dress code policy it is not. She found it interesting that a member of the public would speak about something that happened in committee when they weren't even there and judging members of the board because of their children are not attending our district is not helping the community at all.
- Mr. John Conover- Stated the clock was for the community members to know how much time they have left so that way we weren't shorting them of time and weren't cutting them off.
- Mrs. Staci Endicott- Stated that Mr. Conover was correct and that clock was put up there so the community knew how much time they have and thank you to all the board members for their service.

Board General Information - For Information Only

Board Calendar

NJSBA Upcoming Events.

Administrative Monthly Reports - For Information Only

- Enrollment as of 9/29/2022 is 759
- Jordan Road Principal Report
- Dawes Avenue and Director of Special Services
- Director of Curriculum Instruction

Possible Executive Session

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, seconded by Mrs. DeCicco to enter into Executive Session at 8:22pm. Motion Carried All in Favor

Recess to Executive Session for HIB, Personnel and Attorney Client, we will be in executive session for approximately 60 minutes, Action may be taken

Reconvene to the public at 10:15pm

Action May Be Taken After Executive Session

Motion was made by Mrs. Samuelson, seconded by Mrs. DeCicco to approve Items A and B. Motion was carried with a vote of 7-0.

A. Acknowledge HIB Incidents

To acknowledge there were 3 HIB incidents reported for the Somers Point School District from August 19 to September 29, 2022, in accordance with N.J.A.C.6A:16-7.1.

B. Affirm HIB Incidents

To affirm there were no HIB incidents reported for the Somers Point School District from July 22 to August 18, 2022, according to N. J. A. C. 6A:-7.1.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the meeting was made Mrs. Samuelson, seconded by Mrs. DeCicco at 10:17pm. Motion carried All in Favor

Respectfully Submitted,


Julie Gallagher
Business Administrator/Board Secretary