

SOUTH BOUND BROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by board president Peter Allen at 7:37 p.m. in room 140 of Robert Morris School with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by this opening statement:

STATEMENT RE: SUNSHINE LAW

This meeting has been advertised in two newspapers at least 48 hours prior to the meeting and has been posted in conspicuous locations including the borough hall and school buildings, which complies with state law governing meetings of school boards and other organizations.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Allen, Mr. Ambrose, Mrs. Bolmer, Mrs. Lih-Thiessen and Mrs. Sarboukh. Mrs. Esposito and Mrs. Santora arrived at 7:42 p.m.

Also present were: Dr. Carol L. Rosevear, superintendent; Mr. Donahue, principal; Mrs. Leonhardt, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; staff member Mr. Kries, PTA representatives Mrs. Carlton (president) and Mrs. Seyffart (vice president) and six members of the public.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ADDENDUM

Motion to approve the agenda and addendum as distributed to board members.

MOTION: Mrs. Sarboukh SECOND: Mr. Ambrose VOTE: 5-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES — SEPTEMBER 27, 2006 (REGULAR AND CLOSED SESSION)

Motion presented to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2006 Regular Meeting and September 27, 2006 Closed Session.

MOTION: Mrs. Lih-Thiessen SECOND: Mr. Ambrose VOTE: 5-0

NOTE: Mrs. Esposito and Mrs. Santora arrived at this time (7:42 p.m.) and acted on all remaining business of the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- ✓ Mr. Donahue presented results of our standardized tests. Students in grades K, 1 and 2 were tested using Terra Nova and our students did well, surpassing the 50% median. NJPass has just been administered to grades 2, 3 and 4 as an assessment tool to be used to structure this 2006-2007 school year.

Mr. Donahue explained the state's new bundling of grades 3 through 5 (elementary school) and grades 6 through 8 (middle school) and the effect on Adequate Yearly Progress. The minimum subgrouping is now 20, and 35 for special education

students. A preliminary analysis of the data shows us to have met AYP in both Language Arts and Math for our middle school. We have not met AYP for our Hispanic and economically disadvantaged students for Math in the elementary school grouping; however, our gains have given us a “safe harbor” status for our economically disadvantaged and Language Arts Literacy students for both Math and Language Arts Literacy.

Mr. Donahue also reported on the school’s goals.

✓ SCHOOL VIOLENCE AWARENESS —

Following is a transcription of the Chief School Administrator’s presentation at the October 19, 2006 board meeting in accordance with statute P.L. 2001, c. 299.

Annually, the Board of Education receives a report from the Superintendent regarding the incidents of violence and vandalism during the previous school year. In 2005-2006 there were 18 incidents of violence (fights, threats, simple assaults), 2 of vandalism (damage to BBHS bus, permanent marker in bathroom) and 1 weapon incident (closed pocket knife) in our school.

We are pleased to report that there were no incidences of substance abuse in our school. This data has already been reported to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Throughout the year, our school is involved, on a daily basis, with activities to help students make good decisions, to provide them with strategies to resolve conflicts, and to encourage respect and responsibility when interacting with others.

Some of the programs we are using this year include:

The third week in October of each year is designated as “School Violence Awareness Week” in the state of New Jersey (title 18A: 36-5.1.) This year’s theme, *United Against Violence... One Community, One Goal*, will be proudly displayed on a large purple banner at Robert Morris School to send the violence prevention message loud and clear. Students and staff will wear the color purple to kick-off the week. Various staff members will be wearing T-shirts that display the same logo as the school banner. Purple wristbands will be distributed to all students to wear throughout the week to promote excitement during the week long celebration. Purple and white balloons imprinted with the message, *Building Safer Communities... Peace by Peace*, will adorn the building.

Students will take part in the following activities:

On-going conflict resolution and problem solving classroom presentations in grades 3-5.

Project Wisdom announcement regarding participation in Violence Awareness

Week

Distribute bookmarks "Stopping Violence Starts With Me" discuss the eight ways to end a conflict – grades 1-8

Selected upper campus students will present a conflict resolution rap for grades 1-4

(Invitation will be extended to teachers to have students visit their classroom.)

Lieutenant John Prudente of the South Bound Brook Police Department will present an anti-bully film to students in grades 1-4 and a film about the dangers of gangs in grades 5-8.

Students will begin to design and decorate a *No Bullying* poster in art class that will be completed independently. Students may enter their poster in a contest to be judged. "It's Time to Stop Violence" bungee watch will be awarded for each grade level winner. Poster winners will be showcased.

During the week, language arts teachers will assign essays that focus on a *Violence Awareness* theme. Titles may be assigned by teachers or chosen individually by the student. Essays will be displayed throughout the building.

Music teacher will promote the week's theme by singing "Don't Laugh at Me" during music class. Teachers received a copy of the CD and can reinforce the song during class time when appropriate.

Two follow-up assemblies are scheduled for October 23rd and October 24th. Please

find an overview below:

Monday, October 23, 2006, Grades 4-8

NEW KID by Dennis Foon : (Length: 70 minutes – includes performance and post-play workshop)

New Kid is the story of an immigrant family from a fictitious place called "Homeland" that arrives in America – discovering a new culture and unexpected prejudice against them. This clever play has the Homelanders speaking English and the Americans speak a made-up gibberish language, allowing the audience to understand what it is like to be overwhelmed by a new language and new customs. This play addresses racism, prejudice, peer pressure, and conflict resolution. It helps kids to understand what it feels like to be the outsider and how difficult it is to make and keep friends. Overall the focus is centered on tolerance, bullying, and respect.

Tuesday, October 24, 2006, Grades 1-4

PEACEMAKER by David Holman : (Length: 60 minutes – includes performance and post-play discussion)

Peacemaker is a story about the Blues and the Reds. They live on either side of the Wall for decades. Interaction is forbidden, and both communities live in an atmosphere of fear, suspicion, and mistrust. But when Simp, a curious young Red,

meets Blue for the first time, they learn they have a great deal to offer one another, and an unexpected friendship blossoms. This play encourages participation and helps children understand how harmful prejudice can be. It promotes getting along and ending harsh judgments about those we do not know.

In addition to these projects, we hold assemblies, essay contests, class discussions, and invite special guests into our school to speak on topics such as gangs, violence, drugs and bullying.

We are fortunate to have parent and community support as we continue to work together to help our youngsters to become good school and community citizens.

No dialogue transpired and no comments were made regarding the chief school administrator's presentation on violence and vandalism.

- ✓ Back to School Night – a record 406 parent/teacher contacts. Dr. Rosevear reported on the success of Back to School Night. A new format was introduced by Mr. Donahue and worked well. In addition, Dr. Rosevear reported on last night's *Meet the Child Study Team*. This successful night was organized by Mrs. Stein.

RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC

Ms. Rivers apologized for her behavior in the school today. She spoke with the board about her concerns with the aide in her daughter's classroom. Mrs. Esposito requested that Mrs. Stein call Ms. Rivers to address the situation. Another parent, Mrs. Michelle Siegling, discussed her concerns with the Special Services area, although she clarified that she has just begun interacting with the team. Michelle Duh, resident and former employee, stated that she was appalled by the conversation concerning the treatment of students. The board requested that Mrs. Stein attend the next board meeting.

Mrs. Siegling also spoke to the issue of the status of class trips. Mr. Ambrose responded by explaining that the \$125,607 budget cut mandated by the borough council is the reason for the elimination of class trips. As explained by various board members, the borough council could be a potential avenue for parental complaints.

PTA president Mrs. Carlton reported that this year's fund raiser will net a profit of \$7,000, a recent history record-breaker. In addition, October Market Day sales enabled the PTA to receive a new freezer.

Mrs. Carlton also commented on the positive feeling parents got upon their arrival in the building for Back to School Night. Especially noted was the presence of Mrs. Turbowitz in the foyer, greeting everyone warmly.

CONSENT ITEMS

a. **APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Motion to approve payment of bills per warrant listing dated October 19, 2006

in the amount of \$301,475.48.

b. **BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Motion to approve Board Secretary's Report dated September 30, 2006 indicating a cash balance of \$870,246.98.

c. **TREASURER'S (CONSULTANT) REPORT**

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report dated September 30, 2006 indicating a cash balance of \$870,246.98.

Motion to approve the above consent items.

MOTION: Mrs. Santora

SECOND: Mr. Allen

ROLL CALL
VOTE: 7-0

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Letter to Mr. Reo from Dr. Rosevear, thanking him on behalf of the board and administration for providing Mrs. Koupiaris with a tour of our science lab.
- b. Letter from Deirdre Maislin requesting an extension of her leave of absence.

ACTION ITEMS (ROLL CALL VOTE)

a. **ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT (NJASK) AND GRADE EIGHT PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT (GEPA)**

An analysis of the New Jersey standardized tests, NJASK and GEPA, indicating the percent of students scoring at proficiency levels set by the state, will be available for discussion. A motion is necessary indicating that an analysis of the GEPA and NJASK Assessments was presented and discussed at the October 19, 2006 public meeting.

b. **QUALITY ASSURANCE ANNUAL REPORT**

Local school district and the New Jersey State Department of Education have a joint responsibility to ensure that students are being provided with a "thorough and efficient" education pursuant to Chapter 212 of Public Law 1975. This is accomplished through an annual accountability system culminating in an on-site monitoring visit every seven years to verify that districts meet the established monitoring standards. The monitoring process examines selected key elements determined to be most representative of a district's success in providing a "thorough and efficient education" for all students. The process includes a **Quality Assurance Program** which requires districts to:

1. Develop a comprehensive management system linked to school level planning and approach student achievement and performance, and
2. Provide annual accountability to the New Jersey Department of Education and the public through the **Quality Assurance Annual Report** which delineates the district's year status in meeting monitoring requirements.

As part of the **Quality Assurance Annual Report** the Chief School Administrator is required to provide an annual report to the Board of Education by October 31, which includes the following components:

- Implementation of School Level Objectives
- Achievement of Performance Objectives
- School Report Card
- Professional Development Activities
- Condition of School Activities
- Status of Mandated Programs
- Community Support Data

Motion presented to indicate that the above components of the **Quality Assurance Annual Report**, 2006-2007 School Goals and Objectives, and Nursing Service Plan were discussed and approved at the October 19, 2006 board meeting.

c. **SUBMISSION OF COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Department of Education requires New Jersey school districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting “required” maintenance activities for each of its public school facilities, and

WHEREAS, the required maintenance activities as listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of the South Bound Brook School District are consistent with these requirements, and

WHEREAS, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Bound Brook School District hereby authorizes the School Business Administrator to submit the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the South Bound Brook School District in compliance with Department of Education Requirements.

d. **DISTRICT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES AND SCHOOL TARGET GOALS FOR 2006-2007**

Discussion and approval of district goals and objectives and school level Target Goals for 2006-2007 (see attached).

e. **TUITION FOR OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENTS FOR 2006-2007**

A motion is necessary for inclusion in the minutes to accept the following costs for out-of-district placements for the 2006-2007 school year (July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007):

<u># STUDENTS</u>	<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>COST</u>
1	Jerry Davis (summer only)	\$4,960.02
1	Somerset Secondary Acd (1/2)	24,200.00

1	Somerset Elem/Mid Acd	35,895.00
4	TOPS Program	54,000.00
1	SCESC Alternative HS	17,450.00
1	Beadleston High School	35,200.00
1	Marie Katzenbach School	\$62,360.00
1	"	32,049.00

- f. **EMPLOYMENT OF JOANN MILLS AS LUNCHROOM/PLAYGROUND AIDE**
 Motion to approve part-time employment of Joann Mills as a lunchroom/
 playground aide for the 2006-2007 school year (October 23, 2006 through June
 30, 2007) at an hourly rate of \$8.00.

- g. **EMPLOYMENT OF SAMANTHA VELAZQUEZ, PART-TIME CLERICAL**
 Motion to approve regular part-time employment of Samantha Velazquez as a
 part-time (3.5 hours/day) at \$10.00 per hour for the 2006-2007 school year
 (October 20, 2006 through June 30, 2007).

- h. **RESCIND OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT TO ELIZABETH COOK, INSTRUCTIONAL
 AIDE**
 Motion to rescind offer of full time employment to Elizabeth Cook as an
 instructional aide (see September 27, 2006 minutes). Ms. Cook decided not to
 accept the position.

- i. **RESIGNATION OF DIANA STRICKLAND, PART-TIME CLERICAL EMPLOYEE**
 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Diana Strickland as a part-time
 clerical employee effective October 20, 2006. Mrs. Strickland has obtained full-
 time employment.

- j. **RESIGNATION OF CARMEN NIEVES, LUNCHROOM/PLAYGROUND AIDE**
 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Carmen Nieves as a lunchroom/
 playground aide effective October 20, 2006. Ms. Nieves has a full time job with
 Temco.

- k. **APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH TAYLOR, WHALEN AND HYBBENETH**
 Motion for the South Bound Brook Board of Education to enter into a contract
 with Taylor, Whalen and Hybbeneth (specifically Garry Whalen) to represent the
 South Bound Brook Board of Education in the upcoming contract negotiations
 with the South Bound Brook Administrators' Association for a fee of \$145 per
 hour.

- l. **CONTRACT WITH AMY ABRAMSON, LDTC**
 Motion to approve contract with Amy Abramson for LDTC services at a daily rate
 of \$325.

- m. **SPEECH THERAPY AND PHYSICAL THERAPY FOR PKD STUDENT**
 Motion to approve Speech Therapy for 1 hour per week at \$125 and Physical
 Therapy at 1 session (45 minutes) per week at \$95, for a total of \$220 per week

for the 2006-2007 school year (October 10, 2006 through June 30, 2007).
Services to be provided by the ARC of Somerset County.

- n. **EXTENSION OF FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE FOR DEIRDRE MAISLIN**
Motion to grant unpaid medical leave under FMLA to Deirdre Maislin for 12 weeks, from October 19, 2006 through January 11, 2007.

- o. **UPDATE TO UNIFORM STATE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN EDUCATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS**
Motion to accept the Memorandum of Agreement between education and law enforcement officials dated October 19, 2006. These procedures were developed by the Superintendent of Schools and Chief of Police and will be approved by the County Superintendent of Schools and the County Prosecutor.

- p. **APPROVAL OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHER FOR THE 2006-07 SCHOOL YEAR**
Motion to approve, for the 2006-2007 school year, the following substitute teacher:

Lisa Barta (formerly Brown)

- q. **APPROVAL OF BOUND BROOK HIGH SCHOOL TUITION COSTS FOR 2006-2007**
Motion to accept the following costs for sending students to Bound Brook High School for the 2006-2007 school year (September 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007):

Behavioral Disabilities (5.5 @ \$32,660)	179,630.00
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Motion to approve action items a-q.

MOTION: Mr. Allen

SECOND: Mrs. Sarboukh

ROLL CALL
VOTE: 7-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOUND BROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION: Mrs. Esposito questioned the status of Bound Brook's providing transportation for our vo-tech students. It was explained that the new plan is already in place, to be effective Monday, October 30. She also reported that Bound Brook has an extraordinarily high kindergarten enrollment.

OLD BUSINESS

- ★ **LIGHTS:** Mrs. Leonhardt reported that the replacement classroom lighting is being installed nightly (between 3:00 and 11:00 p.m.) and should be completed by the beginning of next week.
- ★ **AUDIT:** Mrs. Leonhardt reported our district audit is currently underway and proceeding smoothly.
- ★ **CONVENTION:** Mrs. Leonhardt reviewed the contents of the board's packets for the convention.
- ★ **CAFETERIA PREPAY:** Mrs. Leonhardt reported on higher than anticipated usage of

the new Cafeteria Prepay, whereby parents can both view account balances and process online cafeteria payments.

- ★ MADISON STREET PARKING LOT: Mrs. Leonhardt reported on her conversation with Police Chief Verry. He informed her that enforcement was dependent on the borough council passing an ordinance, which would then be submitted to the state via the police department. Mrs. Leonhardt will check with the borough attorney and speak with Mr. Godleski, the Police Commissioner.
- ★ CUP STACKING: Mrs. Lih-Thiessen commented on the honor of having two students going to the Javits Center for cup stacking.

RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC

No comments at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Business concluded, motion presented to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

MOTION: Mrs. Santora

SECOND: Mr. Ambrose

VOTE: 7-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Leonhardt
Business Administrator/Board Secretary