

If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education Business Meeting held on Tuesday, March 15th, here is what you missed:

Dr. Labbe began the presentation portion of the meeting by asking Mrs. Bloom to assist him in recognizing and honoring Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS) art student Sabreen Badr for being chosen to represent Middlesex County at the State House in Trenton for Art Educators of New Jersey (AENJ) Youth Art Month. Her apple portrait was one of six accepted by students in Kindergarten through 12th grade in the county. Next, Mr. Walsh assisted Dr. Labbe in recognizing Ben Aidoo, Eryn Handy and Evelyn Nkanga from the SWMHS Winter Track team. Ben is the NJ Group 4 State Champion in the 55m Hurdles and advanced to the Meet of Champions and then Nationals. Eryn finished 4th in the Shot Put at the NJ Group 4 Championships and also advanced to Meet of Champions. Evelyn place 6th in the 400m Dash in the NJ Group 4 Championships and advanced to Meet of Champions as well. Finally, Mr. Ciak and Mr. Macagnone assisted Dr. Labbe in recognizing and honoring more than a dozen SWMHS students who won top awards during recent Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) competitions.

After that, Dr. Labbe and Ms. Reese, Assistant superintendent of Human Resources presented the proposed 2016-17 Special Education and Personnel Budgets. According to Dr. Labbe, despite some significant reductions in professional services and supply costs, due to increased tuition costs, the proposed Special Education Budget will increase by \$239,929. Likewise, as per Ms. Reese's presentation, despite making \$538,000 in personnel cuts, the proposed Personnel Budget will increase by \$1,062,724.

If you would like to view the meeting and each of the above mentioned PowerPoint presentations, see them below or click [here](#). To view the meeting video, click [here](#).

The Board then moved action items from the Superintendent's Report onto the Board Agenda.

Among other motions, on the Vision 2030 Finance and Infrastructure portion of the agenda, the Board approved the Proposed Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 for the School District General Fund Budget of \$84,258,683.00, including a local tax levy \$58,677,741; and it approved the Public Hearing for the 2016-17 School Budget on May 3, 2016 at 7:30 PM in the Sayreville War Memorial High School Cafeteria. In addition, the BOE authorized of the Board Secretary to make all necessary arrangements for purchasing the awards of plaques and attendance, for graduation scholarship awards and printing of SWMHS Commencement programs. It also retroactively approved a contract with Danielle Marggraf to provide Orientation and Mobility Services for direct and indirect services from March 7, 2016 through June 30, 2016; and accepted a NJ Special Olympics Play Unified Sports School Partnership Grant in the amount of \$25,000. Furthermore, the Board of Education terminated its health insurance brokerage services contract with the Doyle Alliance Group effective March 15, 2016 and replaced them with the Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. for the period March 16, 2016 to March 15, 2019. Finally, the Board of Education approved out of district tuition contracts for three students with and without disabilities and bedside tutoring for three students.

On the Vision 2030 Student Achievement portion of the agenda the Board approved the Summer Enrichment Program at the Samsel Upper Elementary School (SUES) from July 5, 2016 through August 12, 2016; and the Summer Enrichment Family Night on Thursday, August 4, 2016 in the SUES Cafeteria and first floor rooms from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm. In addition, it approved the Camp XL Extended School Year Integrated Summer Program at SUES from July 5, 2016 to August 4, 2016. Finally, the BOE approved several co-curricular activities.

On the Vision 2030 Governance portion of the agenda, the Board of Education approved the submission of the Comprehensive Equity Plan 2016-19 to the NJDOE Middlesex County Office. In addition, it approved the Corrective Action Plan for the Child Nutrition Program. Finally, the Board approved for a first reading the following policies: 5111 – Admissions and 5118 – Nonresidents.

On the Vision 2030 Personnel portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the Board of Education honored and recognized the retirement Gordon Inverno Jr., English Teacher at the Sayreville War Memorial High School, effective July 1, 2016; and Sharron Jung, Full-time Paraprofessional at Arleth Elementary School, effective September 1, 2016. Furthermore, the Board of Education accepted the resignation of a part-time paraprofessional at Sayreville Middle School, effective April 4, 2016; and approved several leaves of absence (LOA) for 2015-16. It also appointed a tenure track ELA teacher at Sayreville Middle School for 2015-16 school year and a part time paraprofessional in the Project Before preschool program. Additionally, the Board approved the hiring of several certified and one non-certified substitutes, and several professional days. Finally, the BOE withhold the 2016-17 salary increment of an administrator.

During the public comment portion of the meeting a member of the public commented about an anomaly in the enrollment data presented during Ms. Reese's 2016-16 Personnel budget presentation. The same community member asked the district to tweet out an equal amount of commendations about students who achieve academic success, along with those who excel in athletics. Finally, the same community member expressed serious concern about the amount of money that the travel agency responsible for booking the SWMHS Senior Trip to Disney World in Florida, was charging the district, particularly the additional fees approved by the Board during the March 1st BOE Workshop Meeting. Another community member stated that if signage is erected on school grounds, the perception of the community members will be that the BOE permitted it to be there.

During open discussion Mr. Macagnone congratulated Mr. Ciak for being elected to become the 70th National School Boards Association President. Mrs. Bloom thanked the many community members that requested to be a part of the Blue Ribbon Committee and noted that she would be notifying selected members and scheduling a first meeting very soon. Mr. Biesiada asked Dr. Labbe if he had sent the letter to the Sayreville Athletic Association (SAA) regarding the naming of fields without Board permission, which he was directed to do during the last meeting. Mr. Macagnone indicated that he subsequently directed Dr. Labbe to not send the letter until he received more information about the naming of the fields. This led to an open discussion about the development of a policy addressing the naming of facilities. Mr. Macagnone then performed an informal poll of the members on whether to ask the SAA to take the signs down, to which the members voted down 5-3.

The next meeting will be a workshop meeting. It will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016. During it the 5th grade students will represent each BOE member and central administrator in what is known as the Let the Children Lead program.

If you would like to see the agenda for this meeting, please visit the [BOE Meeting Info page](#) on our website. In addition, a complete copy of these minutes will be posted on the BOE Meeting Minutes page of the website once they are approved by the BOE during the next Agenda/Business Meeting on April 5, 2016.