

**SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORGANIZATION MEETING, JANUARY 6, 2020**

“Statement to the Public”

Please be advised that often it may appear to members of our audience that the Board of Education takes action with very little comment and in many cases a unanimous vote. Before a matter is placed on the agenda at a public meeting, the administration has thoroughly reviewed the matter with the Superintendent of Schools. If the Superintendent of Schools is satisfied that the matter is ready to be presented to the Board of Education, it is then referred to the appropriate Board committee. The members of the Board committee work with the administration and the Superintendent to assure that the members fully understand the matter. When the committee is satisfied that the matter has been thoroughly researched, it is presented to the Board of Education for discussion prior to any final action being taken. Only then, is it placed on the agenda for action at a public meeting.

ORGANIZATION MEETING CALL TO ORDER The Organization meeting of the Southampton Township Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mrs. DeJoseph, Business Administrator/Board Secretary in School #1 All-purpose Room, 26 Pleasant Street, Southampton, NJ.

ADEQUATE NOTICE This meeting was held in compliance with N. J. S. A. 10:4-6. Notice of this meeting was posted in all schools and the township municipal building and advertised in the *Burlington County Times* on January 16, 2019, and *The Central Record* on January 24, 2019.

ROLL CALL Members present: ___Donald Bozarth, ___Russell Hann, ___Jeffrey Hicks, ___Marie Phillips, ___Suzanne Phillips, ___Jennifer Potter, ___Louise Rickborn, ___Amy Ushkowitz, and ___Betty Wright
Members absent: _____
Others present: Michael Harris, Casey DeJoseph, Mr. Serlin

FLAG SALUTE: Mrs. DeJoseph led the flag salute.

Board of Education Candidates official election poll results

- Three Year Term (3 candidates for 3 positions)
 - Jeffrey E. Hicks – 1,765 34.17%
 - Amy Ushkowitz – 1,636 31.67%
 - Suzanne Phillips - 1,675 32.42%
 - Personal Choice - 90 1.74%

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF MEMBERSHIP TO RE-ELECTED AND NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. DeJoseph, Board Secretary, administered the oath of office to Mr. Hicks, Mrs. Ushkowitz, and Mrs. Phillips, congratulating them on being re-elected to the Board of Education.

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ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Mrs. DeJoseph opened nominations from the floor for the **Office of President**.

_____ nominated _____ as **President**

_____ nominated _____ as **President**

Hearing no other nominations Mrs. DeJoseph closed nominations for President.

~ Should there be more than one board member nominated, and in accordance with Board policy 0152, Mrs. DeJoseph provided each member with a blank piece of paper asking them to indicate the candidate they wish to see elected for President, sign and returned. Upon tally of the ballots, Mrs. DeJoseph indicated the following results:

Mrs. DeJoseph congratulated _____ on his/her election to the **Office of President**.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

Mrs. DeJoseph opened nominations from the floor for the **Office of Vice President**.

_____ nominated _____ as **Vice President**

_____ nominated _____ as **Vice President**

Hearing no other nominations Mrs. DeJoseph closed nominations for Vice President.

~ Should there be more than one board member nominated, and in accordance with Board policy 0152, Mrs. DeJoseph provided each member with a blank piece of paper asking them to indicate the candidate they wish to see elected for Vice President, sign and returned. Upon tally of the ballots, Mrs. DeJoseph indicated the following results:

Mrs. DeJoseph congratulated _____ on his/her election to the **Office of Vice-President**.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

Mrs. DeJoseph administered the oath of office to President _____ and Vice President _____.

President _____ conducted the remainder of the meeting.

President _____ deferred appointments until the January 28th meeting allowing Board Members the opportunity to submit their preferences for consideration.

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NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION:

DELEGATE:

ALTERNATE DELEGATE:

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRPERSON:

ALTERNATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIRPERSON:

BURLINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION:

REPRESENTATIVE TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD:

Budget / Finance / Facilities

Personnel / Student Services

Curriculum / Policy

REAFFIRM APPOINTMENTS for 2019-2020 School Year

- SECRETARY OF BOARD OF EDUCATION: Casey DeJoseph
- PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER (PACO): Casey DeJoseph
- CUSTODIAN OF SCHOOL RECORDS – OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT: Casey DeJoseph
- AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER: Michael L. Harris
- ATTENDANCE OFFICER: Kristine Bertulis
- 504 OFFICER: Danielle Madison
- SUBSTANCE ABUSE COORDINATOR: Sarah Kilpatrick
- ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT: Kevin Greene
- PEOSHA OFFICER/COORDINATOR: Kevin Greene
- SAFETY & HEALTH DESIGNEES and Re-Adoption of Safety and Security Plan:
 - Health / Safety Designee: Casey DeJoseph
 - School Safety Specialist: Michael Harris
- INDOOR AIR QUALITY DESIGNEE: Kevin Greene
- INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR: Kevin Greene
- RIGHT TO KNOW OFFICER: Kevin Greene
- CHEMICAL HYGIENE OFFICER: Kevin Greene
- AHERA COORDINATOR: Kevin Greene
- TITLE IX COORDINATOR: Kristine Bertulis
- HOMELESS LIAISON: Jennifer Andrews
- ANTI-BULLYING COORDINATOR: Michael L. Harris
- ANTI-BULLYING SPECIALIST SCHOOL #1- #2 Danielle Madison
- ANTI-BULLYING SPECIALIST SCHOOL #3: Sarah Kilpatrick
- CHILD WELFARE LIAISON SCHOOL #1- #2: Daniel Madison
- CHILD WELFARE LIAISON SCHOOL #3: Sarah Kilpatrick

Motion by _____, second by _____ to affirm above captioned appointments.

Roll Call / Vote

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DESIGNATION AND SCHEDULE DATES OF MEETING NIGHTS – 3rd or 4th

Monday – Regular Meeting, executive session 7:00 p.m., regular session 8:00 p.m.,
All Purpose Room, School #1, 26 Pleasant Street, Southampton, NJ 08088, unless
otherwise noted:

Monday, January 27, 2020
Monday, February 24, 2020
Monday, March 23, 2020
Monday, April 27, 2020
Tuesday, May 26, 2020
Monday, June 8, 2020

7:00 PM Superintendent Evaluation
Betty L. Wright Administration Building
177 Main Street

Monday, June 22, 2020
Monday, August 24, 2020
Monday, September 21, 2020
Monday, October 26, 2020
Monday, November 16, 2020
Monday, December 21, 2020
Monday, January 4, 2021

Yom Kippur 9-28 (school closed)
(NJSBA Convention 10-19 thru 10-22)
Thanksgiving 11-26

Organization Meeting, 7:00 PM.
Betty L. Wright Administration Building
177 Main Street

Motion by _____ second by _____ to affirm above captioned
schedule of meetings for 2020.

Roll Call / Vote

REAFFIRM NEW JERSEY CODE OF ETHICS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

A school board member shall abide by the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members:

- I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.
- I will confine my board action to policy making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run.
- I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.
- I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.

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- I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. In all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its school.
- I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

MOTION by _____ second by _____ to reaffirm the above captioned NJSBA code of ethics for school board members.

Roll Call / Vote

The School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq., requires Board Members to complete Training Programs. Mandated training of District Board of Education Members can be found at the following NJSBA Link
<http://www.njsba.org/training/mandated-training/>

***Reaffirm Board of Education Charter of Acceptable Norms**

MOTION by _____ second by _____ to reaffirm the above captioned Board of Education Charter of Acceptable Norms.

Roll Call / Vote

***Reaffirm Board ~ Superintendent Communications**

MOTION by _____ second by _____ to reaffirm the above captioned B Board ~ Superintendent Communications

Roll Call / Vote

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA:

Members of the public are invited to submit comments during the public comment portion of this meeting. The Board, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, will not publicly discuss personnel matters and may choose not to respond to comments made by members of the public during this portion of the meeting; however, the Board will give all comments appropriate consideration and will refer all individual complaints to the Superintendent of Schools or Administration for resolution. Each citizen will be allotted up to three (3) minutes to speak, in order to allow everyone an opportunity to express their opinions or concerns.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION ITEMS:

1. Action Items:

1.1 DOE OPRA Request

- Resolution approving/accepting participation with SOS's submission of the OPRA Request to the Department of Education

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regarding the calculation of state aid.

**RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION TO JOIN IN THE FILING OF AN OPEN PUBLIC
RECORDS ACT REQUEST WITH, AND POSSIBLE FUTURE RELATED
LITIGATION AGAINST, THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY CONCERNING THE
CALCULATION AND ALLOCATION OF STATE AID**

WHEREAS, the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 (SFRA), N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-1 *et seq.*, reflects the current New Jersey law that governs State Aid to public school districts; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey (State) has appropriated limited monies to fund such State Aid for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, the State arbitrarily determines how much State Aid to allocate to each school district, without regard to district need or ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, the Southampton Township School District is receiving substantially less State Aid than it otherwise should receive; and

WHEREAS, such disparate treatment is neither “equal” nor “equitable” and is without a rational basis; and

WHEREAS, the State should be transparent in how it calculates and allocates State Aid to each school district; and

WHEREAS, to protect the interests of its school children, each school district is entitled to obtain data and records from the State as to how the State calculates and allocates State Aid to each school district; and

WHEREAS, the Southampton Township School District Board of Education (the “Board”) believes that it is in the best interests of its residents, taxpayers, and school children to file an Open Public Records Act request with, and if subsequently determined necessary, related litigation against, the State of New Jersey, Department of Education and the Commissioner of Education (and such other parties as may be appropriate) for data and records as to how the State calculates and allocates State Aid to each school district.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby joins in the filing of the attached Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request at no cost to the Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event the OPRA request is denied, the Board may subsequently elect join in the litigation against the State of New Jersey, Department of Education and the Commissioner of Education to obtain data and records from the State of New Jersey and its various Departments as to how the State calculates and allocates State Aid to each school district (“OPRA Litigation”); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Weiner Law Group, LLP (“Special Counsel”) is hereby appointed for the limited purposes of representing the Board in connection with the filing of the OPRA request jointly with other involved public school districts, and the potential future OPRA Litigation in connection with that OPRA request, if the Board elects to join in the OPRA Litigation; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event that the Board elects to join in the OPRA Litigation, the Board hereby authorizes the Southampton Township School District Administration to cooperate with the Special Counsel to effectuate the Board's role in the OPRA Litigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event that the Board elects to join in the OPRA Litigation, the Special Counsel's fee for that representation shall be limited to \$1,000.00, which represents the Board's full share of the fees and costs associated with the OPRA Litigation, not including the cost of a subsequent appeal should that occur and should the Board elect to join in that appeal, pursuant to a retention letter to be executed between the Board and Special Counsel.

- 1.2 Extended Sick Leave
 - Approval to grant twenty-three (23) days of extended sick leave for Employee #1168 in accordance with 18A:30-6
- 1.3 Internship / Field Placement
 - Kayla Kilpatrick undergraduate internship opportunity in school counseling with Monmouth University; 100 internship hours between 01-21-2020 and 04-28-2020.

Motion by _____, second by _____, to approve (item #s1.1 – 1.3)

Roll Call / Vote

____D. Bozarth, ____R. Hann, ____J. Hicks, ____M. Phillips, ____S. Phillips, ____J. Potter,
____L. Rickborn, ____A. Ushkowitz, and ____B. Wright

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Members of the public are invited to submit any general comments during this public comment portion of the meeting. The Board, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, will not publicly discuss personnel matters and may choose not to respond to comments made by members of the public during this portion of the meeting; however, the Board will give all comments appropriate consideration and will refer all individual complaints to the Superintendent of Schools or Administration for resolution. Each citizen will be allotted up to three (3) minutes to speak, in order to allow everyone an opportunity to express their opinions or concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by _____, second by _____ to adjourn the meeting at _____ P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: _____

Casey DeJoseph
Business Administrator/Board Secretary