SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
March 29, 2023

MEETINGS:
6:30 p.m. – Special Meeting, School #2 APR
Executive Session, Media Center

SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION, SOUTHAMPTON, NJ 08088
"Building a Tradition of Excellence"
OUR MISSION
The Southampton Township School District shall empower our students with the life skills necessary to attain academic excellence while fostering social and emotional growth.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING: This meeting is held in compliance with N. J. S. A. 10:4-6. A schedule of meetings was posted in all schools and the township municipal building, advertised in the *Burlington County Times* on January 6, 2023, and the *Courier Post* on February 17, 2023, and posted on the district website and the Southampton Township School District Facebook page. Notice of this Special Meeting was transmitted to the Burlington County Times and the Courier Post on March 20, 2023.

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.

ROLL CALL:

Board of Education Member	Present	Absent
Jeffrey Hicks, *Vice President*	**X**	
Kit Applegate	**X**	
Sean Cassel		**Excused**
Katie Topf	**X**	
Melissa Walker	**X**	
John McMichael		**Excused**

Irving Bodine III	**X**	
Russell Hann	**X**	
Betty Wright, *President*	**X**	

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

MOTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED
MOTION: _J. Hicks___ SECOND: _K. Applegate__ to accept the agenda as published
VOICE VOTE; MOTION CARRIES 7-0

STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC
Board Members are legally and ethically required to uphold and enforce the laws and rules of the State Board of Education. This obligation applies to mandated curricula. Administrators are under a similar obligation. Therefore, the District is not in a position to countermand the law and rules.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS
As a friendly reminder, public participation in Board of Education meetings is governed by District Policy 0167. During designated public comment periods members of the pubic shall direct all statements, questions, or inquiries to the presiding officer (i.e. Board President) and any questions or inquiries directed by a participant to another Board member will be redirected to the presiding officer. The presiding officer may interrupt, warn, and/or terminate a participant's statement, question, or inquiry when it is too lengthy; is abusive, obscene, or may be defamatory; and may request any person to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ACTION ITEMS
In accordance with District Policies 0164 and 0167 members of the public are invited to submit comments pertaining only to the Board agenda action items during this public comment portion of the meeting. General comments, not necessarily pertaining to the agenda, are invited to be submitted during the public comment portion at the end 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.

Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:

- A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable
- Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to (not less than) three minutes' duration

- No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard

Please state your name, municipality, and the action item you're commenting on.

CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Superintendent's Recommendation for Employment

- Sandie Wray, Teacher, at Step 8, MA Column on the Schedule A-1 Salary Guide, Salary $62,397, prorated for the 2022-2023 School Year, effective date 04/17/2023

MOTION: __K. Applegate___ SECOND: __R. Hann____ to approve the Superintendent's Recommendation for Employment (item #1) ROLL CALL VOTE

J. Hicks, Vice President - Yes	**K. Topf - Yes**	**I. Bodine III- Yes**
K. Applegate - Yes	**M. Walker- Yes**	**R. Hann- Yes**
S. Cassel - Excused	**J. McMichael-Excused**	**B. Wright, President-Yes**

MOTION CARRIES 7-0

2. Motion to approve by resolution the *AMENDED* tentative FY24 budget for submission to the Executive County Superintendent and Executive County Business Administrator for review and approval.

"ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED TENTATIVE 2023-2024 BUDGET, to be reviewed and approved by the Burlington County Office Department of Education of New Jersey as follows:
BE IT RESOLVED that the 2023-2024 School Year budget, having been reviewed and approved by the Burlington County Office Department of Education of New Jersey in accordance with the statutory deadline, be adopted as follows:

General Fund	$ 14,890,133
Special Revenue Fund	$ 477,052
Debt Service Fund	$ 567,888
Total	$ 15,935,073

General Fund Tax Levy	$12,495,999
Debt Service Tax Levy	$ 477,126
Total	$ 12,973,125

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to approve a one hundred and fifty thousand ($150,000) withdraw from the Capital Reserve account to fund the replacement of the school #2 parking lot as outlined in the district's Long Range Facilities Plan; and approve the advertisement for bids, when necessary, of the aforementioned project; and

WHEREAS, the Southampton Township 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:23 A-7.3 et seq. requires Board members to receive 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, an annual school year threshold of $300 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23 A-7.3 et seq. but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23 A-7.3 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B A7.3 to a maximum expenditure of $65,000 for all staff and board members."

MOTION: _R. Hann___ SECOND: __J. Hicks_____ to approve the amended FY24 draft budget (item #2) ROLL CALL VOTE

J. Hicks, Vice President- Yes	**K. Topf- Yes**	**I. Bodine III - Yes**
K. Applegate- Yes	**M. Walker- Yes**	**R. Hann- Yes**
S. Cassel- Excused	**J. McMichael- Excused**	**B. Wright, President- Yes**

MOTION CARRIES, 7-0

RESOLUTION TO ENTER CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Education is exercising their right to an exemption pursuant to N. J. S. A. 10:4-6 et seq. which provides that a public body may hold a closed session under certain statutory exceptions to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act with a general description of exceptions being matters:

1. rendered confidential by expressed provision of law or court order
2. right to receive federal funds
3. unwarranted invasion of individual privacy
4. collective bargaining negotiations

5. purchase/lease/acquisition of real property with public funds
6. items where immediate disclosure would impair public safety
7. investigation of violations of or possible violations of law
8. falling within attorney-client privilege
9. personnel matters penalty or loss of license to an individual
10. pending or anticipated litigation
11. contract negotiation

The Board of Education has determined that such a circumstance exists which warrants a closed executive session under **items # 3 & 8** as above indicated and the subject to be discussed is as follows:

Unwarranted Invasion of Individual Privacy / Falling Within Attorney-Client Privilege

The Southampton Township Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq, will meet in executive session closed to the public for the discussion of a matter which falls under a statutory exception to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act and that said closed session will be held on **Wednesday, March 29, 2023**; and the closed executive session discussions will pertain to the above mentioned items and that the minutes of the closed executive session will be disclosed after the Board of Education takes formal action or after the reason for the discussions in closed session no longer exists.

MOTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

TIME: 6:39 P.M. MOTION: K. Applegate SECOND: M. Walker VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIES, 7-0

(K. Applegate walked out of closed executive session at approximately 7:55 p.m.)

MOTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

TIME: 8:17 P.M. MOTION: K. Applegate SECOND: J. Hicks VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIES, 7-0

MOTION B. Wright, SECOND R. Hann to reaffirm approval of the Superintendent's decision on HIB Incident #SS03020823. ROLL CALL VOTE

J. Hicks, Vice President- Yes	**K. Topf- Yes**	**I. Bodine III - No**
K. Applegate- No	**M. Walker- No**	**R. Hann- Yes**
S. Cassel- Excused	**J. McMichael- Excused**	**B. Wright, President- Yes**

MOTION CARRIES, 4 (YES) – 3 (NO)

MOTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADJOURN

TIME: 8:25 P.M. MOTION: K. Applegate SECOND: M. Walker VOICE VOTE
MOTION CARRIES, 7-0