

SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

January 23, 2024



MEETINGS:

6:00 p.m. – Executive Session, Media Center

7:00 p.m.- Public Meeting, School #2 APR/Cafeteria

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: 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

Board of Education Member	Present	Absent
Katie Topf, <i>Vice President</i>	X	
Irving Bodine III	X	
Janine Hoey	X	
Betty Wright	X	
Leon Carelli	X	
Jeffrey Hicks	X	
Russell Hann	X	
Melissa Walker	X	
Kit Applegate, <i>President</i>	X	

Others present: C. DeJoseph, J. Betley, Esq.

Excused: M. Harris

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, the township municipal building, posted on the district website and the Southampton Township School District Facebook page. Notice of this meeting was advertised in the *Burlington County Times* on January 10, 2024, advertised in the *Courier Post* on January 11, 2024, and transmitted to the Township Clerk on January 5, 2024.

Notice that public session is being audio recorded

Please note that the **public session** of tonight’s meeting is being audio recorded.

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:

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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
10. penalty or loss of license to an individual
11. pending or anticipated litigation
12. contract negotiation

The Board of Education has determined that such a circumstance exists which warrants a closed executive session under **items #3, 4, 8, & 9** as above indicated and the subject to be discussed is as follows:

Unwarranted Invasion of Individual Privacy/Collective Bargaining Negotiations

Falling Within Attorney-Client Privilege/Personnel Matters

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 **Tuesday, January 23, 2024**; 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: 6:01 p.m. MOTION: J. Hicks SECOND: L. Carelli VOICE VOTE;
MOTION CARRIED, ALL IN FAVOR 9-0**

MOTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

**TIME: 7:00 p.m. MOTION: J. Hicks SECOND: J. Hoey VOICE VOTE;
MOTION CARRIES, ALL IN FAVOR 9-0**

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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. Please be aware this meeting may be recorded in accordance with District Policy #0168.

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Board of Education Member	Present	Absent
Katie Topf, <i>Vice President</i>	X	
Irving Bodine III	X	
Janine Hoey	X	
Betty Wright	X	
Leon Carelli	X	
Jeffrey Hicks	X	
Russell Hann	X	
Melissa Walker	X	
Kit Applegate, <i>President</i>	X	

Others present: C. DeJoseph, J. Betley, Esq.

Excused: M. Harris

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

MOTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ACCEPT THE AMENDED AGENDA AS DISCUSSED DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION

**MOTION: K. Topf SECOND: B. Wright to accept the agenda as amended
VOICE VOTE; MOTION CARRIES, ALL IN FAVOR 9-0**

STUDENT RECOGNITION: Character Trait: Generosity/Courage

Kindergarten: Emma Raditz

Grade 5: Blake Tyrell

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Grade 1: Roman Schulze
Grade 2: Penelope Vaughan
Grade 3: Mia Chadwick
Grade 4: Jaqueline Kramer

Grade 6: Eliza Compton
Grade 7: Mitchell Chesla
Grade 8: Skylar Hudson

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION-December

- **Mr. Robert Phillips**, Custodian/Groundskeeper
- **Mr. Al Camaione**, IT Consultant

TEACHER OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION

- **School #1 - Shelley Brockson**
- **School #2 - Tara DeLucia**
- **School #3 - Phillip DeSousa**

COMMUNITY TOPICS:

- PTA Parent Volunteer Program Presentation
- Southampton Schools Athletic Booster Club Information
- Superintendent Search Status Report

SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP PTA

- Ms. Nemara, Corresponding Secretary

SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

- Patricia Carpenter, President

BRIEF RECESS (7:36 p.m. – 7:43 p.m.)

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 public 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.

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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.

None.

CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT

CORRESPONDENCE: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 19, 2023 Regular & Executive Meetings

MOTION: J. Hicks SECOND: M. Walker to approve the meeting minutes from December 19, 2023 (as amended)

ROLL CALL VOTE

K. Topf, Vice President - YES

B. Wright - YES

R. Hann - YES

I. Bodine III - YES

L. Carelli - ABSTAIN

M. Walker - YES

J. Hoey - YES

J. Hicks - YES

K. Applegate, President - YES

MOTION CARRIED; 8 YES – 0 NO – 1 ABSTAIN

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 3, 2024 Organization Meeting

MOTION: J. Hicks SECOND: L. Carelli to approve the meeting minutes from January 3, 2024 Organization Meeting (as provided in the Board packet)

ROLL CALL VOTE

K. Topf, Vice President - YES

B. Wright - YES

R. Hann - YES

I. Bodine III - YES

L. Carelli - YES

M. Walker - YES

J. Hoey - YES

J. Hicks - YES

K. Applegate, President - YES

MOTION CARRIED; 9-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 10, 2024 Special & Executive Meeting (Superintendent Search) *postponed until next BOE meeting*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 17, 2024 Special & Executive Meetings

MOTION: J. Hicks SECOND: B. Wright to approve the meeting minutes from January 17, 2024 Special & Executive Meetings for superintendent interviews (as amended)

ROLL CALL VOTE

K. Topf, Vice President - YES

B. Wright - YES

R. Hann - YES

I. Bodine III - YES

L. Carelli - YES

M. Walker - ABSTAIN

J. Hoey - YES

J. Hicks - ABSTAIN

K. Applegate, President - YES

MOTION CARRIED; 7 YES – 0 NO - 2 ABSTAIN

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 18, 2024 Special & Executive Meetings

MOTION: J. Hicks SECOND: B. Wright to approve the meeting minutes from January 18, 2024 Special & Executive Meetings for superintendent interviews (as amended)

ROLL CALL VOTE

K. Topf, Vice President - YES

B. Wright - YES

R. Hann - YES

I. Bodine III - YES

L. Carelli - YES

M. Walker - ABSTAIN

J. Hoey - YES

J. Hicks - ABSTAIN

K. Applegate, President - YES

MOTION CARRIED; 7 YES – 0 NO - 2 ABSTAIN

REPORT OF THE BOARD SECRETARY

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INFORMATION ITEMS: None

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1.1** It is recommended that the Board Approve transfers *Line items for the months of **December 2023-January 2024**, as approved by the Superintendent.
- 1.2** Authorize the following payments *Payment of the **January 2024** bill list in the amount of \$612,304.59.
- 1.3** Accept the ***Board Secretary's Report** for the month of **December 2023**.
- 1.4** Accept the **Treasurer's Report** for the month of **December 2023**.
- 1.5** Approve the *Board Secretary's Monthly Certification Budgetary Line Item Status, Pursuant to NJAC 6:A:23-2.1(c)3, I certify that as of **December 2023** no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed line item appropriation in violation of NJAC 6A:23-2.11(a).
- 1.6** And certify the Board of Education's Monthly Certification Budgetary Major Account/Fund Status Pursuant to NJAC 6:A23-2.11(c)4, we certify that as of **December 2023** after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials and the treasurer's monthly financial reports, that to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of the NJAC6:A23-2.11(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- 1.7** Accept *Revenue Account Status Report for **December 2023**.
- 1.8** Authorize Nutri-Serve Check Register in the amount of \$34,375.14.

MOTION: L. Carelli SECOND: J. Hicks to approve Board Secretary Report (items # 1.1- 1.3 and 1.5-1.8 as listed) ROLL CALL VOTE

K. Topf, Vice President - YES

B. Wright - YES

R. Hann - YES

I. Bodine III - YES

L. Carelli - YES

M. Walker – YES**

J. Hoey - YES

J. Hicks – YES**

K. Applegate, President - YES

MOTION CARRIED; 9 YES – 0 NO (J. Hicks recuse item #1.2 check #4128; M. Walker recuse item #1.2 check #4118)**

REPORT OF THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT:

INFORMATION ITEMS: None

ACTION ITEMS:

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1. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Report

1.1 Incident Number SS312052023 Unfounded

MOTION: K. Topf SECOND: J. Hoey to affirm the Interim Superintendent's Report regarding HIB incidents (item #1.1) ROLL CALL VOTE

K. Topf, Vice President - YES

B. Wright - YES

R. Hann - YES

I. Bodine III - YES

L. Carelli - ABSTAIN

M. Walker - YES

J. Hoey - YES

J. Hicks - YES

K. Applegate, President - YES

MOTION CARRIED; 8 YES – 0 NO – 1 ABSTAIN

2. *Submission of the Memorandum of Understanding Between Education and Law Enforcement to the Burlington County Office of Education

MOTION: J. Hicks SECOND: B. Wright to approve submission to the Burlington County Office of Education the 2023-2024 Memorandum of Understanding Between Education and Law Enforcement (item #2) ROLL CALL VOTE

K. Topf, Vice President - YES

B. Wright - YES

R. Hann - YES

I. Bodine III - YES

L. Carelli - YES

M. Walker - YES

J. Hoey - YES

J. Hicks - YES

K. Applegate, President - YES

MOTION CARRIED; 9-0

3.*Special Services Report

4.*Curriculum Director's Report

5.*Nurse's Report

6.*Fire & Security Drill Reports

7.*HIB/Suspension Reports

8.*Principals' Report

9.*Enrollment –

Total school enrollment as of January 16, 2024 (PS-8 Including Out of District Students) = 684

- Special Education = 176
 - Resident students in-district = 142
 - Resident students sent out of district = 10
 - Speech and Language only =24

10. Class Trips

- **Liberty Lake**, 06/04/2024, 8th grade class trip. Admission cost is \$9,110.00, bus transportation approximately \$900.00.

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- **Rowan College of Burlington County** for NJ for Teen Arts Festival (students will participate in a community arts exhibit/performances), 03/13/2024, (50) 6th, 7th & 8th grade students, (6) adult chaperones and (1) nurse. Admission cost is \$200.00, bus transportation approximately \$450.00. Alternate date if needed 03/14/2024.

MOTION: B. Wright SECOND: R. Hann to accept and approve (item #s 3-10)
VOICE VOTE; MOTION CARRIED, ALL IN FAVOR 9-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PERSONNEL/STUDENT SERVICES (Chairperson: K. Topf, L. Carelli, and B. Wright)

Administrative Facilitator: Interim Superintendent, M. Harris

* Personnel/Student Services Committee Meeting – 1/17/24

1.1 Rescind Offers of Employment for the following:

- Natalie Jiminez
- Harold Bauer

1.2 *Resignation with Regret

- **Sara Steckler**, World Language Teacher, effective 03-19-2024

1.3 *2023-2024, Spring and Full Year Schedule B Appointments and Spring Site Managers

- Approval for the attached staff members to fill Spring and Full Year Schedule B Appointments for the 2023-2024 School Year (Subject to the activities not being terminated due to any reason i.e. the Covid-19 pandemic) and approval of Spring Site Managers.

1.4 Leave of Absence

- Employee #15406, FMLA from 01-08-2024 to TBD.

1.5 *Extended Sick Leave

- Permission to grant 10 days of extended sick leave to Employee #15406 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:30-6 for use during a medical leave of absence.

1.6 Workshops

- **Alyssa Gentile**, *NASW School Social Work Symposium*, Remote, on January 10, 17, and 24, 2024, \$150.
- **Randy Meyer** presenting at the Nassau Zone AHPERD Conference at Adelphi University, Long Island, NY, on March 22, 2024, No-Charge.
- **Casey DeJoseph**, *NJASBO PD Workshop*, Mount Laurel, NJ on January 23, 2024, \$125.

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MOTION: M. Walker SECOND: I. Bodine to pull out item #1.7 and vote on that item separately; ROLL CALL VOTE

**K. Topf, Vice President - YES B. Wright - YES R. Hann - YES
I. Bodine III - YES L. Carelli - NO M. Walker - YES
J. Hoey - YES J. Hicks - YES K. Applegate, President – YES
MOTION CARRIES, 8 YES – 1 NO**

J. Hicks asked the record to reflect that he asked whether or not this would be the recommendation of the administration.

M. Walker asked that the record reflect that she personally feels that there is more that can be done (referencing item #1.7)

L. Carelli asked the record to reflect his thanks to the administration for their handling of an extremely difficult situation.

**MOTION: L. Carelli SECOND: J. Hicks to accept and approve (item #s 1.1-1.6)
ROLL CALL VOTE**

**K. Topf, Vice President - YES B. Wright - YES R. Hann - YES
I. Bodine III - YES L. Carelli - YES M. Walker - YES
J. Hoey - YES J. Hicks - YES K. Applegate, President – YES
MOTION CARRIES, 9-0**

1.7 Transfer

- **Employee # 2022**

MOTION: K. Topf SECOND: B. Wright to accept and approve transfer of employee #2022 (item # 1.7) ROLL CALL VOTE

**K. Topf, Vice President - YES B. Wright - YES R. Hann - YES
I. Bodine III - YES L. Carelli - YES M. Walker - NO
J. Hoey - NO J. Hicks - YES K. Applegate, President – YES
MOTION CARRIES, 7 YES – 2 NO**

1.8 *Ratify 2023-2026 Southampton Township Administrators and Supervisors Association Collective Bargaining Agreement

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MOTION: B. Wright SECOND: R. Hann to ratify the 2023-2026 Southampton Township Administrators and Supervisors collective bargaining agreement (item #1.8)
ROLL CALL VOTE

K. Topf, Vice President - YES	B. Wright - YES	R. Hann - YES
I. Bodine III - YES	L. Carelli - YES	M. Walker - YES
J. Hoey - YES	J. Hicks - ABSTAIN	K. Applegate, President – YES

MOTION CARRIES, 8 YES – 0 NO – 1 ABSTAIN

1.9 Approve additional compensation for Jennifer Mikulski, School #2/3 Nurse, to provide after-school services at the non-instructional rate of \$30.50 per hour for up to five (5) hours.

MOTION: B. Wright SECOND: J. Hicks to approve compensation as listed (item #1.9) ROLL CALL VOTE

K. Topf, Vice President - YES	B. Wright - YES	R. Hann - YES
I. Bodine III - YES	L. Carelli - YES	M. Walker - YES
J. Hoey - YES	J. Hicks - YES	K. Applegate, President – YES

MOTION CARRIES, 9-0

2. CURRICULUM/POLICY COMMITTEE (Chairperson: J. Hicks, K. Applegate, and J. Hoey)
Administrative Facilitator: Interim Superintendent, M. Harris
* Curriculum/Policy Committee Meeting – 1/11/24

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- **Committee Updates**

ACTION ITEMS:

2.1 *2023-2024 School Level Objectives Progress Reports

MOTION: J. Hicks SECOND: L. Carelli to accept the 2023-2024 School Level Objectives Progress Reports (item #2.1) ROLL CALL VOTE

K. Topf, Vice President - YES	B. Wright - YES	R. Hann - YES
I. Bodine III - YES	L. Carelli - YES	M. Walker - YES
J. Hoey - YES	J. Hicks - YES	K. Applegate, President – YES

MOTION CARRIES, 9-0

2.2 *First Reading for Revisions to Existing Policies

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- Policy 2312 Class Size
- Policy 1210.02 Board - Superintendent Communications

K. Topf asked that the record reflect that policy #2312 for class size states that for grade K-5 the class size is generally a maximum of 22 pupils and for 6-8 the class size is generally a maximum of 25 pupils.

MOTION: J. Hicks SECOND: J. Hoey to acknowledge first reading for revisions to existing policies as listed (item #2.2) ROLL CALL VOTE

K. Topf, Vice President - YES

B. Wright - YES

R. Hann - YES

I. Bodine III - YES

L. Carelli - YES

M. Walker - YES

J. Hoey - YES

J. Hicks - YES

K. Applegate, President – YES

MOTION CARRIES, 9-0

2.3 * Policy Alert #231 – First Reading

- P &R 1642.01 – Sick Leave (New)
- P2270 Religion in Schools
- P3161 Examination for Cause
- P3212 Attendance
- P3324 Right of Privacy
- P4161 Examination for Cause
- P&R 4212 Attendance
- P4324 Right of Privacy
- P&R 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M)
- P&R 5116 Education of Homeless Children and Youths
- P8500 Food Services (M)

MOTION: J. Hicks SECOND: K. Topf to acknowledge first reading of policies as listed in accordance with Strauss Esmay Policy Alert #231 (item #2.3) ROLL CALL VOTE

K. Topf, Vice President - YES

B. Wright - YES

R. Hann - YES

I. Bodine III - YES

L. Carelli - YES

M. Walker - YES

J. Hoey - YES

J. Hicks – YES**

K. Applegate, President – YES

MOTION CARRIES, 9-0 (J. Hicks abstained from policy #1642.01)**

3. BUDGET/FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE (Chairperson: M. Walker, I. Bodine, and R. Hann)

Administrative Facilitator – Business Administrator, C. DeJoseph

*Budget/Finance/Facilities Meeting – 1/16/2024

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INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- **Purchase of new district truck**
- **Parking lot paving**
- **Fire pump quotes**
- **2024-2025 Budget Preparations**

3.1 *Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) Update – RYEBREAD Architect

MOTION: M. Walker SECOND: I. Bodine to approve RYEBREAD Architects to update the district's Long Range Facilities Plan on a time and materials basis. (item# 3.1)

ROLL CALL VOTE

K. Topf, Vice President - YES

B. Wright - YES

R. Hann - YES

I. Bodine III - YES

L. Carelli - YES

M. Walker - YES

J. Hoey - YES

J. Hicks – YES

K. Applegate, President – YES

MOTION CARRIES, 9-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Township Liaison Report**
- **Character Strong (3-year renewal)**

4. Renew memorandum of understanding with Character Strong for \$3,774.60 via the Title IV grant for the years 2023-2026.

MOTION: L. Carelli SECOND: J. Hicks to approve the renewal of memorandum of understanding with Character Strong for \$3,774.60 via the Title IV grant. (item #4)

J. Hicks asked the record to reflect that Character Strong is a resource and not a curriculum, asked if Seneca uses this as well.

M. Walker asked the record to reflect that 50% of teachers believe Character Strong is ok and 50% believe that Character Strong is just a so-so or not so great resource; doesn't understand why the district needs to commit to three years; asked why we cannot do this in house, and grade K-5 are missing research.

L. Carelli asked the record to reflect that he disagreed with the characterization of survey results by M. Walker given the results show 82% of respondents rated Character Strong a 3/5 or higher.

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ROLL CALL VOTE

K. Topf, Vice President - YES

B. Wright - YES

R. Hann - YES

I. Bodine III - NO

L. Carelli - YES

M. Walker - NO

J. Hoey - NO

J. Hicks – YES

K. Applegate, President – YES

MOTION CARRIES, 6 YES – 3 NO

NEW BUSINESS:

- BCSBA Revised Meeting Date is Thursday, 01/25/2024. Meeting is all virtual.
- School Board Recognition Month

5. Adoption of Resolution attached as Exhibit A in recognition of January being School Board Recognition Month.

MOTION: J. Hicks SECOND: R. Hann to adopt Resolution attached as Exhibit A in recognition of January being School Board Recognition Month. (item #5)

ROLL CALL VOTE

K. Topf, Vice President - YES

B. Wright - YES

R. Hann - YES

I. Bodine III - YES

L. Carelli - YES

M. Walker - YES

J. Hoey - YES

J. Hicks – YES

K. Applegate, President – YES

MOTION CARRIES, 9-0

EXHIBIT A

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH IN NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2024 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, The Southampton Twp. Board of Education is one of 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, The Southampton Twp. Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

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WHEREAS, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Southampton Twp. Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2024 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southampton Twp. Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staffs toward the advancement of our children's education.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: As per policies 0164 and 0167, members of the public are invited to submit general comments during this public comment portion of the meeting.

K. Greene, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds, thanked the Board for supporting him

CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION: J. Hoey **SECOND:** J. Hicks **TO ADJOURN TIME:** 8:53 p.m.

VOICE VOTE; MOTION CARRIED ALL IN FAVOR 9-0

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 23	Board of Education Meeting
January 25	School #2 Winter Concert
January 29	2 Hour Delay (Staff In-Service)
February 13	STAR Foundation Meeting
February 16	School Closed (Staff In-Service)
February 19	President's Day (School Closed)