

**SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
April 30, 2024**



MEETINGS:

7:30 p.m. - Special Meeting – School #2 APR

**SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION, SOUTHAMPTON, NJ 08088
“Building a Tradition of Excellence”**

Our Mission

The mission of the **Southampton Township School District**, in partnership with the community, is to educate, empower and inspire students to be successful global citizens. Driven by a passion for education and rooted in a tradition of excellence, we are committed to providing an inclusive and engaging environment that fosters a future forward mindset.

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: 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Others present: M. Harris, C. DeJoseph, J. Betley

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SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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, on the district website and the township municipal building. Advertisement of the meetings was transmitted to the *Burlington County Times*, the *Courier Post*, and the Southampton Township Clerk on January 5, 2024. Notice of this meeting was transmitted to the Township Clerk, Burlington County Times, and the *Courier Post* on April 26, 2024.

Notice that public session may be audio recorded.

Please note that the **public session** of tonight's meeting may be audio recorded.

CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF REMOVAL OF BOARD PRESIDENT

MOTION: B. Wright **SECOND:** R. Hann **to recommend Mr. Applegate and Mrs. Walker attend counseling/mediation via NJSBA; ROLL CALL VOTE**

K. Topf, Vice President - Yes

J. Hoey - Excused

R. Hann - Yes

I. Bodine III - Excused

J. Hicks - Excused

M. Walker - Excused

B. Wright - Yes

L. Carelli - Yes

K. Applegate, President - Yes

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

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.

S. Cassel, Southampton, commented on discussion of removal of Board President, showed support for Mr. Applegate

J. Bodine, Southampton, commented on how last minute the meeting was and surprised at how many people showed up given the lack of notice; asked if all Board members availability was

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considered when scheduling this meeting; disappointed that we won't get to hear Mrs. Walker's side of the story, we should have opportunity to hear concerns since we are the voters

P. Carpenter, STEA President, thanked BOE for making commitment to the district, feels the district is on an upward trend and staff morale is on the rise, asked the BOE what kind of Board they will choose to be 1) sets the tone of cooperation, communication, and strong community 2) continue with disagreements on public display and personal agendas. Hopes the BOE chooses to work together and move the district forward

K. Gebhart, Southampton, commented on supporting teachers and the district moving forward with transparency, need to find a way to resolve issues with transparency

K. Sellers, Southampton, thanked the Board for working for us, asked the BOE to stay focused on what is right and true, disappointing that the meeting was held with so many members missing

S. Roseboro, PTA, applauded the Board for all of their hard work so far, excited about hiring with new Superintendent, stated that we have to learn how to play in the sandbox together, transition and learning period, we are four months in since the January organization meeting, hopes that putting children in the forefront and put personal agendas aside

CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**MOTION: L. Carelli SECOND: B. Wright TO ADJOURN TIME: 8:07 p.m.
VOICE VOTE; MOTION CARRIED, ALL IN FAVOR 5-0**