

**SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION MINUTES
January 23, 2025**



MEETING

- **6:00 p.m. – Public Session– (School 3 Media Center)**
- **Immediately Following Public Session – Closed Executive Session – School 3 Media Center**

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

Our Vision

We aspire to be a district which fosters a safe and supportive environment where all individuals feel valued, grow in knowledge, and confidence with commitment to enrich society.

Our Mission

The Mission of Southampton Township School District, in partnership with the community, is to educate, empower and inspire students to be successful global citizens. Driven by 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.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Board of Education Member	Present	Absent
Leon Carelli, <i>Vice President</i>	X	
Irving Bodine, III	X	
Joseph Allen	X	
Janine Hoey	X	
Sharon Roseboro	X	
Russell Hann	X	
Brett Hart	X	
Betty Wright	X	
Jeffrey Hicks, <i>President</i>	X	

Others Present: Megan Geibel, Mary Conroy, Emily Strawbridge

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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 transmitted to the Burlington County Times on January 14, 2025.

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:

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 #1, #4, #8, and #9** as above indicated and the subject to be discussed is as follows:

**Rendered Confidential by Expressed Provision of Law or Court Order/Collective
Bargaining Negotiations/Falling Within Attorney-Client Privilege/
Personnel Matters**

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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 **Thursday, January 23, 2025**; 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: 9:41PM MOTION: L.C. SECOND: J.Hoey VOICE VOTE: **9:0**
MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

TIME: 10:11PM MOTION: L.C. SECOND: B.W. VOICE VOTE: 9:0 **MOTION CARRIES**

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 WORK SESSION:

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ROLL CALL: BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Board of Education Member	Present	Absent
Leon Carelli, <i>Vice President</i>	X	
Irving Bodine, III	X	
Joseph Allen	X	
Janine Hoey	X	
Sharon Roseboro	X	
Russell Hann	X	
Brett Hart	X	
Betty Wright	X	
Jeffrey Hicks, <i>President</i>	X	

Others Present: M.G., M.C., E.S.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

MOTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED

MOTION: J. Hoey SECOND: I.B. to accept the agenda as published
VOICE VOTE: 9:0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

● **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS**

● **PERSONNEL AND STUDENT SERVICES**

- Transfers
- Yearbook Ad
- Field Trips
- 2025-2026 District Calendar
- Workshops
- Mentoring

● **CURRICULUM AND POLICY**

- Policy Updates

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- P8454 Management of Pediculosis Policy***Nurse sent a written notice of their stance on policy. Board discussed their stance on being notified if there is a case of lice.**
- Review P5756 Transgender Students and P9240 Rights of Parents
 - Policy Alert 234***Discussion how it would affect the district if we rescind the recommendation from the state? E.S stated the lawyers recommend keeping the recommendation as is because if there is a lawsuit the state will not back the district.**

Board members shared their views on the policies and that they conflict with one another. M.Geibel stated we will always do what is best for the student regardless. Board discussed their opinion on notifying parents or not and the support of transgender students.

B.Wright stated we should go to the State Dept of Education and voice our opinion and how this recommendation is in conflict.

J. Hoey stated we as a Board can fix this issue.

Solicitor stated the concerns are with the Dept of Ed and their wording.

J. Hicks stated we can reach out to NJ SBA for their help.

Things may change with the new rules coming out.

Rules came out in 2023 regarding these policies and recommendations and guidance.

- **BUDGET, FINANCE AND FACILITIES**

- Informational Items
- Audit Conclusion Letter
- Title 1A Amendment Roll Over

****M. Geibel discussed heat pump issue in School 1 Office, Rye Bread will go out to bid on Prek bathrooms, Lead paint issue with the green paint on doors in bus annex, PSEG find out about credits for solar**

- **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

- Informational Items
 - Township Committee Meeting – January 21, 2025-****M. Geibel was asked a lot of questions about district and one resident was negative about the referendum**
 - Town Hall – February 12, 2025 (6:30 p.m.) ***Discuss having R. Young and Sherry from Phoenix Advisors there to answer**

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questions. Discuss having this as a Public Meeting and having the whole Board there. Everyone is in agreement to do this and have an agenda.

- Leisuretowne – February 19, 2025 (7:00 p.m.) ***M.G will be at Laurel hall to discuss referendum with the residents**
- On the Digital Sign

● **TECHNOLOGY**

- Informational Items
- Progress Report Update
- GEMBA Project still ongoing...issues with punch list items and scheduling to come here to work

***Phones cut over still have some items to finish up**

****J.Allen asked if we have retainage on them. Yes we do**

● **PENDING**

- Board Action Plans
- P0161 – Call, Adjournment and Cancellation

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.

9:29PM

P. Carpenter–Southampton STEA Members are backing the referendum, Gemba project is taking too long, Matt B. is doing a great job and always helpful and positive,

Transgender policy–tough to remember what names they may use in school and what is in the computer.

**Kelly Thomas–resident and alumni..... Did Epic Environmental really say that green paint can't be made into dust. M.G. Yes in the report and will put up signage
Liberty Lakes Trip – do they swim? Are we aware of drowning last year?**

Shelly Brockson–resident, A Lot of studies show that technology is not the most beneficial. Can we go back to books, paper and pencils?

M.Geibel–we are building class libraries we want kids actively working

CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT

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MOTION: **J.A** SECOND: **B.W.** TO ADJOURN TIME: **10:12 PM**