

SHREWSBURY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
SHREWSBURY, NEW JERSEY
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 13th, 2020
MINUTES

Opening Procedures

1.1 Call to order – 6:06 p.m.

1.2 Flag salute

1.3 Opening Statement

“Public notice of this was emailed to the Asbury Park Press on October 8th, 2020 in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act PL 1975 CH 231, effective January 16, 1976. Notice has been posted in the Fern Ross entrance and Bell Foyer entrance to Shrewsbury Borough School. A copy of this notice is also on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.”

1.4 Roll Call:

Mrs. Gourley-Thompson
Mrs. Groom
Mrs. Hepburn-Goldberg
Mrs. Humes
Mr. Jannuzzi
Mrs. Montgomery

Mr. Sweeney
Mrs. Barber
Mrs. Hemel
Mr. MacConnell, Superintendent
Ms. Avento, Business Administrator
Mr. Donio, Board Attorney

1.5 Mission Statement

The mission of the Shrewsbury Borough School District, a system built on successful cooperation among family, school and community, is to prepare all students to achieve excellence and to become responsible citizens through rigorous educational programs consistent with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and which respect individual differences and diversity. Students will be prepared to meet the challenges presented in the regional high school and the world beyond.

2.0 Closed Executive Session

2.1 It was motioned by Mrs. Groom, seconded by Mrs. Montgomery, to move into Closed Executive Session at 6:08 p.m. to discuss confidential personnel matters or Board Business and/or matters of attorney/client privilege and/or matters of litigation and/or negotiations or contractual matters from which the public may be excluded. Minutes of this meeting will be made available to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Mrs. Gourley-Thompson	X				
Mrs. Groom	X				
Mrs. Hepburn-Goldberg	X				
Mrs. Humes	X				
Mr. Jannuzzi	X				
Mrs. Montgomery	X				
Mr. Sweeney	X				
Mrs. Barber	X				
Mrs. Hemel	X				

On a voice vote, nine (9) members voted yes.

- 2.2 It was motioned by Mrs. Montgomery, seconded by Mrs. Gourley-Thompson to reconvene into public session at 6:32 p.m.

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Mrs. Gourley-Thompson	X				
Mrs. Groom	X				
Mrs. Hepburn-Goldberg	X				
Mrs. Humes	X				
Mr. Jannuzzi	X				
Mrs. Montgomery	X				
Mr. Sweeney	X				
Mrs. Barber	X				
Mrs. Hemel	X				

On a voice vote, nine (9) members voted yes.

3.0 Superintendent’s Report ~ Mr. MacConnell

- 3.1 Superintendent’s Report – There was no Superintendent report.

4.0 Finance ~ Mr. Sweeney

4.1 Committee Report

Mr. Sweeney reported that the Committee did not meet however present the items listed below for approval.

It was motioned by Mrs. Barber, seconded by Mrs. Montgomery, to approve items 4.2 through 4.4 as amended:

- 4.2 Recommend that the Board of Education approve Joseph Christiano as a Technology Consultant at the rate of \$200/hr for the 2020-2021 school year.

- 4.3 Recommend that the Board of Education approve Brian Erikson a Computer Technician Associate at the rate of \$40/hr for the 2020-2021 School Year.
- 4.4 Recommend that the Board of Education approve the Shared Services Agreement between Little Silver Board of Education and Shrewsbury Board of Education for Business Services as per contract at the prorated rate of \$26,000 per year effective on or about October 15th, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year.

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Mrs. Gourley-Thompson	X				
Mrs. Groom	X				
Mrs. Hepburn-Goldberg	X				
Mrs. Humes	X				
Mr. Jannuzzi	X				
Mrs. Montgomery	X				
Mr. Sweeney	X				
Mrs. Barber	X				
Mrs. Hemel	X				

On a roll call vote, nine (9) members voted yes.

5.0 Personnel ~ Mrs. Barber

5.1 Committee Report:

Mrs. Barber reported that the Personnel Committee met virtually on October 9th, 2020 and discussed matters of a confidential nature.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was motioned by Mrs. Hemel, seconded by Mrs. Gourley-thompson, that the Board of Education approve item 5.2 and 5.3 as listed.

- 5.2 Recommend that the Board of Education approve the new job description for the position of Accounts Payable/Bookkeeper for the 2020-2021 school year.
- 5.3 Recommend that the Board of Education approval Madelyn Kolasis as Accounts Payable/Bookkeeper effective on or about October 26th, 2020 at the prorated salary of \$51,000 for 2020-2021 school year.

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Mrs. Gourley-Thompson	X				
Mrs. Groom	X				
Mrs. Hepburn-Goldberg	X				
Mrs. Humes	X				
Mr. Jannuzzi	X				
Mrs. Montgomery	X				
Mr. Sweeney	X				
Mrs. Barber	X				
Mrs. Hemel	X				

On a roll call vote, nine (9) members voted yes.

6.0 Public Participation – There was no public comment.

7.0 President's Comments ~ Mrs. Hemel

Good evening everyone-

I first want to thank my administration and board members for all of their hard work and dedication to SBS AND THIS COMMUNITY-lately it has been anything but easy.

Sit tight because I have a lot to address tonight!!!

What is expected of us is definitely not always what we signed up for. Nevertheless, we paste smiles on our faces and dedicate our time to do right by the members of our community AND EVERY CHILD IN THIS SCHOOL.

I actually was floored when I saw recently members running for the board who will represent our youngest learners, because members on this board only have children in grades 5 and above. First of all good luck to you if you will represent just our youngest learners BECAUSE everyone on this board REPRESENTS ALL OUR LEARNERS. Sorry to report NOT 1 child is more important than another. And news flash for those that don't know me personally I have a NEPHEW who is part of "your young learners" and love him as if he was my own! And if you think I don't get "it" I most certainly do.

In recent weeks, and actually going back to March and the start of this pandemic, we have had our share of complaints in person, by phone and by emails. And to members of the community who have taken time out of your lives to send us your thank you's and ongoing support, it means everything.

But, on the other hand I honestly have never seen such disrespectful written and verbal correspondence. And when I think that these emails and letters have actually been written to a school superintendent, I am deeply saddened and embarrassed that people actually behave this way. We as a board have been working tirelessly to **support** the next phase of opening.

I realize common sense is NOT common. And setting an example for your children can have many different variations. For example, I would want my child to show respect where others could care less, which has been more than apparent.

When we swear into our Board positions we do it because we are willing to give our time and dedication for every family and student in this town. Now while I really have no use for some of you because you would never be in my world with how you behave, I still will work my hardest so your child has the best opportunity here at SBS, whether you choose to believe that or not is YOUR problem.

I welcome people to join our board, and often times no one steps up, you just rather complain and speak ill, and consciously choose to BE UNKIND...again your choice. Others in our community that are so kind and supportive, even if you don't always agree keep me going.

And I choose going forward to not respond to rude and unkind behavior. It's that simple- simple rules you learn in kindergarten that grown up adults have forgotten.

To the parents that are so upset with the petitions that went out to the community, I can assure you that our plan to go back to school for 4 half days HAS NOTHING to do with the petitions.

Our plan was to always open up more days when it was safer to do so. JUST like if it doesn't feel safe we will shorten the days children and staff will be at SBS. Go right back to the hybrid that most of you have been so happy with. If Mr. MacConnell didn't feel it was safe we would not move forward. POINT BLANK. People can wish all they want but the final decision lies with the administration. Also, i'd like to point out for those that do not realize this, the peninsula is made up of small towns and the superintendents and principals are in constant communication. Just because one does it does not mean we all can and vs versa. It's not one size fits all.

And before I end my tirade tonight, most of you do not know the role of the board- I suggest you go on our SBS website and go under the tab that says BOARD and read it! You think the BOARD is responsible for things that are in no way what we do... educate yourselves.

I have tried to remain positive and kind and will continue to fight for what is right- that is ALWAYS my truth

Thank you.

9.0 Adjournment

It was motioned by Mrs. Hemel, seconded by Mrs. Gourley-Thompson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Mrs. Gourley-Thompson	X				
Mrs. Groom	X				
Mrs. Hepburn-Goldberg	X				
Mrs. Humes	X				
Mr. Jannuzzi	X				
Mrs. Montgomery	X				
Mr. Sweeney	X				
Mrs. Barber	X				
Mrs. Hemel	X				

On a voice vote, nine (9) members voted yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debi Avento
Business Administrator/Board Secretary