

**SOUTH HACKENSACK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WORKSHOP MINUTES  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2014– 7:30 p.m.**

The Workshop Session of the Board of Education of the Township of South Hackensack, New Jersey was called to order by Regan at 7:30 p.m. in the Lunch Room, Memorial School, South Hackensack, NJ on 11/3/14. Proper advertising was done so that action by the Board can be taken.

Roll Call: Y. Encarnacion, T. Lofaro, K. Maher, P. Nasta, J. Obando, L. Perdomo,  
M. Regan

Flag Salute: Led by Regan

Sunshine Law Announcement by Regan

Also Present:

Gregorio Maceri, Superintendent/Principal

Elizabete Schaefer, Board Secretary, Mrs. Kipp, Several Citizens

This meeting was advertised in accordance with Chapter 231, Laws of 1975 commonly cited as the Open Public Meetings Act.

**New Business:**

Bills were turned over to the finance committee for review and signature.

Correspondence available for review.

**Items Discussed:** Mr. Maceri opened his discussion by reviewing the motions to be presented to the board for action at the Regular Meeting on November 10, 2014. Mr. Maceri asked if any board members had any questions or needed clarification on any of the motions presented. None were voiced. Mr. Maceri stated that he would be discussing the 2013-2014 NJ ASK scores once again since some board members were not present at the last meeting and more parents were in attendance today. He presented a power point. Parents and board members had a chance to ask questions during the presentation. Mr. Maceri further stated that the sending districts which include South Hackensack, Maywood and Rochelle Park are working together with Hackensack to create a curriculum group so that all the districts are covering the same subject content. Mrs. Lofaro stated that mathematics has always been a problem. Mr. Maceri stated that the district is implementing different ways to improve the mathematics and it seems that it's moving in the right direction. The introduction of the writer's workshop and DRAs (Developmental Reading Assessment) in Grades 3, 4 and 5 and the introduction of the CAD program in Grades 6, 7 and 8 has shown improvement in these grades. Ms. Obando asked if any 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that applied to any of the Bergen County Technical Schools either the Hackensack or Teterboro campus were accepted into the program last

year. They were not. Ms. Obando is concerned that the students taking the entrance exams are not able to complete the test or having difficulty understanding the test especially in Mathematics. Mr. Maceri stated that certain areas were affected due to the transition from New Jersey Standards to the Common Core Standards. The district has changed its curriculum and now students are getting exposed to those areas affected. The district is also doing benchmark assessments. The students are getting prepared differently and this should show a better understanding of tests and exams. The district is offering tutoring services to students in need and per the recommendation of their teachers. Ms. Obando requested that resources be available to students who might be interested in taking the entrance exams for any of the Bergen County Technical Schools. The board was in agreement of that.

Mrs. Obando inquired about the attendance for the district's first Superintendent forum that was held in October. Mr. Maceri stated that he was happy to see a few parents and citizens but was looking forward to a better turnout for the one scheduled at the end of this month where he would be discussing the Common Core Standards. The district is promoting many different programs and parents and students should take advantage of them. Ms. Obando inquired about the Walking School Bus. Mr. Maceri stated that it was an idea brought up by parents who were interested in starting this program. This is something that will be introduced and discussed at a later date. The weather will play a factor on when the district will start this program. The district already had a walk to school day which a third of the school participated in.

**Comments:**

Ms. Obando stated that when she attended the Back to School night at Hackensack High School, they emphasized students using the 10<sup>th</sup> period for extra help. Ms. Obando is aware that our district's current route does not provide bussing for that time. She would like to know if this is something that we can look at for next school year. Mrs. Schaefer stated that when the route was bid they could only provide 2 buses. The district has currently 95 students attending Hackensack High school and we would have to provide a third bus which would not be feasible due to the fact that 10<sup>th</sup> period is not mandatory and this would also be a cost factor to the district. The district has not received too many complaints regarding this matter. Mr. Maceri stated that this would definitely be a budget discussion and that the district can look at this in a few ways. Mrs. Lofaro inquired about a police presence for elections. Mr. Maceri stated that he was informed by the police department that during school hours a police officer would be stationed here at the district. Mrs. Nasta asked if the district had heard anything back from PSE&G regarding the gas leak and the smoke stack on the overpass over Route 80. Mr. Maceri stated that he had not heard anything yet regarding this matter. Mrs. Lofaro stated that maybe this would be brought up at the township meeting on Thursday.

**Citizens:**

Meeting opened to citizens @ 8:37 p.m.

Mr. Bidell thanked Mr. Maceri for holding the Superintendent Forum which he attended and enjoyed tremendously. Mr. Bidell thanked Mrs. Lofaro for attending the last Township meeting and making herself present during these meetings when issues arise that may affect the school. He stated that citizens need to complain in order to get anything accomplished. Mr. Bidell requested that more people attend the Township meeting regarding this gas matter and hopefully we can get our request across for this work to be done before the spring which was the estimated time PSE&G gave the Township. Mr. Bidell asked what the outcome was regarding the bussing issue with Hackensack High School. Mr. Maceri stated that bus passes were being checked and that students were not allowed on the bus without one. Hopefully this will continue to be reinforced and the matter this resolved.

Motion to go into closed session @8:43 pm for legal issues

Motioned by T. Lofaro, seconded by P. Nasta

Roll call all in favor

Motion to return to the regular order of business @8:48 pm

Motioned by K. Maher, seconded by J. Obando

Roll call all in favor

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.

Motioned by T. Lofaro, seconded by K. Maher

Roll call, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Elizabete Schaefer  
Board Secretary