

**SOUTH HACKENSACK BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Work Session Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, October 5, 2015**

A work session meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, October 5, 2015 in the Lunch Room of Memorial School, 1 Dyer Avenue, South Hackensack, New Jersey. This meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President, Ms. Maher:

Ms. Maher read the following statement:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the South Hackensack Board of Education has caused notice of meetings published in The Record by having the date, time and place thereof posted. Notice was also placed on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building and in the Lobby of Memorial School.

Roll call was taken by Elizabete Schaefer, Board Secretary, and the following members responded to their names:

Present: Ms. Encarnacion, Ms. Davis, Mrs. Lofaro, Ms. Maher, Mr. Perdomo, Mrs. Regan

Absent: Ms. Obando

Also Present: Gregorio Maceri, Elizabete Schaefer, Mrs. Turtoro

Ms. Maher led the Board in the flag salute

Discussion Items:

Mr. Maceri opened his discussion by reviewing the resolutions with the board. He asked if any board member had any questions or needed clarification on any of the resolutions presented. Mr. Maceri stated that he might during budget time discuss hiring a service company for substitutes. He stated that finding and keeping substitutes is getting harder and harder. Ms. Maher stated that she thought our aides did all our subbing. Mr. Maceri stated that most of the time they do, but sometimes they can't because of special education requirements. Ms. Maher asked if the district advertises for substitutes. Mr. Maceri stated that we do. The application is available on our website. Mr. Maceri stated that maybe this might not be cost effective for our district to hire an outside service, but he would like to research it further and this matter can be discussed closer to budget time. The company that surrounding districts are using is called, "Source for Teachers." Ms. Maher stated that she was not in favor of this service, as she felt that the district does not get to meet with the substitute until they are called in. Mr. Maceri stated that they are certified teachers. The district is mostly in need of substitutes in the beginning of the school year. There are certain times of the year that we need substitutes more than other

times. Mr. Maceri stated that September and October and then again in March, April and May seems to be the months that the district is in need of substitutes. He further stated that he is not 100% comfortable pulling an aide to substitute that is needed in the classroom to support a student with an IEP. Mrs. Lofaro inquired about Resolution #9 and #10. She would like to know why the rates were different for the same job description. Mr. Maceri stated that one of the applicants had prior year experience as a school teacher and the other applicant did not. So the rates were based on that factor. Mr. Maceri further stated that the \$25.00 rate is what we currently pay a teacher for the same service. Mr. Maceri stated that the district was short teacher aides who the district also uses for lunch aides. Ms. Maher suggested hiring an aide that can be used as a floater for substituting for both positions. Mr. Maceri that overall it would be more cost-effective for the district to hire lunch aide then a full-time aide. The board was not in agreement with the \$25.00 rate for this position. Mr. Maceri stated he would ratify this resolution to reflect the rate that the board was considering which would be \$20.00 per hour. Mrs. Regan inquired on Resolution #1 which was the class trip to Alstede Farms. She wanted to make sure that the students would still be able to get pumpkins since the trip was after Halloween. Mr. Maceri stated that they would. No other questions or comments were voiced on any other resolutions.

Private Session:

None

Public Session:

Mrs. Lofaro wanted to make sure that a police officer would be present during the upcoming elections. Mr. Maceri stated that he has already scheduled this with Chief Terraccino. Mrs. Lofaro stated that she wants to make sure that the school is following the safety procedures during school hours and the entrance into the school. Mr. Maceri stated that the district is very vigilant regarding the safety of students and staff. Ms. Maher stated that she has an issue with the front door; it takes too long to close when people are buzzed in. Mr. Maceri stated he will look into this and see if there could be changes to how long the door stays open. Mrs. Lofaro asked if the school continues to have the presence of police officers during school hours. Mr. Maceri stated that police officers continue to patrol the school every couple of hours on a daily basis. Mr. Perdomo asked if the police that patrol the school come in at the same time every day. Mr. Maceri stated that they show up at different times during the day. The board asked if the generators were in good working condition and ready to go if anything happens as the school is the "Comfort Center" for the citizens. Mr. Maceri stated that everything is in good running condition. Mr. Maceri stated that all the district is providing is the building and a custodian. The Township shall be solely responsible for the management and supervision, the admission of individuals and all necessary supplies required for individuals using the Comfort Center. Mrs. Lofaro wanted to make sure that all the Dell leased computers are up and running. Mr. Maceri stated that they have been since August. Mrs. Regan asked how the shared IT person is working out. Mr. Maceri stated that, Mr. Badre is here every morning, and if necessary stays as long as need to deal with any issues. There have been times that he has been here the whole day. The school just recently had their phone system changed out and Mr. Badre was here during the

transition. Mrs. Lofaro asked if Hasbrouck Heights has a resource officer. Mrs. Schaefer stated that they did. Mrs. Lofaro is still adamant about having a full-time officer in the school for safety reasons. Ms. Davis asked if the school had a true emergency how quick does the South Hackensack Police respond. Mr. Maceri stated that are extremely quick. Mr. Maceri has invited the Chief and his officers to have drills during school closures so that they can become familiar with the whole building not just the classrooms. Mr. Maceri has also extended this invitation to the fire department. Mrs. Regan suggested that since South Hackensack is sharing with the Moonachie ambulance volunteer services that maybe they too should be involved in the drills. Mr. Maceri stated that the district is looking into placing stickers with the room numbers on the windows facing the outside so that when we have drills the officers know exactly where each room is from the outside the building. Ms. Maher asked Mrs. Lofaro if maybe she could start a safety committee with the Township so that she can address her concerns about the school. Mr. Maceri reminded the board about the Joint Board Meeting at Hackensack High School, which was set for October 13, 2015. Mr. Maceri asked if the board was willing to change the board meetings to the Media Center, instead of the Lunch room starting in January 2016. The board was fine with this change.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Moved by Mrs. Lofaro, seconded by Mrs. Regan

All in Favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabete Schaefer  
Board Secretary