

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Deptford was held at the above place and date at 5:00p.m. prevailing time.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Brian McDonald at 5:00p.m.

Statement: In accordance with the Sunshine Law: Notice of this meeting has been provided to the South Jersey Times, the Courier Post, the District Website, and the Municipal Clerk of the Township of Deptford to be posted in a public place.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present

Mark Getsinger
Trevaine Jackson
Susan Kryszczak
James McDevitt
Brian McDonald
Laura Newcomb
Linda Rosser
Matthew Vilary

Absent

Jeanine Donohue
Mrs. Carolyn Morehead, Assistant Superintendent

Also Present

Dr. Charles Ford, Superintendent
Mr. Michael Griggel, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

BUDGET – 2016-2017

Motion by Ms. Rosser, seconded by Mr. Vilary, to approve the following:

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the 2016-2017 school district budget as follows:

| | Budget | Local Tax Levy |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| General Fund | \$67,008,967 | \$39,687,220 |
| Special Revenue Fund | \$3,164,567 | 0 |
| Debt Service Fund | \$1,348,686 | \$1,348,686 |
| Total Base Budget | \$71,522,220 | \$41,035,906 |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the district will withdraw to capital reserve the amount of \$1,039,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the district is seeking a healthcare waiver in the amount of \$453,448.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the district, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b) – Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement, has adopted policies #0147 (Board Member Compensation and Expenses), #4440 (Support Staff Members – Job Expenses), and #6471 (School District Travel), which provide that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for the 2016-2017 school year. The Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for 2016-2017 school year at the sum of \$1,500 per employee as per Policy #6471 (School District Travel). The travel maximum for 2015-2016 is \$75,000. The School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.3(c)14, that the Board of Education has provided a maximum amount for public relations and professional services as follows:

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Attorneys | \$120,000 |
| Auditor | \$45,000 |

Included in the budget documentation is an itemization of certain expenditures required under administrative regulations.

Mr. McDevitt stated that the reason why he didn't vote yes for the budget on April 26th was the healthcare waiver that is needed to support the 23% increase. He stated that Mr. Griggel called every board member in the morning to inform them of the increase. Mr. McDevitt's opinion is the healthcare company put the district in a hostage position, and that the community will have to burden this increase. Mrs. David-Kryszczak stated that the district budgeted 15% and feels that the board got blindsided. Mrs. Newcomb feels the same way about the healthcare company putting the district in a hostage situation. Mr. Griggel stated that the defeated budget was brought to the County for review. The County asked the board to meet and review, discuss and vote on the budget before they recommend any or no changes. Mr. McDonald stated that there is egg on our face if the Board Members don't approve the budget. Mr. McDevitt stated that in his job he was responsible for healthcare and annually saw a steady increase in healthcare cost. Mrs. Jackson stated that if we don't take the healthcare waiver, it will impact instruction and/or personnel. Dr. Ford stated that the \$453,448 would have to come from the operating budget.

Mrs. David-Kryszczak stated that Mrs. Brazelton's response about the 20% cuts was unprofessional. Mrs. David-Kryszczak felt that any cuts to the instructional programs are a concern. Mr. Getsinger stated that in the past when he was on the board they received a detailed budget. Mr. McDonald stated that Mrs. Brazelton stated that the process was easy to get the Principals to reduce their budget. Mrs. David-Kryszczak reiterated that the response was unprofessional.

Ms. Rosser stated she questioned line items expenditures, and there were funds not spent that could be used for additional programs. Ms. Rosser added that moving forward there should be a budget workshop on Saturday to review the school budget. This would be helpful for the Board Members, and we can't allow last minute increases in healthcare. Mr. McDonald stated that over the past three years the district received 0, 5.5 and 23% averaging out to 9.50% increase over three years. The district is currently looking into the HIF, which will provide stability in healthcare.

PUBLIC PORTION (regarding the budget)

Motion by Mr. Vilary, seconded by Ms. Rosser, to open the public portion on agenda items only.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gray stated that she is confused why policy wasn't followed. She asked numerous times if there was going to be a finance workshop, and was told there will be one scheduled, but never happened. Mrs. Gray stated that the board voted no at the April 26th meeting to protect the tax payers. Last year the district utilized bank cap to help with the budget. She stated that if the board didn't ask questions, how would they know what reductions were made in the budget without having an impact on the students and instruction. It's all about the children. Mrs. Gray asked is the healthcare broker taking part of the increase in commission. She understands that taxes keep rising. She felt that this increase can have a negative impact for the bond and negotiations.

Mrs. Green asked if the Board was going to answer any of the questions that were brought up by Mrs. Gray. She asked if the board knows where the Principals cuts came from. Dr. Ford commented that he cannot answer her questions. Mrs. Green stated that the board is to be transparent, and for the board not to answer these questions doesn't make sense. We are not trying to get gotcha moments. She concluded she doesn't understand why a Public Entity refusing to answer questions.

Ms. Avé Altersitz, County Superintendent, explained the process of a defeated budget. The County did send the budget back to the district. The reason was that the County does not know the budget or the community and wanted the Board to agree on the 2016/2017 budget. Ms. Isaacs stated that the board has until May 14th to adopt the budget.

Mr. McDonald stated that the 20% that was reduced from each school does not actual equate to 20% spent; that the 20% is a combination of funds that were not spent and actual budgetary reductions. The actual reduction was \$35,000 not the \$185,000. With enrollment numbers declining, the 20% reduction was accepted by the Principals.

Mr. Taylor asked if enrollment is declining why the district tried for a 100 million dollar referendum, which went down. He asked why this meeting at 5PM was scheduled knowing people would not be able to make it with work obligations. He stated that the board represents the tax payers of this town.

Ms. Rosser stated that at the April 26th meeting the board did listen and questioned the 20% budget reduction. None of the students or instruction was being touched. The Board did address the 20% cuts, however we did get blindsided by the healthcare increase. Ms. Rosser stated that each Principal is given a building budget, and they are to manage the budget and what is leftover can be cut from their building. Ms. Rosser commented on the bond stating that the elementary schools are bulging, and that the bubble is moving through the school system. She added that Deptford is building new homes, which leads to more children in the school system. Mr. Getsinger stated that Dr. Ford did numerous presentations to the community, and phone blasts were sent out to remind the community of the meeting times and places. Dr. Ford also had meetings at the senior centers to inform them of the referendum.

Mrs. Gray reiterated her concern of cuts affecting the instructional programs. She thanked the four board members that voted the budget down at the April 26th Public Hearing. Mrs. Gray added that you can vote the budget down and review the detail budget before voting.

Mrs. Alcott stated that she is having a hard time grasping why the public can't have answers to community question at a Board Meeting. Dr. Ford stated that the District is adding instructional programs for the 2016/2017 school year.

Motion by Ms. Rosser, seconded by Mrs. David-Kryszczak, to close the public portion on agenda items only.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion carried to approve the 2016-2017 budget. Roll call vote (5-3) with Mrs. Newcomb, Mrs. David-Kryszczak, and Mr. McDevitt voting no.

AMENDMENT TO THE 2016-2017 BUDGET

Motion by Ms. Rosser, seconded by Mrs. Jackson, to approve the following:

1. Motion to increase 2016/2017 fund balance by \$200,000, and increase account number 11-000-291-270 by \$200,000.

Roll call vote (8-0).

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion by Ms. Rosser, seconded by Mrs. David-Kryszczak, to open the public portion.

Motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mrs. David-Kryszczak, to close the public portion.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. David-Kryszczak, seconded by Ms. Rosser, to adjourn.

Motion carried unanimously.

Michael Griggel
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary