

RED BANK BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
RED BANK, NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
MARCH 4, 2013

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – 7:02 p.m. – Middle School Media Center

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was advertised as directed by resolution adopted January 7, 2013. Notice of this meeting was published in the *Asbury Park Press* newspaper per code and sent to the Municipal Clerk, Red Bank Borough, within 7 days per code.

Fire exits located in the direction indicated. In case of fire, you will be signaled by bell and/or public address system. If so alerted to fire, please move in a calm and orderly fashion to the nearest smoke-free exit.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Ben Forest, Janet Jones, Marjorie Lowe, Carrie Ludwikowski, Ann Roseman, Fred Stone, Suzanne Viscomi

ABSENT: Peter Noble, Allen Palma

ALSO PRESENT: Laura C. Morana, Superintendent; Debra Pappagallo, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

FLAG SALUTE

Mr. Forest led the Salute to the Flag.

I. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence from Allen Palma dated February 28, 2013:

Mr. Forest read the e-mail from Allen Palma stating that he is resigning from the Board of Education as he is no longer a resident of Red Bank.

Mrs. Pappagallo explained the deadlines for filling the Board vacancy.

Ms. Roseman asked how we would be advertising the vacancy. Mrs. Pappagallo stated we are required to advertise it on our official newspaper, the *Asbury Park Press*, and on our website.

II. HEARING OF PUBLIC

Bylaw #060 reads . . . “Any individual deciding to speak shall sign the speaker’s sheet before the business of the meeting has begun. Please include your name, address and group or organization you represent. All comments will be directed to the Chair. Speakers shall be limited to one (1) turn of five (5) minutes with a total public participation not exceeding 60 minutes.”

III. STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC

Often times 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 committee.

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The members of the board committee work with Administration and the Superintendent to assure that the members fully understand the matter. When the committee is satisfied with the matter, it is presented to the Board of Education for discussion before any final action is taken. Only then is it placed on the agenda for action at a public meeting.

IV. ACTION AGENDA

Ms. Roseman motioned, seconded by Ms. Jones, to approve the following:

BUSINESS - 3000

BE IT RESOLVED by the RED BANK BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent the following FINANCE resolution(s) are approved as indicated:

3269. Budget Adjustment – Health Benefits

RESOLVED that the Red Bank Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for increases costs of health benefits in the amount of \$185,340. The additional funds are included in the base budget and will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefits.

3270. Travel an Related Expense Reimbursement

WHEREAS, the Red Bank Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$150,000 for all staff and board members.

3271. Adoption of Tentative Budget 2013-2014

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2013-2014 School Year using the 2013-2014 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL REVENUES</u>	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2013-2014 Total Expenditures	<u>\$16,950,462</u>	<u>\$5,319,693</u>	<u>\$544,861</u>	<u>\$22,815,016</u>
Less: Anticipated Revenues	<u>\$3,584,851</u>	<u>\$5,319,693</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$8,904,544</u>
Taxes to be Raised	<u>\$13,365,611</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$544,861</u>	<u>\$13,910,472</u>

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Asbury Park Press in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Red Bank Primary School, 222 River Street, Red Bank, New Jersey on March 28, 2013 at 7:30 PM for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2013-2014 School Year.

TENTATIVE BUDGET PRESENTATION

Dr. Morana and Mrs. Pappagallo presented the 2013-2014 Tentative Budget with a power point presentation (attached.) Mrs. Pappagallo explained that the budget increase is 5.64%, not the 7.34% as calculated before the release of State aid.

Board member asked the following questions, answers follow:

- What is the health benefit adjustment – The health benefit adjustment is calculated by the State based on our health benefit budget and is a waiver to utilize this amount of funds outside of the CAP.

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- Why are we approving travel related expenses now – We received required resolutions from the County Board of Education office and we are required to approve it at this time.
- Are we still utilizing Banked CAP – No, we are not utilizing the option of Banked CAP to fund the 2013-2014 budget.
- How is the 2% CAP calculated since the taxes seem to increase more than 2% – Although we are required to stay within the 2% CAP increase of last year's tax levy, certain adjustments/waivers may be utilized such as the Adjustment for health benefits. The State calculates the dollar amount we are allowed to increase and factors in an adjustment for enrollment growth. We also would have been able to utilize Banked CAP; however we are not in the 2013-2014 budget. The budget does not reflect the use of the entire enrollment adjustment allotment, and we are not increasing tax levy as much as we could have. The tax levy increase from the prior year to the next is covered by the CAP; however property taxes are based on the rate-ables for Red Bank.
- Since we are not utilizing the Banked CAP will it be available for use for the next budget year – Yes, it rolls to the next budget cycle for possible use. The amount that we did not utilize this year will be added to it.
- Is the Charter School PreK Program taking away from our PreK funds – No, we are receiving our full funding that we requested.
- If we are reducing PreK by one class, how did our funding get increased – We were told we would be getting an adjustment and an increase due to cost of living and per pupil funding increases.
- Are all of the PARC requirements still in the budget – Yes, however, some of the technology will need to be purchased in 2012-2013 since the items are on three-to five-month back-order. The dollars for these items were cut from the 2013-2014 Budget.
- Although we can purchase some equipment this school year, can we only purchase half; how can we comply since it is an unfunded State mandate – The mandate for this testing is not going away and we have to deal with it. Students need to be proficient in the equipment as the tests require manipulation for certain parts, not just picking an answer. We cannot just give them the device for the test and expect them to know how to use it and do well. They will also need the experience for moving to the High School.
- How do we communicate to others our achievements – Through measurements and reports.
- Discussion on afterschool enrichment vs. an athletic program and what would everyone like to see supported vs. the other program being cut.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Forest, Jones, Lowe, Ludwikowski, Roseman, Stone, Viscomi

NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Noble VACANT: One Board Seat

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V. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC - None

VI. OLD BUSINESS - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Roseman asked why the Charter School was granted PreK funding. It seems it was inefficient especially for all the work we are doing for our own program.
- Dr. Morana stated they applied for it just as we do and the program was approved by the State.
- Ms. Viscomi stated the Charter School helps with space – we would have to house more kids, if we had to house them, we have any more space.
- Dr. Morana stated that physical space for the PreK Program was not a problem and we could have met the needs for all three and four year olds within our own program. We already have 130 families that have expressed an interest in our program for next year.
- Mr. Forest stated he wishes the Charter School well as long as they don't impede on our operations.
- Miss Lowe stated she sees children with special needs in wheel chairs.
- Dr. Morana stated we have these children in our Primary School.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:27 pm Dr. Stone motioned, seconded by Ms. Roseman, to adjourn.

VOICE VOTE:

AYES: Forest, Jones, Lowe, Ludwikowski, Roseman, Stone, Viscomi

NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Noble VACANT: One Board Seat

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Pappagallo
Business Administrator/Board Secretary