

## Public Hearing on the 2016-2017 Budget

A Special Budget Hearing was called to order at 6:30 pm at the Culver Center, 110 North Third Street, Millville, NJ, on Monday, May 9, 2016.

The following roll call was taken:

Mr. Beatty	Present
Miss Bucci	Present
Mrs. Carty	Present
Mr. Donato	Present
Mr. Flickinger	Present
Mrs. Johnson	Present
Mr. McQuade	Present
Mr. Pepitone	Present
Mrs. Perrelli	Present
Mrs. Santiago	Present

The following were also present:

Dr. David Gentile, Superintendent  
Mr. Bryce Kell, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Dr. Pamela Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum  
Mrs. Donna Meyers, Asst. Superintendent of Human Resources  
Mr. Arnold Robinson, Solicitor

### President's Statement

The meeting was called to order by President Flickinger at 6:30 pm. and he read a statement as to the time and place of the meeting as set forth in the "Open Public Meeting Act" (copy attached).

Mr. Flickinger stated the reason for the meeting, and also stated that we are approving a dollar amount for the budget, and not voting on individual cuts. He added that we are on a timeline, and he may have to gavel and call for a vote on the budget. He then asked the following individuals to report on the proposed budget.

### Superintendent's Statement

Dr. Gentile reviewed the budget process, and read the attached statement.

### Chairperson's Statement

Mr. Donato read the attached finance committee statement.

### Impact on Local Tax

Mr. Kell discussed the local tax impact and explained the impact of the tax increase (see attached).

Facilities Aspects

Mr. Cruzan summarized the facility aspects of the 2016-2017 budget (see attached).

Curriculum Aspects

Dr. Moore reviewed the curriculum aspects of the 2016-2017 budget (see attached).

Public Question and Comments

Tina Hulitt addressed the Board regarding the RIF's and cuts. She said the continued cuts are hurting the education process.

Wendy Carlon-Wolfe addressed the Board about the nurses and what they are required to do. She is concerned about the student to nurse ratio, and the issues that the students bring.

Dr. Patel addressed the Board and expressed his support for not cutting nurses.

Christine Armstrong expressed her concern about the problems that cutting a nurse will bring.

Evelyn Stretch addressed the Board and stated that both of her children are disabled and she depends on the nurses a lot for help.

Debra Schwalik stated that her diabetic child relies on the nurses to keep her child within the needed ranges.

Pat Birnstiel addressed the Board and echoed her support to not cut nurses.

Paula Fry also echoed her support to not cut nurses. She said the nurses are very busy and do a great job.

Mrs. Johnson made a motion that the Board approve the following:

1. Adopt the 2016-2017 Budget, and approve the local tax levy. The District is also requesting unused spending authority, banked cap, to be included in the 2016-2017 school base budget in the amount of \$226,393 to offset increases in health insurance premiums of \$1,183,828. This need will be completed by the end of the budget year and will not be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$ 91,907,309	\$ 11,772,394
Special Revenue Fund	<u>12,185,966</u>	<u>                    </u>
	\$104,093,275	\$ 11,772,394

2. Approve the 2016-2017 maximum travel expense amount of \$190,000. Current year to date expenses are \$77,544 as of 4/21/16 in accordance with NJAC 6A:23A-7.3.
3. Approve the 2016-2017 maximum public relations activities amount of \$41,000 in accordance with NJAC 6A:23A-9.3(c)14.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Pepitone and carried by the following roll call vote by all board members:

Mr. Beatty	Yes
Mr. Donato	Yes
Mr. Flickinger	Yes
Mr. Herman	Yes
Mrs. Johnson	Yes
Mr. McQuade	No
Mr. Pepitone	Yes
Mrs. Perrelli	Yes
Mrs. Santiago	Yes
Mr. Whilden	Yes

Mr. Pepitone stated that it is not the board member's position to choose which positions are cut. He encouraged the administration to review the cuts.

Mrs. Santiago agreed with Mr. Pepitone, and stated that she hopes adjustments will be made to protect our students.

Miss Bucci also encouraged the administration to reevaluate the nursing cuts.

Mr. McQuade stated that it may be a liability issue, and agreed with Mr. Pepitone.

Mrs. Carty stated that we have a bigger issue. The taxes are below our fair share and we need to close the gap. She is afraid we are not going to be able to give our children the education they deserve.

Mr. Donato agreed with Mrs. Carty that the amount of local taxes should be over 20% of the budget. The state also does not give us enough. He commented that his wife and daughter are both nurses and he knows the support that they provide. He said that flat funding does not work. He stated that charter schools keep taking funds from our budget and that they should be funded separately. He thanked everyone for coming and providing their thoughts.

Mr. Beatty said it is our job to provide a thorough and efficient education for all 6,000 students. He said our staff is outstanding and our students are great. He stated that we will probably be flat funded again next year. He also agreed with the tax situation and the need for more funds. He sympathized and stated that no cuts are fair, but there is only so much.

Adjournment

Mrs. Johnson made a motion that the Board adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pepitone and carried by a unanimous roll call vote by all board members.



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Bryce Kell, Board Secretary  
May 9, 2016