

PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
February 22, 2011
6:00 p.m. Executive Session - Cancelled
7:00 p.m. Public Session
NEW EGYPT HIGH SCHOOL

I. CALL TO ORDER

Harry Miller, President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

II. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, this is to announce that adequate notice of this meeting has been disseminated to the Asbury Park Press on Wednesday, February 16, 2011, thereafter posted upon the bulletin board in the main office of all four schools and the Board Secretary's office and a copy of such resolution was filed with the Plumsted Township Clerk. No advance written notice of this meeting was requested and paid for by any person according to the record of the Secretary of the Board. I direct the Secretary of the Board to enter into the minutes of this meeting this public announcement.

III. ROLL CALL

Mr. Miller, President	Present
Mr. Hauge, Vice President	Present
Mr. Marinari	Absent
Mr. Midgett	Present
Mr. Probasco	Present
Mrs. Soles	Present
Mrs. Wig	Present
Dr. DeMareo, Superintendent	Present
Mr. Gately, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary	Present
Ms. Koutsouris, Board Attorney	Present

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Cancelled

V. FLAG SALUTE - Mr. Miller led all in the salute to the flag.

VI. PRESENTATION

A. Mr. Gately, School Business Administrator, presented a powerpoint presentation on the 2011-2012 budget planning to the Board and Public.

VII. BOARD DISCUSSION ON 2011-2012 PRELIMINARY SCHOOL BUDGET

- A. Budget Assumptions
 - a. State Aid
 - b. Fund Balance Projection
 - c. Tax Levy Cap

- B. Tax Levy Impact
 - a. General Fund Tax Levy
 - b. Debt Service Tax Levy

Mr. Miller stated Jon Hauge and he met with the township committee regarding the budget and shared services and they want to continue with the relationship.

Mr. Miller stated everything has stayed the same as were budgeted for this year.

Mr. Midgett responded except for some of the positions that were modified due to not rehiring of a vice principal and buildings and grounds position.

Mr. Gately responded any position that has not been filled when they met a few weeks ago, they did not move any of those positions for next year. He stated they did not budget for them for next year.

Mr. Midgett stated that on slide #6, \$600,000 is coming from Impact Aid payments.

Mr. Probasco commented on the budget presentation and that it looks like a short time from March 22 – 29, 2011 which is 7 days and last year they had a lot more time. He asked if there was any way they can move it out so they are closer to the election date.

Mr. Miller asked if the date of March 22–29 is mandated by the state.

Mr. Gately responded “yes”. He stated you have to have the hearing between March 22-29, 2011.

Mr. Probasco stated his point is the feedback from the public.

Mr. Gately stated you can have another meeting to adopt the budget so you could do another meeting before April 9 to adopt the final budget.

Mr. Probasco stated his concern is getting the feedback from the public.

Mr. Miller commented on state aid and options of pay to participate, free and reduce lunch.

Mr. Miller commented on optimizing class sizes and academics take #1 priority for students.

Mr. Miller stated they have alternatives to consider but want to get the public feedback and their input and comments as they move forward.

Mr. Midgett stated they are waiting for the aid information to comeback from the state and that will dictate to some degree what the board does.

Mr. Midgett encourages everyone to talk about any suggestions they have.

Mr. Probasco asked if the PC's were moved back into the pencils and books.

Mr. Gately stated he was pointing out the individual's school budgets and what is needed in their classrooms.

Mr. Midgett questioned Impact Aid and how it can be used. He asked if we get another payment from Impact Aid that we didn't anticipate, can that money be used for some of the things that Mr. Probasco talked about.

Mr. Gately responded “yes”. He stated that a supply is anything that is \$2,000 or less and there is a big difference between a pencil and computer. He also stated that if we were to receive another Impact Aid allocation between now and June 30, it could be put into the current year's budget.

Mr. Marinari arrived to the meeting at 7:47 PM.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON 2011-2012 PRELIMINARY SCHOOL BUDGET

Carol Ann Miller thanked the Board, Administration and teachers for having a successful year with the tight budget that we had to live with and also the Board for realizing the \$800,000 with additional reductions.

Carol Ann Miller asked Mr. Gately if he has flat state aid in the Option 1, 2 and 3.

Mr. Gately responded "yes", option 1.

Carol Ann Miller stated she would like to see the Board's ideas before the public says something.

Mr. Hauge commented on surplus and also that they don't want to go backwards.

Mr. Midgett commented on the 10% reduction in state aid and would love to see things that were taken out of the budget put back in.

Mrs. Soles commented that the Board needs to review what the finance committee has been doing and they have not be able to sit down with their ideas and feedback with the staff and administrators to see what they could come up with.

Mr. Miller stated they have to look at the district strategically not just next year but three to five years out about where will we be or could be and make proper financial decisions based not only on the programs in the near term but also in the long term.

Mr. Miller commented on the deficits and how the board would look at the district. He stated they would have to look at the class sizes and other options and make some very hard choices and decisions that would ultimately impact the educational value deliverables we have currently in the district.

Mr. Probasco stated he would like to bring middle school sports back. He also commented on classroom sizes and busing.

Mr. Probasco suggested making a second ballot question.

Glen Jacobus commented on the excellent job Mr. Gately did in getting the people to the meeting.

Glen Jacobus commented on the list of school supplies the students are requested to bring in as well as a list of things to help other students out. He said with the surplus, does that mean he will have to supply his kids with those items.

Mr. Gately responded that this is a topic that is very useful for discussion for the administration and board.

Glen Jacobus asked about the superintendent search.

Mr. Miller updated everyone on the superintendent search. He stated there is 35 candidates and they are checking certifications and validating the certifications and then will go through the process of screening and interviewing.

Mr. Miller stated the target is to hit the end of June however; they have to go through quite a bit of interview work and feedback work.

Glen Jacobus asked about the security and scanning driver's license.

Dr. DeMareo stated they have a gentleman coming in to speak with the administrators on Thursday about the T-Pass process.

Glen Jacobus asked how the board feels about doing projects in school and some of those projects with students are now being found on Youtube, Facebook and other sites.

Mr. Hauge questioned "as a requirement"?

Mr. Probasco stated that the parent would have to sign a release.

Mr. Hauge asked if they are doing it on their own.

Mr. Probasco stated you cannot stop someone from going onto the internet in general.

Glen Jacobus stated you can find stuff on Youtube and they should be aware of it.

Mr. Midgett explained that you cannot appoint a new superintendent until after the election.

Tasha Fernandez asked if the kindergarten program and the primary school will be closed.

Mr. Miller stated at this point in time the closure of the primary school is not an option.

Tasha Fernandez asked about the open enrollment program and the timeline.

Mr. Hauge responded they will probably know after the aid money is released.

Tasha Fernandez thanked the Board for having open forum.

Mr. Midgett stated that there was never any discussion of closing the primary school.

Mr. Probasco stated that is not something he would consider in this budget.

Mrs. Soles stated she is supportive of kindergarten.

Sam Lenoble asked about re-allocations of funds and federal grants.

Mr. Gately responded that currently the federal funds are being used to pay for salaries and they are putting those back into the general operating fund under the IDEA program. Tuition would be in the same boat as salaries and funded out of the general fund if the program was cut. The only problem with those grant programs is that the district receives enough funding to make it very difficult to spend it on other than either salaries, benefits or tuition. He stated it is because of the way funds have to be used program specifically; so three to five years out, unless something drastically happens to that funding of programs it should not impact the budget.

Mr. Gately stated IDEA and NCLB funding could see some short fall.

Darlene Zawada commented that she has a 2nd and 5th grade student and another entering kindergarten in the fall and the rumor going around is about getting rid of the kindergarten program because it is not state mandated. She asked where the money is going from the complement program.

Mr. Hauge stated they never discussed it.

Mr. Gately stated the \$275.00 a month is going towards the salaries of the staff working the afternoon program.

Dr. DeMareo stated the afternoon program is based on the related arts where the students are being exposed to music, physical education and technology.

Darlene Zawada asked if they would ever bring it back as a full day.

Darlene Zawada asked if they were going to have one principal cover the primary and elementary schools.

Mr. Miller stated right now they have two positions and unless they have a deficit of significant magnitude, the intent would not be to make any move like that at the current time.

John Marchese thanked Mr. Gately on the presentation. He stated he doesn't understand the interaction between the board and teachers.

Mr. Hauge stated they made a commitment to be as forward as possible with the staff and what they know to try and avoid some of the rumors out there. He stated they have met with the staff and gave them what they know now and will continue to do that.

Mr. Miller thanked everyone for coming out tonight and listening and also providing comments and input.

Mr. Miller suggested to everyone that if they have any questions they may send an email.

Mr. Marinari made a motion to adjourn at 8:27 PM.

Seconded by Mr. Hauge, Pass unanimously.

Sean Gately
Business Administrator/Board Secretary