

PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING  
March 28, 2011  
6:30 p.m. Executive Session  
7:30 p.m. Regular Session  
NEW EGYPT HIGH SCHOOL

I. CALL TO ORDER

Harry Miller, President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 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, March 23, 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	Present
Mr. Midgett	Present
Mr. Probasco	Present
Mrs. Soles	Present
Mrs. Wig	Present
Dr. DeMareo, Superintendent	Present
Mr. Gately, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary	Present
Mr. Stein, Board Attorney	Present

Mr. Marinari moved that the board go into executive session at 6:32 PM for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Seconded by Mrs. Wig, Passed unanimously.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meeting Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq.) permits bodies to discuss certain matters in closed sessions, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq.), such a meeting may be held in private;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The Board shall meet in closed session on these matters; and
2. The matters to be discussed in private may be shared with the public at such other time as the Board may determine that there is no longer any requirement for confidentiality.

Mr. Hauge made a motion to go out of executive session at 7:38 PM.  
Seconded by Mrs. Soles, Passed unanimously.

V. ROLL CALL

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

VI. FLAG SALUTE – Mr. Miller led all in the salute to the flag.

VII. PRESENTATION

A. Mr. Gately, Business Administrator presented the 2011-2012 School Budget.

Mr. Miller stated that the topic of discussion has been the middle school extra-curricular activities for \$47,150 and asked Mr. Gately to explain to everyone what the proposal is at the moment for the extra-curricular.

Mr. Gately explained the \$47,150 essentially is what remained to be allocated to the extra-curricular at the middle school. He stated that there are three non sports clubs that will be added back: Knowledge Bowl, Marsville and Mini Model Congress and from the athletic side some interscholastic and other intramural.

Mr. Miller commented that when they constructed the middle school extra-curricular they wanted to make sure that it would be something that has the potential to be sustainable, which means they don't want to put something in this year and then for whatever reason would have to come back out.

Mr. Miller stated they wanted to put in activities that are popular and would get the participation.

Mr. Marinari asked if Mr. Carroll would give his philosophy of what we are doing.

Mr. Carroll explained that he thinks this is a compromise and hates to see the coaches from the high school be lost because they are very valuable and thinks it is easier to swallow since there is interscholastic at the middle school and understands the winter issues and would like to see more interscholastic there but with the perimeters we had it was not feasible.

Mrs. Soles asked if we received county approval on the budget.

Mr. Gately responded yes.

Mrs. Soles asked if there has been any discussion of the Business Administrator and Superintendent giving a budget presentation to the community.

Mr. Miller stated there has been some discussion.

Mr. Gately stated they will put something together.

Mr. Marinari complimented Mr. Gately on the excellent presentation.

Mr. Probasco asked if they had any further thought on the second question.

Mr. Miller stated there was a discussion amongst the Finance Committee about a second question and the feeling and the feedback was that in these times, the risk or potential of getting the main budget passed is going to be a challenge and whether we wanted to put on a second question is something that is geared to middle school sports and is that the right thing to do at this point in time. He commented that other discussions have come up recently on where do you end the questions; is it middle school sports, kindergarten or go back to other items that people have a passion or priority for and it was just that in this point in time we would be better as far as a district and working with the community to try and get this budget passed and not go there at this point.

Mr. Midgett and Mr. Hauge agreed.

Mr. Probasco asked if it came up where we could save money on other things, can we re-allocate those monies later particularly winter sports.

Mr. Miller stated that if there are other opportunities or other ways or sources of income they would take a look at it.

Mr. Probasco asked how many high school students will be impacted as far as the reduction in coaches.

Mr. Carroll stated that it is hard to pin point a number and that it all depends on how many kids come out but it would be more than a handful.

#### VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON 2011-2012 SCHOOL BUDGET

Joanne Dempsey asked how many schools are holding freshman sports that would be in our group to play and what sports they would be.

Mr. Carroll responded it would be football, basketball and partial baseball. He stated that it is based on the number of participants this year.

Joanne Dempsey stated that she looked at Bordentown's website and encouraged the board and Mr. Carroll to look at that. She also stated that at Bordentown, boys' and girls' basketball is being held as well as softball and baseball.

Joanne Dempsey stated that she understands why we cut freshman sports but there is an awful lot of schools out there listed on Bordentown's website.

Glen Jacobus commented that the board has done a great job and appreciates their time and opinions.

Glen Jacobus commented on the excellent presentation given by Mr. Gately.

Glen Jacobus asked Mr. Gately why he should vote yes and not no financially? He stated that last time when everyone went into the booth with the same opinion and voted no, it cost them more money in the long run.

Mr. Gately asked how did it cost them more money when they voted no?

Glen Jacobus stated that they went back to the township and the township went and passed it.

Mr. Gately responded that he is not here to tell you to vote yes or no, he is here to present the budget.

Mr. Gately explained that if the budget is defeated it gets turned over to the municipality to make recommendations. He stated that the budget keeps everything that it has this year and added middle school sports so we will see more student participation, no reduction in any staff, re-allocation of staff to the middle school because of enrollment numbers. He explained he is not here to advocate whether to vote for or against this budget but to present the budget.

Mr. Probasco stated that we did not maintain everything from last year but that we maintained program wise, and as far as instructional everything, but we did eliminate administrative.

Mr. Gately stated that it was eliminated this budget year.

Glen Jacobus stated that some of the positions are going to be at a different pay rate than they are this year.

Glen Jacobus asked if they were put into the 2011-2012 budget.

Mr. Gately responded that with staff salaries, there is a negotiated contract in place so there is a contract for all represented staff.

Mr. Hauge stated he will advocate voting yes for the budget.

Mr. Hauge stated it has been an extremely collaborative and open process between the Board and public and we have a new Business Administrator who has a different look on things and a different way of presenting things and that we had a number of public meetings that they did not have the time for last year. He stated that he cannot guarantee that everyone is going to be 100% happy, but it is his opinion that the dollars that are spent are spent in the best possible manner through a collaborative effect that we have here.

Glen Jacobus stated that Rich Carroll came up with something in less than a week with what the Board thought was a proposal and he was dumb struck a week ago that that was not what he thought so Rich Carroll really came through with the windfall within a week.

Mrs. Soles stated that as far as the budget goes when you speak about last year's budget, that budget was defeated twice. It was defeated the night they received their numbers and it was defeated by the township and she thinks it had to do with a lot of anger within the community because of what was really being taken away. Mrs. Soles believes that the no vote was an anger vote not realizing what could happen and she hopes those days are gone and can move on.

Glen Jacobus commented that if they could get more people there it would be more beneficial.

Glen Jacobus asked Mr. Gately if supplies would be necessary to send in with his kids this year.

Mr. Gately stated those are from the teachers and there wasn't any adjustment to the budget to include any of that material.

Glen Jacobus asked what the legal fees will be this year opposed to last year's budget.

Mr. Gately responded that \$260,000 is budgeted.

Mr. Midgett commented on the grant issue Glen Jacobus brought up at the last meeting and asked Mr. Gately if that issue was resolved.

Glen Jacobus stated that he sent everyone on the Board a link directly to the state site.

Mr. Gately responded that he contacted the grant administrator of that program and the township allocation is \$44.00 and the county allocation is \$28,000, so the grant is essentially not available to the school district.

Mr. Probasco commented that it was mostly going to the Abbott school districts.

Glen Jacobus commented that from his understanding we would be available to receive that grant had we applied for it.

Mr. Gately responded that it is \$44.00 for the townships allocation total and if you are under \$10,000 then the money is automatically allocated to the county so it is a county grant.

Mr. Midgett asked what the program was for.

Mrs. Soles responded safety.

Glen Jacobus stated that it was a safety grant for the children and also stated that we have issues with gangs in the community.

Mr. Gately responded that the grant was for students who had been incarcerated. He stated that there was a criteria of seventeen eligible items and he did not see that we would be able to apply for that, but with that being said, the money that is available is \$44.00 to the township not the school district and if it is under \$10,000, that grant is administered by the county and that he has the name of the contract person he spoke with at Ocean County who oversees the grant and their total allocation is about \$28,000.

Carol Ann Miller commented to Mr. Gately that we are going to have to determine by tomorrow what the stipend for dean of student's number is because it has been vague and there must be some number because if he was going to have the budget approved tomorrow, there has to be some number put in there.

Mr. Gately responded that it is \$7,500.

Carol Ann Miller asked if the three year technology plan submitted to the state, was part of the instructional technology \$100,000 and was that plan part of that or is this an addition to that.

Mr. Gately responded that it was used to address the issues in that technology plan so the plan was used as a basis of what to do with that \$100,000.

Toni Barnett thanked everyone and said she is very vocal when she dislikes something, however this budget and presentation is admirable and commendable and knows they put in a lot of time and the end result does look very good. She stated that the hybrid compromise that Mr. Carroll has come up with is very good and envelopes the majority of the students, but asked if we were allotted addition funding, is there a contingency plan in place to put back freshman sports whether it is spring, winter or fall.

Mr. Hauge responded that it would be very difficult to do on a fly like that because the staff has been re-allocated.

Joanne Dempsey commented on the eight days the 8<sup>th</sup> graders receive on a foreign language which was their instructional time for the whole year. She stated they basically receive eight days of French where basically they went in everyday and the teacher said red or whatever in French and the kids sat and colored. She stated that your grade was based on coloring, cutting and pasting and is there any plans in this budget to do anything better for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders next year.

Mrs. Soles responded that there has been discussion between the Board and Curriculum and Instruction supervisor on creating for the district, a world language program from kindergarten through middle school that is continuous in instruction. For example, the elementary school has Spanish as a world language and is run as a special as a cycle. All well in good but when you get to the middle school you have French, so the continuity of instruction is not there and they are aware that there is a break in instruction and they will be looking further into it to make sure it is implemented in the best interest of all the students.

Joanne Dempsey spoke about the technology Mr. Wilno taught for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders this year and asked what the plan is for next year.

Dr. DeMareo responded that it will remain the same at this point.

Joanne Dempsey asked if that class will be offered to next year's 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Dr. DeMareo responded that this is correct and has not changed in the budget.

Rich Brevogel agreed with Mr. Hauge that this budget should be voted for and agreed with Mrs. Soles that last year was an anger vote and after the votes happened he thinks most people after they saw what was lost and the damage that was done and if they could vote again they would vote yes for that budget.

Rich Brevogel commented that Mr. Gately did a good job putting everything together and that he personally had a problem with the previous business administrator with the way he presented information and thinks Mr. Gately does a fine job. He appreciates the way Mr. Gately articulates things so they are understandable.

Rich Brevogel commented that the core business of this institution is education and there is competing interest for athletic programs.

Rich Brevogel commented that in order to have world languages you have to pay people who speak those languages or who are educated enough to teach those languages but it is going to cost in order to do that and he is not opposed to that, but thinks it is a good thing because we live in a global economy now and people need to speak other languages. He agreed with Mr. Miller that we can't just put things out there and have people expect them to be entitled to them next time.

Rich Brevogel commented that he has a concern with freshman athletics only because that is such a transitional period in a person's life.

Rich Brevogel asked the Board what their feeling is about whether the budget will pass or not.

Rich Brevogel stated that he voted for all the board members to be on the Board because he thinks they represent the voice of the community and are very intelligent.

Rich Brevogel told everyone to educate themselves on what goes into a line item budget and what it takes to put together those things and what the requirements are on No Child Left Behind.

Rich Brevogel stated they did a great job and the information is updated on the website and easy to understand.

Carol Ann Miller commented that there are things you want to have but things that are required under the state core curriculum standards like world languages and technology should have a higher priority.

Mr. Miller thanked everyone for coming out tonight and reminded them about the meeting tomorrow at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Miller commented that he believes the budget will pass, but it is up to us to get the word out and tell the true story as to what the impact is to the community which is minimal at best to continue the quality we have in our schools here and to support the township budget.

Mr. Marinari made a motion to adjourn at 9:09 PM.

Seconded by Mr. Midgett, Passed unanimously.

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Sean Gately  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary