

PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
March 29, 2011
6:30 p.m. Executive Session - Canceled
7:30 p.m. Regular Session
NEW EGYPT HIGH SCHOOL

I. CALL TO ORDER

Harry Miller, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 Tuesday, March 15, 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

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

V. PRESENTATION

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

Mr. Marinari commented on the excellent presentation given by Mr. Gately.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT ON 2011-2012 SCHOOL BUDGET

Glen Jacobus stated that Mr. Midgett brought up an issue about HR 2215 and that Mr. Gately responded that he had spoken to someone and came up with a figure of \$44.00 and that it was under \$10,000 and deferred back to the township. He stated that Mr. Gately was going to send him an email in regards to whom he had spoken to but has not received an email. Glen Jacobus

stated that the person he spoke with regarding the JJDP Program, which is the HR2215 is \$44.00 per pupil not a total, which would come out to \$1,800 which would be \$79,200 but if you want the full program which is \$750 and is paid over a total of three years which is \$250,000. He stated that Sheriff Jean Stanfield just received hers and is happy to give anyone information and that she is Sheriff in the town of Mt. Holly. He also stated that Willingboro, Pemberton and Riverside just received theirs and it is still well funded.

Glen Jacobus asked about Bill 1339 regarding transportation advertising.

Mr. Miller asked Glen Jacobus if he was going to be at the meeting tomorrow night.

Glen Jacobus responded he will try.

Mr. Miller asked if they could address his questions tomorrow night.

Glen Jacobus responded absolutely.

Jay Corby commented on the reduction of the coaching staff at the high school and is raising some concern with the coaches. He stated that he thinks it is great that they are looking to put middle school sports back in and he hopes that they are not putting one against the other. He commented that he is trying to figure out on how to keep our programs successful as they are now and feels that freshman sports were a big part of building the program's success at the varsity level which we already lost and feels like a reduction in the coaching staff at the high school sports is also going to put a damper on our successes in the future. He coaches basketball that has three coaches and coaches lacrosse that has two coaches and it is not even comparable to the success rate of the two programs. He stated it is hard to coach a sport with two coaches and 35 kids on the field. He also said that they are putting them in a position that is going to be very tough and that there has to be some other ways to try and raise some finances so that we are not taking some of our successful programs in our athletic programs and hindering them in anyway.

Jay Corby stated that athletic programs bring in revenue and doesn't understand why they would cut them. He asked if they were looking at other ways to fund the middle school programs other than taking away from high school sports.

Mr. Midgett responded that they are implementing a pay to participate program which is raising revenues there to offset some of the cost of the programs.

Jay Corby questioned whether it was pay to participate in sports or is it all co-curricular.

Mr. Midgett responded that all sports will be \$50.00 per sport with a maximum of \$100.00 and all clubs are \$25.00 with a maximum of \$50.00. He stated that the band and school plays will be the same cost to the participant as the sports programs because they are very expensive to run.

Jay Corby asked if there was another way to raise money in other aspects.

Mr. Midgett responded that they are reducing the number of coaches at the high school and increasing the number of stipend coaches at the middle school level.

Jay Corby commented that he feels they are going to lose a lot of participants because the coaches are not going to be able to handle 25 kids.

Mr. Midgett responded that they are putting back middle school lacrosse. He also commented that this was a difficult decision and they have had a lot of discussions about it and hopes they could move forward and add things back.

Jay Corby commented that once it goes away they will never see it again. He stated he feels that sports and coaches are the first ones focused on and doesn't understand it and feels like everyone is looking over their shoulder when we don't have anything to hide.

Jay Corby asked why we are doing this to sports and coaches in a district that was built around sports and athletics and that the educational program goes hand in hand with the sports programs.

Mr. Hauge responded that he thinks it is important to keep in mind that the context of the larger picture of what we are faced with, and that we lost a million dollars last year. He explained that we lost a lot last year and it was not just freshman sports and middle sports.

Mr. Hauge commented that they didn't get cut again and that they got a little bit of an increase and that the reality is that we lost a million dollars and it is the Board's job to get the district on the footing where we can sustain our programs going forward.

Mr. Probasco stated that he had asked the Board if there were ways to raise funds or find other areas to save money whether they would be areas to consider re-establishing some of those to move forward.

Jay Corby commented that it is just hard to be in our position because for him to tell you ways he doesn't want to sit there and go against another department or person.

Mrs. Soles asked Jay Corby for the numbers for basketball this past successful season with 3 coaches and lacrosse numbers with two coaches.

Jay Corby responded there are 25 for basketball and 30 in lacrosse.

Mrs. Soles asked if the 25 for basketball is JV and Varsity.

Jay Corby responded yes but they use to have about 33 and had to make 6 cuts this year, the most he has done in ten years. He stated that if he doesn't have the third coach he will probably make 5-6 cuts next year.

Kevin English commented on cuts in sports and keeping freshman sports to make kids successful. He stated that athletics and academics go hand in hand.

Kevin English commented on the more kids that participate in things they are more organized and have a higher GPA. He also stated that there has to be another way than to pull away from high school where they are trying to transition and build for college. He also said that there are recreational sports available to middle school students where high school students do not have that opportunity available to them and this year we were the highest achiever in the BCSL program. Kevin English commented on the safety concerns for the participants.

Mr. Midgett responded that he is hoping to see more volunteers to help out and knows we have some now.

Kevin English commented that he is not a huge advocate of having parental volunteers to be a part of his program.

Mr. Midgett responded that he is talking about volunteer coaches and that we have some now. He asked Mr. Carroll how many volunteer coaches they have now.

Mr. Carroll responded that they have less than ten per season.

Kevin English asked if it was the Athletic Director's recommendation to take the nine freshman coaches and allocated them to the middle school.

Mr. Midgett responded that the Athletic Director did not recommend to take the nine coaches and move them to the middle school.

Kevin English asked if it was the Athletic Director's recommendation to keep the nine coaches at the high school because that would be more important.

Mr. Midgett responded that it was a compromise that was discussed at last night's meeting and he is not speaking for Mr. Carroll, but to keep the money in the program and increase the activity in the middle school program by adding interscholastic sports at the middle school in which they do not have right now so it was not Mr. Carroll's specific recommendation to remove those nine freshman coaches.

Mrs. Soles asked Mr. English for participation numbers for each sport.

Mr. English stated that for wrestling he had 33 kids and 3 coaches, soccer was about 30 kids and 2 coaches and softball he has 26 kids and 3 coaches.

Jay Corby asked Mr. Gately how he got the internet working so wonderful because he has been trying for months.

Jay Corby commented that a freshman coach and assistant coaches put in as much time as a head coach. He commented on the tough spot the 8th graders were put in this year with little sports and then have nothing when they are a freshman unless they are a superstar.

Lynn Pryzbylowski commented that she has been a class advisor for 8 years and she sees a huge problem with asking kids to pay \$25 to \$50 per club and that we are going to have a hard time and the participation level is going to drop. She stated that there is going to be a decrease in clubs and that teachers are paying for kids to go on trips.

Diane Mitchell commented that her son was not able to participate in sports in 6th grade and was able to participate in 7th grade but not 8th grade and next year he will not be able to participate again and stated that they are really hitting this class hard. She stated they want to be part of something and if their denying them to do this, this is going to be three years in a row and colleges are looking at years of participation so please reconsider.

Karen Ball commented on putting back middle school sports and then taking it away from freshman. She commented that freshman year is such a huge year because the kids need to start connecting with the school and the teachers and the way these kids connect with their teachers is from the extra things they do and it is not just sports but also clubs. She also commented that students need to connect with other students and they need to have pride in their school.

Glenn Knigge commented that the Board has trust and he feels comfortable with them. He believes that the Board has their best interest at heart and trying to do the best thing.

Glenn Knigge stated he doesn't believe coaches are here to save their jobs and that he coaches and teaches for the benefit of the kids and truly acknowledges what they do for the kids and the time they put in, is why they are here because it improves their lives and gives them opportunities they normally might not get.

Glenn Knigge commented that they were never asked and he believes that they have the children's best intentions at heart and that they are instructors and educators and it would be nice if we looked for some alternative funding. Glenn asked what it would cost for the middle school program.

Mr. Gately responded that the middle school sports and clubs is about \$50,000.

Jay Corby suggested a coaches committee so they can work together.

Mr. Marinari stated that he has asked Rich Carroll a number of times to come before the Board and give them his philosophy of what he wants this school's athletic department to look like maybe in three or four years. He stated that it is a wish list and you won't get everything you want but it would give everyone a prospective because it is Rich's job and he is head of the department.

Mr. Marinari asked how many in the senior class are getting scholarships because they were on sports.

Rich Carroll responded that there are 5 or 6 scholarship athletes in the senior class which is unheard of for one school. He stated that his vision is to go back two or three years ago when they had a full middle school programs with two teams and two coaches and had 18 or 19 sports at the Freshman, Varsity and JV levels and have participation at the max on all those levels. He stated we always had the ability to fill the freshman team if needed.

Mr. Marinari asked Rich Carroll to get the coaches together and see where we can go. He stated one of the major things unfortunately if you look at education five years from now you won't see anything like this budget because it is going to be such a hybrid.

Mr. Marinari commented that maybe the auditorium is going to be called XYZ Bank because you are going to have to get corporate to come in and help education because the state and township are not going to be able to afford it anymore.

Jay Corby suggested advertising for revenue.

Mr. Miller commented that if there is out of the box ideas that they need to come forward with it and they could evaluate and they will consider. He stated that the balance and challenge they always have is that we are so reliant on funding that is so inconsistent that we want to put something back in and you want to make sure it is sustainable year after year verses what happened two years ago when we put the B Team in for the middle school and then the next year had to take it out because of bussing.

Mr. Marinari stated that he understands we need people for sports but we need someone in the library.

Mrs. Soles responded to Jay Corby to fight for his populations and the Board is fighting for the 1,800 kids they have in the district. She stated that it is a tough call and if he is willing to put together a group she would be more than willing to sit down with all of you.

Glenn Knigge commented on the opportunity the kids have to participate the four years of their high school life. He asked where else do you have that opportunity. Glenn stated that minimizing the program and adding an additional cost, there will be a percentage that will not have that opportunity.

Glenn Knigge commented on the majority of the staff cleaning their own rooms despite what we pay the contracting company. He stated that he suggested two years ago to find out what the cost is per room and pay half of that to the teachers because they are cleaning it anyway.

Glenn Knigge commented that we have \$95,000 in the budget for concrete and that is a lot of money and he guesses we had bids and estimates from contractors.

Mr. Gately responded that we have estimates.

Glenn Knigge asked if we have to use union laborers.

Mr. Gately responded that it is prevailing wage when it is over \$2,000 in a school district.

Glenn Knigge asked if we had to do prevailing wage or if they get a committee to do the labor, can we do it in-house.

Mr. Gately responded that if we use an outside contractor and the cost is more than \$2,000, it has to be prevailing wage.

Glenn Knigge asked if we were able to pay someone a stipend or use a paid salary employee to head a project and do it internally would that be acceptable.

Mr. Gately responded that there is a lot of concrete.

Glenn Knigge stated that prevailing wage is \$95 an hour.

Mr. Gately responded that it depends on the trade.

Mr. Miller responded that this is one time funds that we have this year and this is what is allocated this year.

Jerry North commented that years ago the town was concerned about how our students were treated in the roles that they had in Allentown High School and what they did with themselves and it was a strong belief of the people in the town at the time that we had to provide more stuff for our kids both from an extra-curricular point of view, athletic, academic and guidance point of view in terms of getting their kids involved and getting them into college. He stated the program that was put into place basically not designed to ever be as successful as it is. Jerry North commented that one way to make a school successful was to get the kids to buy into the school and the best way was to give them something to do and that was both clubs, organizations. He commented that what happens sometimes is that we take things away that make kids want to come to school. He said that if the kids were involved then they would be willing to come to school and be successful.

Jerry North stated that he has an 8th grader who had nothing in 6th grade, played in 7th grade and has nothing in 8th grade. He noted that next year as a freshman she will have an opportunity if she is good enough.

Jerry North commented that he has no problem contributing to a pay to participate program and most parents are already paying on a recreational level.

Jerry North commented on the 1.4 million surplus that they are anticipating for this year and you know you are going to have a similar amount if not hundreds of thousands in surplus next year.

Jerry North stated that you have to look at where you are getting the most bang for your dollar so when you are talking about 9 coaches and a middle school program that will effect over hundreds of children you got to start looking deeper as to what is going on in your administration structure, the structure of the district, class sizes and see where kids are really getting effected the most.

Mr. Marinari commented to Jerry North that 10 years ago there were some Board members including himself that were part of that and this school still has his vision and everyone in the community should be very proud that he was part of it and also stated to Jerry North that this is his school as far as he could see and thanked him for his input.

Mr. Hauge commented on safety issues and the slippery slope we are on in terms of trying to restore programs at a level where we are dependent of volunteers to provide the safety aspect of it. He thinks the volunteer program is going to be important and thinks it will be up to Mr. Carroll and the district as a whole to drive whatever volunteerism we can get but doesn't know that it is 100% comforting for him to say he is going to rely on a volunteer for safety. He commented that he thinks the hybrid solution is going to work.

Mr. Hauge asked if anyone was willing to talk about increasing the pay to participate fee for the sports to \$100 and they would probably get \$20,000 to \$25,000 more and at that point it would give Rich Carroll the safety concerns that we have and allow that to supplement particularly as it relates to participation and the sports that bring out more kids.

Mrs. Soles responded that she worries about safety in two ways. She worries about students participating under our watch during our time when they are on a bus or the field with only two coaches. She also worries about the safety of the kids when there is nothing for them to participate in from that time that mom and dad are still at work to the time they go home. She has asked the Board to think about the whole child the entire child, the extra-curricular, the co-curricular, the academics and we need to figure out how to make this work.

Mr. Hauge stated that it has to be sustainable and Mr. Probasco agreed.

Mr. Hauge stated that there are sources of revenue that are going to be gone and we are talking about \$1.5 million just between the ARRA funding, JOBS fund and Impact Aid. He stated that we have to fund salaries with this one time funding. He commented that he would like to find a way where we could compromise and do some more things, get the participation we are looking for and address the safety concerns hopefully the mechanism to possibly drive some volunteerism so that we could allocate those funds in a different way.

Mr. Probasco stated that he would rather have an additional pay for play and he doesn't like pay for play for a lot of reasons because he thinks it cuts down on participation. He thinks sports and extra-curricular activities are important as any other class they take.

Mr. Probasco asked if we put in waivers for increase in health care cost that we are allowed to do by the state.

Mr. Gately responded no, that it was not included and it only amounted to a couple thousand dollars.

Mr. Probasco asked about the increase in cost that went up about a \$100.

Mr. Gately responded that you can only apply for a certain percentage over the increase so the state caps it.

Mr. Probasco asked if it was 30% of the cost.

Mr. Gately responded no and that it is based off the state health benefits and thinks it was between 2% and 8% in terms of the cap waiver.

Mr. Probasco asked if it was the total.

Mr. Gately responded that the increase amounted to about \$9,000.

Mr. Probasco asked how we close the gap on the 35.

Mr. Hauge responded that we may not be able to get to the 35 and frankly there seems to be some inequities. He doesn't know if they could equate per participant to how many coaches you need.

Mr. Probasco commented that he is trying to find ideas because if they have to go to a full pay to play he is ok with that but if there are areas like the health care waiver that we did not go for and again that is sustainable because that becomes part of the base.

Mr. Hauge commented that we have to keep in mind that the budget still needs to be voted on.

Mr. Miller stated that the actual vote for the budget is based upon the bottom line numbers and we could still work within the budget.

Mr. Hauge stated that we have serious issues if this budget does not pass.

Mr. Probasco stated that passing the budget is the most important but given the opportunity that the waiver is there this year, the governor put it there for a reason. He stated that it is \$15,000 and we are half way there.

Mr. Probasco stated it becomes part of the budget and is sustainable.

Mr. Hauge stated that it is hard to earmark that going forward in the future if you're just talking about the \$15,000.

Mr. Probasco stated that it increases that one piece that is sustainable.

Mr. Miller stated that we are putting together a budget for a bottom line and why not look within the bottom line.

Mr. Midgett commented on the debt service decreasing the impact to the taxpayers but next year if the Board decides to move forward with the 2% cap the taxpayer would end up with a 3 ½% increase because the debt service decrease this year was about 1 1/2 points and next year it will come back.

Mr. Gately responded that part is not voted upon, but they will still be voting on the 2% cap.

Mr. Hauge commented that if we changed the fee structure it becomes part of the revenue stream and we are talking about allocating that in the budget so we can't budget more than the revenue stream so we would have to change that.

Mr. Gately responded that we would just add that to the revenue but realistically the most important part of tonight's vote is the general fund tax levy because that is what is presented to the voters.

Janet Hauge commented on supporting the budget but she thinks adding a question to the budget asking for more funding could really hurt us.

Mr. Marinari commented that one of his passions is guidance and stated that he is not happy with guidance. He stated that there are so many avenues that the dollars can go to.

Mr. North agreed with Mr. Hauge on gaining stability and that is very important and also looking at projections in the budget and looking forward to what we can afford and what we can't.

Jerry North believes the money is in there and it is just how we decide to use it. He commented on the hiring of the new superintendent and the resignation of the elementary school principal and when you are talking about \$35,000, the money is there.

Mr. Gately clarified that they did take into consideration the retirement of the elementary school principal so they did change the budget to reflect the starting salary on Step 1 and on the superintendent salary they do not know but they couldn't budget beyond the newly enacted cap so those two reductions have been incorporated into this budget.

Jerry North commented that they do have a line item for the elementary school principal.

Mr. Gately responded that is correct.

Jerry North commented that there is money.

Lisa Rajeski commented on the principal position at the elementary school that has not been posted and wanted to know what is going on with that position.

Mr. Miller responded that the principal position at the elementary school is still part of the budget and they would like the new superintendent to be part of that selection process but also if the budget is defeated it is a whole other ballgame.

Mr. Miller stated that he will recommend that if there is a passion for the freshman coaches and we are going to vote on a bottom line number that as long as the Board is in concurrence that we look at or direct Mr. Gately or Administrators to look at what monies might be available, reallocated or shifted in a sustainable fashion within the bottom line number and then present it to the Board.

Mrs. Soles asked what our timeline is.

Mr. Gately stated that they would submit the budget based on the total amount in it right now and explained that there is a lot more that goes into the budget than just the tax levy. He responded to Mr. Miller's last statement that we could do that at any future meeting and that he would not recommend Wednesday but later in the month and it would be after the election unless the board wanted to have a Special meeting to do that but he doesn't know that there will be a benefit of doing that. He suggested that they see how the vote turns out on the budget.

Mr. Miller stated that the only thing he would ask is that they come back to us with a detail dollar amount and what it is for.

Jay Corby recommended that the coaches committee meet and try to promote the fact that they will not be cutting anyone if they could keep that third coach and not cut one kid that tried out for the team that maybe that would be an incentive and he cannot speak for everyone.

Mrs. Soles asked if he could live up to that statement.

Jay Corby stated that he would have to talk with the other coaches.

Karen Brown has a concern because she is not hearing anything about the kindergarten program in the budget and realizes that this is not a state mandated program and her problem is that she is the coordinator for Intervention Referral Services and she is seeing the effect on the children in the ½

day kindergarten on our children. She commented that the children do not have enough time to read and write and to just learn social skills and this will affect them. Karen Brown commented that they should take into consideration the kindergarten program because she is concerned about the long-term effects. She also stated her concern about the guidance program in the elementary school. She asked the Board not to forget all the other programs that are there.

Mr. Gately responded that the Finance Committee did review full day kindergarten and the cost differential between the current program as it is offered in the budget for next year is about \$175,000 to reinstate full day kindergarten.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S AGENDA

A. Finance Motions

Mr. Marinari moved with a second by Mr. Hauge that the following be approved:

1. Recommend approval of the budget for the 2011-2012 school year for the submission to the voters as follows:

General Fund Budget:	\$22,964,686
General Fund Tax Levy:	\$ 9,711,151
Special Revenue Fund Budget:	\$ 451,400
Debt Service Fund Budget:	\$ 2,513,220
Debt Service Fund Tax Levy:	\$ 1,409,148

There should be raised for General Funds \$9,711,151 for the ensuing school year (2011-2012).

2. Recommend approval of the 2011-2012 Maximum Travel as per N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 in the amount of \$75,000. The maximum amount for budget year 2010-2011 is \$75,000, which includes year-to-date expenditures of \$20,459.44.
3. Recommend approval of the maximum dollar limit to be spent on Public Relations Services and Purchase Professional Services as per N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5,2-a(1) in the amount of \$518,250, attached.
4. Recommend approval of the establishment of dollar thresholds for awards to recognize special accomplishments and establish a budget supported by general fund revenues (for each category) as per N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8 in the amount of \$592,208, attached.

Roll Call

Yes

Mr. Marinari, Mr. Hauge,
Mr. Midgett, Mr. Probasco,
Mrs. Soles, Mrs. Wig,
Mr. Miller

No

None

Mr. Midgett made a motion to adjourn at 9:57 PM.
Seconded by Mr. Marinari, Passed unanimously.

Sean Gately
Business Administrator/Board Secretary