

PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
 REGULAR MEETING
 March 25, 2010
 6:30 p.m. Executive Session
 7:30 p.m. Public Session
 NEW EGYPT HIGH SCHOOL

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Buckalew, President, called the meeting to order at 6:35 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 given in the form of an Annual Notice contained in Resolution No. 2009-1 which Resolution was immediately thereafter posted upon the bulletin board in the main office of all four schools and the Board Secretary's office and disseminated within seven (7) days of passage to the Asbury Park Press, 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. Buckalew, President	Present
Mr. Miller, Vice President	Present
Mr. Downs	Absent
Mr. O'Donnell	Absent
Mrs. Soles	Present
Mr. Hauge	Present
Mr. Probasco	Present
Dr. DeMareo, Superintendent	Present
Mr. Gripp, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary	Present
Mr. Stein, Board Attorney	Present

Mr. Hauge made a motion to go into executive session at 6:40 PM.
 Seconded by Mrs. Soles, Passed unanimously.

Mr. Downs arrived to the meeting at 6:41 PM.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Request resolution for Executive Session at this point in the meeting of the Plumsted Township Board of Education on March 25, 2010 for the purpose of discussing personnel;

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meeting Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 to 21) permits bodies to discuss certain matters in closed sessions, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has a need to hold a meeting on Unwarranted Invasion of Individual Privacy issues; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4 – 6-21), 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 7:30 PM.
Seconded by Mr. Downs, Passed unanimously.

Mr. O'Donnell arrived to the meeting at 7:40 PM.

V. ROLL CALL

Mr. Buckalew, President	Present
Mr. Miller, Vice President	Present
Mr. Downs	Present
Mr. O'Donnell	Present
Mrs. Soles	Present
Mr. Hauge	Present
Mr. Probasco	Present
Dr. DeMareo, Superintendent	Present
Mr. Gripp, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary	Present
Mr. Stein, Board Attorney	Present

VI. FLAG SALUTE

VII. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Downs made a motion to approve the workshop meeting agenda for March 17, 2010.
Seconded by Mr. Probasco

Roll Call

Yes	Mr. Downs, Mr. Probasco, Mr. Hauge, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Soles, Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Buckalew
No	None

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IX. DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

A. Board Meeting dates:

The remaining Board of Education meetings will be held:

Workshop meetings

Regular meetings

March 26, 2010 (Friday) Public Hearing on Budget
starts at 6:30 p.m.

April 28, 2010 (Reorganization Meeting starts at
7:30 p.m.)

X. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Dr. DeMareo commented on the following:

Governor Christie's Executive Order reducing state aid to schools has dramatically altered the landscape for virtually all public schools in New Jersey. In the case of the Plumsted School District, the Governor's Executive Order had a devastating impact. We will experience the loss of over 1.1 million which represents 9.66% of our total state aid dollars coupled with natural growth has caused a budget shortfall of roughly \$2.2 million dollars.

From a simplistic point of view, we now face several difficult choices. We must raise taxes in addition to cutting programs, teachers, administrators, custodians, grounds services, athletics and co-curricular activities in an effort to bring together all that we have come to treasure under the allowable budget.

For well over four months, the Board of Education has been engaged in an extraordinary effort to construct a budget, which met the twin goals of minimizing tax impact while maintaining our standard of educational quality. Back in September, the Board adopted its Goals. Goal number 5 was to develop a collaborative process for budget development for the 2010-2011 school year that engaged all stakeholders.

As a result, a Community Budget Committee meeting was held on December 8, 2009 for public input (information went home via a newsletter to students, posted on the internet and announced by the Superintendent at the November Board meeting) The Agenda for that meeting focused on understanding the budget development process, timelines, as well as revenues and expenditures.

On January 20, 2010, a second public Budget Committee meeting was held in the I.M.C. focusing on budget enhancements as well as reductions in addition to potential scenarios for the 2010-2011 budget. At this meeting, recommendations were taken from the public as to where reductions could be made (i.e. programs, athletics, etc.).

On January 27, a Finance Committee meeting was held to discuss Insurance Brokerage Services Property and Casualty – RFP, Impact Aid, Budget timeline, Board feedback regarding enhancements and reductions. In addition, Mr. Miller and Mr. Hauge of the Finance and

Budget Committee of the Board visited each school in the district twice to provide updates on the budgeting process.

The administrators and Board members came together on February 17, 2010 at the middle school to look at making budget reductions in the amount of approximately \$700,000 based on the proposition that the district would remain flat in state aid and the tax levy being set at 4%. At the conclusion of that meeting, the Board asked the administration to go back and prepare a second list of budget reductions in the event the state was to reduce the district by 15% in state aid but prioritizing each of the lists. That meeting was held on March 4, 2010.

The Plumsted Township Board of Education prepared a philosophy in order to prioritize how budget reductions would be based, if necessary. This philosophy was placed on the district website for public viewing.

The philosophy is as follows:

- 1) No individual school, group, or student segment should be disproportionately impacted;
- 2) Decisions need to be based on facts and data with group consensus;
- 3) Safety and security are key parameters in the decision making process;
- 4) Program decisions need to be based on the cost versus performance gain against the student population impacted by the program in the Plumsted Township School District (the base decision context should be evaluated against applicability to New Jersey Core Curriculum and Technology Standards relative to the impact to the district); and
- 5) Communication to the community and district staff needs to be ongoing and transparent.

The Board Finance Committee compiled all of the recommendations from the administration along with the Business Administrator and myself and made sure that all cuts followed in line with the philosophy prepared by the Board. What you will see this evening is the result of many months of discussions, debates and compromises made.

You need to understand that not one of these cuts was arbitrary – every single one is painful and devastating to our district. Make no mistake about this – when you are faced with 2.2 million dollars in cuts out of a total budget of \$21,982,063, every cut is hurtful towards kids. There is nothing about this budget that anyone on the Board, administration, faculty and staff likes because EVERY cut affects our children.

Tonight is not going to be a debate about why we are keeping “x” and letting “y” go. Rather, it is my hope that the Board will hear suggestions from the public on ways we can possibly increase our revenues or look at alternative ways in which we can continue our sport program and co-curricular activities after the budget has been finalized.

I want to also remind you that if this budget is defeated on April 20th, the budget is then reviewed by the Township Committee. Three things can happen. The Township Committee can increase the budget, they can leave the budget as is or they can make additional cuts and the Board is required to follow through on those recommendations. If the Township Committee makes additional cuts, we will be looking at the possibility of additional staffing, more

programs, co-curricular activities and athletics to be eliminated. Before I turn the program over to Mr. Gripp, I just want to reiterate that due to these horrific cuts, the students have lost out, the faculty and staff have lost out, the district has lost out and the town has lost out. In a time of crisis unemployment, many jobs are on the line and much worse, we could see the education of our students suffer and their future prospects dimmed.

We are a remarkably resourceful and resilient community with a history of successfully overcoming difficult challenges. Doing so now will require repeating the factors that have shaped our past success: careful financial management, working together, and drawing on our shared values. I am confident that we will do so again and will emerge successfully from these difficult circumstances to continue our educational progress. I also very much appreciate your continued understanding and support during this very difficult time.

Mr. Gripp gave an overview of the 2010-2011 School Budget.

XI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Caitlin Francis, student representative, commented on the following:

New Egypt Primary School

- Lifetouch Spring photos will be taken on April 12th.
- Kindergarten students and their families are invited to attend the 2nd Annual Family Game Night on April 15th. This event is sponsored by the Kindergarten teachers.
- Report Cards will be issued for first grade and preschool on April 23rd.
- In honor of Earth Day the Primary School students will be planting flowers in front of the school.
- During the month of April, Ms. Smith, NEPS Guidance Counselor, will be teaching first grade students the virtue of TOLERANCE- “accepting other people’s differences”. The students in kindergarten will be learning about the virtue of COURAGE -“Doing what is right in the face of fear. Finding the strength to conquer something even when you are scared.”
- A very special thank you to Mrs. Humphrey from the Commission of the Blind for conducting vision screenings for students at the New Egypt Primary School. We would also like to thank Claire Heagele for arranging for this FREE program.
- The NEPS/DWES PTO is once again sponsoring a “Sky Dome Planetarium” program for the students at NEPS on April 27th.

Dr. Gerald H. Woehr Elementary School

- April 15, 16 & 17 Drama Production “Spaced Out” at NEHS” starting at 7:00 p.m.
- April 22nd & 29th Annual 3rd Grade Lock-In
- April 23rd Report Cards go home
- April 27th Spring Concert at NEHS starting at 7:00 p.m.

New Egypt Middle School

- Congratulations to Jenna Ball and Andrew Lavorse on their acceptance into the MATES Program at the OCVTS
- Cheerleaders
- Boys' and Girls' Basketball teams
- Wrestling team
- Heroes and Cool Kids – March 26th for all 6th graders @ 9:30AM
- Parent/Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal @ 12:05PM – March 18, 2010
- April 12th – NEMS Spring Pictures
- April 23rd – Spring Fling Dance
- New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK-7 and NJASK-8) – April 27th – 30th
- New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK-6) – May 3rd – May 6th
- Congratulations to Mrs. Petersen, Teacher of the Year

New Egypt High School

- March 24 Junior College Parent Night (7:00 PM - Auditorium)
- March 26 Blood Drive (7:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Cafeteria)
- March 29 Early Dismissal (All Schools)
- March 30 – April 2 School Closed (Spring Recess)
- April 13 Community Luncheon (12:00 PM – IMC)
- April 16 Early Dismissal (Staff In-Service)

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Bonnie Vogel commented on the state aid cuts and the diminished effects on the budget. Tom Chemris stated the PTEA supports the Administration, Board and Community and is willing to work with everyone to resolve the issues.

Toni Ferry, Principal, stated the Administrative Team thanks the Board for allowing the Administrators for being a part of the very difficult decision making process as we had to make very difficult budget cuts.

Mitch Geier asked if Impact Aid was included in the budget.

Mr. Gripp stated Impact Aid is included in the fund balance.

Mitch Geier stated he is in the computer business and customers have asked him to cut prices to keep business. He commented on salary cuts and reductions. He also stated that core curriculum comes first and extra curricular is later.

Danielle Solinski, student, commented on Ms. McClellan being let go. She stated she is a great English teacher and has done a lot for the students.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if we can waive the 30 minute limit tonight.

Mr. Buckalew said yes.

Glenn Knigge commented on budget cuts and stated there are 19 sports programs and golf and bowling are the only ones being cut. He stated this is not fair to these students. He suggested reducing tournaments, games and practices in all sports and use independent transportation for golf.

Glenn Knigge asked the Board and Administration to rethink their position and not remove golf and bowling from next year's budget.

Jon Hauge stated they tried to not look at worse case and looked at this in stages. He suggested they should look at the program as a whole and consider heavily.

Cindy Walsh asked the Board to reconsider the elimination of the nurse position. She stated for our children's safety we had to install security systems and a lock door policy.

Cindy Walsh stated we need a medically trained nurse in all schools.

Cheryl Green stated it has been a devastating week with the cuts being made and the loss of a school nurse. She stated her son had a seizure last year that lasted 5 minutes and if Ms. Thiele was not here she doesn't know what would have happened. She stated she hopes we could come up with creative ideas to keep our nursing staff intact.

Gina Simpson commented on the elimination of the school nurse. She stated she is a stay at home mom and would have to do the services our nurse provides to her son. She also stated no nurse on school trip and the one on one assistant is being cut.

Jennifer Joyner commented on the appropriations and what are we spending. She commented on reducing waste, shared services and what are we doing with Administration.

Jennifer Joyner commented on wage freezes and approaching unions. She stated she has a child who is going in kindergarten and cutting to ½ day is unacceptable.

David Wenskoski, student, commented on Ms. McClellan and how she changed his life in high school and to rethink certain staff members that are being cut.

Lisa Rajeski asked if there was any correlation regarding everyday math regarding improvement of 3rd grades.

Mr. O'Donnell explained may not be everyday math as other grades did not increase and need to study further. Studies show math and language arts scores increase and pretty sure full-day kindergarten.

Mr. Hauge stated this is a very emotional topic and there is no doubt there is a great benefit to all kids in full day kindergarten.

Dr. Limone commented on Ms. McClellan and how impressed he was with her. He stated kids in middle school not half prepared in English. He also stated kids have benefited from her and they are prepared for university.

Julie Vaughn asked what administrator is being cut.

Dr. DeMareo stated the Supervisor of Guidance.

Julie Vaughn asked if there was anywhere else from the top that can get cut. She asked if Principals and Vice Principals or any of those areas.

Dr. DeMareo stated Supervisor of Guidance is the only position.

Monica Semprevive commented on the past tech position being a stipend. She suggested to increase revenue by removing the tech position of \$86,000 plus benefits. She stated the technology director has a high paid administrative position and has no direct student contact. She also stated this would free up \$86,000 plus benefits. Monica stated this is a little closer to kindergarten and a little bit closer to salary teachers that we lost and needs to be truly looked at.

Glenn Ricardi commented on the elimination of the school nurse and stated this is not going to work.

Aaron Heller commented on the revenue and expenditures and stated he has no time to go to visit the Business Office for the information but can click on the website to see the information.

Aaron Heller commented on the extra curricular activities and said if cutting this will create latch-key kids.

Aaron Heller commented on the salary of the technology person who only supervisors 2 people. He stated we have staff who are community members and taxpayers being laid off where some only make \$27,000 so where does this wash out.

Aaron Heller stated he appreciates the work put in and would like to see things on the website.

Debbie Newman commented on the tuition paid in preschool and letting the community know about the program. She stated this is money coming into the district.

Middle school student commented walking to school and to please rethink bussing.

Cynthia Birks, student, commented on the elementary and middle school plays being cut. She stated they are taking a big part of students' lives away especially the ones who do not do sports. She also commented on the new friends she made with being involved in the play.

Jackie Lawrence commented on the ½ kindergarten not being a best choice. She also commented on the guidance counselor being cut who has helped her a lot and is someone to talk to.

Pam Conk commented on the deep upset within ourselves is being directed at the Board. She suggested that everyone in the audience direct it to the State Legislators, Assemblyman and Senate. She stated the Board is only the messengers through the things received from the state and the real targets are in Trenton. They are the ones that took the money away from every school district in the State of New Jersey and please contact your legislators.

Nancy Young commented on sports at the middle school and please review further.

Debbie Wills urged everyone to write to the Governor. She stated that our districts have made cuts before and worse fear that the cuts will effect the children in the program.

Debbie Wills commented on the Administration taking a freeze on their wages.

Debbie Wills commented on the sports being taken away from the students and the ½ day kindergarten.

Debbie Wills commented on Jason Frable as guidance counselor not getting leadership and guidance he needed. She stated he got involved with our kids and did not just come here and collect a paycheck.

Mr. Miller stated the Board has discussed the cuts to meet the numbers and the Board is evaluating pay for participation. He said the first step is to get the budget approved.

Toni Barnett stated this is hurting all students and not some of the Administration and please cut something that doesn't directly affect our kids.

Dylan Wills, student, commented on middle school sports and clubs taken away from students.

Dylan Wills, student, commented on Jason Frable being cut and how he helps kids.

Alex Hampson, student, commented on programs being cut and how these programs help teach morals, respect and courtesy.

Community member commented on the ½ day kindergarten, middle school sports and teachers being cut.

Mr. Miller stated they knew there were going to be cuts and looked at core curriculum standards.

Jim Kimmick asked if the slides can be posted somewhere without having to go to the Business Office.

Mr. Gripp responded the presentation will be posted on the website tomorrow.

Jim Kimmick stated a lot of people are making great points but what is the process and is there going to be feedback on this conversation.

Mr. O'Donnell stated he doesn't view this as a done deal and is hear to listen. He also stated he is not prepared to vote yes or no to this budget yet.

Mr. Probasco stated they are here to listen to ideas and people who care are here. He stated we have to put a budget together and support the budget. He also stated to pass the budget we are one step closer.

Sara Sparano, student, asked why only one administrator cut and there were ten teachers.

Becky Fine, student, commented on sports being cut. She also commented kids will do things that are bad and this is just not right.

Elisa Tang, student, is not criticizing what you are doing but doing the plays have made her learn life lessons and so many bonds. She commented if the plays are taken away from the schools there is no foundation and security.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if there are extra curricular activities at the elementary school other than the play. He commented on there being no extra curricular activities for grades first through eighth and this is something for the Board members to think about.

Luisa Erich-Carr commented afford tax increase and asked what the \$2,513,000 repaying of a debt.

Mr. Gripp explained the repaying of the past referendum.

Luisa Erich-Carr asked if staff is willing to give up 50% of their salary. She also stated she will be in to review the budget.

Ashley Milevoi, student, stated she does bowling and the team means a lot to her.

AnnMarie Bette commented on the vacant accountant position and asked if there is a possibility this position can be rolled into the Business Administrator position. She asked in doing that, will it save the nursing position.

Dr. DeMareo stated this is a vacant position and is not filled. He said at this point they need to look at the outcome on the budget vote.

AnnMarie Bette asked we can consider now before we go into tomorrow. She stated she is speaking as a taxpayer and not as a teacher.

Maria Viera stated her husband lost job over year ago. She said to cut middle school sports it is a great equalizer for the kids. She asked if teachers or parents can volunteer to coach sports.

Mr. Miller commented on the budget cuts and stated they will be looked at but we must go through this first.

Gayle Peodubicky commented on the cutting of 10 staff members. She asked how can meet the needs of every child with less teachers. She stated there is not enough time with increase in class size and worried about test scores.

Tracy Haefner appreciates all the efforts. She commented on extra curricular activities and possible spreading the cuts by reducing meeting and cutting transportation. She also commented on the cutting of the elementary and middle school plays.

Jessica Wasilewski, student, stated her dad has worked in the district under so many companies. She stated there are three custodians being cut and stated the schools are messy. She also stated one grounds guy cannot do all four schools.

Jessica Wasilewski, student, commented on Mr. Frable and Ms. McClellan cut and having staff behind her.

Lauren Cowell, student, comment on the school nurse being cut. She also commented on the middle school sports and plays.

Whitney Pullen commented on what all educators have done for our children and commented on the revenue of the plays.

Jessica Sparano, student, commented on downsizing the elementary and middle school plays. Jessica Sparano, student, commented on cuts to the guidance department and stated that Mr. Frable is essential for college requirements admissions.

Glen Jacobus commented on the mission statement and what the interpretation is of well rounded.

Glen Jacobus commented on his concern regarding the school nurse.

Dr. DeMareo read the mission statement to the public.

Mr. Downs commented on the frustration of everyone and the significant financial issues. He commented on how we continue to operate and put together programs outside of budget.

Mr. Downs also commented on the difficult and long process.

Kevin Hampson commented on the general administration numbers and \$17,000 increase. He also commented on the administrators' contract and when can you renegotiate.

Mr. O'Donnell commented on the Comparative Spending Guide and we are below average.

Kevin Hampson commented on spending too much for salaries and state aid. He stated the administrators' salaries for a non-teacher is too high for a small town.

Mitch Geier commented on the Council of the Arts program in the community.

Joni Wisniewski stated she doesn't blame anyone but this is a state issue. She also stated the budget must go through and is going to vote on it because it is the best for the kids. She commented on the nurse being cut from the budget and must be put back in.

Mr. O'Donnell stated the nurse was voted on in 2007. He also commented on the ½ kindergarten and the need to listen to the community.

Glen Jacobus asked if Board is able to go to township to see if they will allocate more.

Mr. Miller has met with the township committee and they recognize the situation we are in and they are also going to be in the same situation so there was no offer to work with us. He also stated that if the budget gets defeated and it goes to the township, historically they have never added any programs back and have made reductions.

Michele Healy commented on the ½ day kindergarten and how her child excelled.

Jackie Thiele thanked everyone for listening to concerns and gave facts about nurses seeing approximately 8,000 students up to February and for many reasons and not just for medication but also need guidance and help. She also commented on the summer program which was in the primary school and middle school with one nurse and that program was brought into one school.

Monica Semprevive commented the salary of Technology Coordinator could be for two nurses.

Mandy Kraemer stated she doesn't have children in school yet and move here because of the school district and community. She commented on the ½ day kindergarten program and taking away the school nurse. She feels our community is strong and we can come together and find some sort of solution where we are not cutting jobs from people who live in the community.

Mandy Kraemer stated education comes first and administration should reconsider things.

Mr. Buckalew thanked everyone for bringing their comments and suggestions to the Board. He stated they hear everything they are saying and do listen and will be evaluating.

XIII. PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS

XIV. CORRESPONDENCE

XV. SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA

A. Finance Motions

Mr. Hauge made a motion to approve the following:

1. Recommend approval of all bills and claims for March, which have been examined by the Finance Committee prior to this meeting and are presented for approval with the exception of P.O. #10-2914 in the amount of \$35.34, P.O. #10-3026 in the amount of \$601.98 and P.O. #10-3171 in the amount of \$490.00.

Seconded by Mr. Downs

Roll Call

Yes

Mr. Hauge, Mr. Downs,
Mr. Probasco, Mr. Miller,
Mrs. Soles, Mr. O'Donnell,
Mr. Buckalew

No

None

Mr. Hauge made a motion to approve the following:

2. Recommend approval of payment of P.O. #10-2914 in the amount of \$35.34 to Anthony O'Donnell.

Seconded by Mr. Downs

Roll Call

Yes

Mr. Hauge, Mr. Downs,
Mr. Probasco, Mr. Miller,
Mrs. Soles, Mr. Buckalew

No

None

Abstain

Mr. O'Donnell

Mr. Downs made a motion to approve the following:

3. Recommend approval of payment of P.O. #10-3026 in the amount of \$601.98 and P.O. #10-3171 in the amount of \$490.00 to Harry Miller.

Seconded by Mr. Hauge

Roll Call

Yes

Mr. Downs, Mr. Hauge,
Mr. Probasco, Mrs. Soles,
Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Buckalew

No

None

Abstain

Mr. Miller

Mr. Hauge made a motion to approve the following:

4. Recommend approval of all bills and claims for February, which required hand written checks after the February bills and claims list was approved, which have been examined by the Finance Committee and are presented for approval.
5. Recommend approval of all bills and claims for March, which required hand written check prior to the March bills and claims list being approved, which have been examined by the Finance Committee and are presented for approval.
6. Recommend ratification of the transferring of funds as attached.
7. Recommend approval of the Board Secretary's Report for the period ending February 28, 2010 and the Treasurer of School Monies Report for the period ending February 28, 2010.
8. Recommend approval that Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23 – 2.12(c)3, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, certifies that as of February 28, 2010, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contracted orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the District Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8, that the District financial accounts have been reconciled and are in balance.
9. Recommend approval that the Plumsted Township Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c)4 certifies that as of February 28, 2010, after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the Business Administrator/Board Secretary and other appropriate district officials, that to the best of their knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c)4 I-VI and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
10. Recommend approval of a contract between Classic Tours and New Egypt High School to provide transportation to and from the prom in Spring Lake, NJ on June 4, 2010.
11. Recommend approval of a contract between Schoolcraft Digital Studios and New Egypt Primary School for student portraits for the 2010-2011 school year.
12. Recommend approval of a contract between Schoolcraft Digital Studios and Dr. Gerald H. Woehr Elementary School for student portraits for the 2010-2011 school year.
13. Recommend approval of a contract between Schoolcraft Digital Studios and New Egypt Middle School for student portraits for the 2010-2011 school year.
14. Recommend approval of a contract between Schoolcraft Digital Studios and New Egypt High School for student portraits for the 2010-2011 school year.

Seconded by Mr. Downs

Roll Call

Yes

Mr. Hauge, Mr. Downs,
Mr. Probasco, Mrs. Soles,
Mr. Miller, Mr. O'Donnell,
Mr. Buckalew

No

None

15. This Board Motion for the tentative 2010-2011 school year and the submission to the County Superintendent of Schools and voters was previously approved at the March 17, 2010 Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Downs made a motion to approve the following:

16. Recommend acceptance of the following bids for District Professional Development Activities in accordance with bids received February 9, 2010.

Innovative Designs for Education (IDE)
Educational Consulting Specialist

17. Recommend approval of Innovative Designs for Education (IDE) for Professional Development Activities in accordance with their bid received February 9, 2010, contingent upon attorney review.
18. Recommend acceptance of the following bids for Insurance Brokerage Services Property & Casualty in accordance with bids received March 3, 2010.

Boyarin Hourigan Blundell
Boynton & Boynton

19. Recommend approval of Boynton & Boynton for Insurance Brokerage Services Property & Casualty in accordance with their bid received March 3, 2010, contingent upon attorney review.
20. Recommend approval of resolution 2009-2010 NO. 23, authorizing Application to the Local Finance Board Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:24-61 Et. Seq.

Seconded by Mr. Miller

Roll Call

Yes

Mr. Downs, Mr. Miller,
Mr. Hauge, Mr. Probasco,
Mrs. Soles, Mr. O'Donnell,
Mr. Buckalew

No

None

B. Personnel Motions

Mr. Downs made a motion to approve the following:

1. Recommend approval of the following community education classes and costs:

Super Science Programs for Kids, LLC will offer the following classes for students:

- Lego Star Wars & Motorized Mechanisms - up to \$79.00 per student
- Lego Loco - \$69.00 per student
- Introduction to Lego Mindstorm Robotics - up to \$69.00 per student
- Battle Bot Build-A-Thon - up to \$20.00 per student

Color Me Mine ceramics - \$27.00 per student, (two session class)

Computer/Explorers - From Legs to Wings & Back Again - up to \$38.00 per student, per session

Computer Explorers - CSI: Tech Stars Goes Criminal! - up to \$40.00 per student, per session

Computer Explorers - Rocketeering - up to \$30.00 per student

Arts & Crafts - Instructor: Christine Freeman - up to \$40.00 per hour

2. Recommend approval of a transfer for Rebecca Webb to cover the leave of absence for Wendi Weber-Sheridan from April 19, 2010 - June 30, 2010 with no change in salary.
3. Recommend approval of an unpaid FMLA/NJFLA leave of absence for Jennifer Gilbert from April 23, 2010 - June 30, 2010.
4. Recommend approval that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:28-9 the Plumsted Township Board of Education reduces the number of teaching staff members, employed in the district by the number one (1) administrator, ten (10) teaching staff members, three (3) support staff members and nine (9) non-certificated staff members based upon the judgment of the Plumsted Township Board of Education that it is advisable to abolish such positions for reasons of economy as a result of the reduction in State Aid to the Plumsted Township School District for the 2010-2011 school year with the reduction in force to become effective for the 2010-2011 school year and with the employment of all effected teaching staff members to terminate as of June 30, 2010.
5. Recommend ratification for approval of Jorge Banuelos as a lunchroom/playground monitor at the Dr. Gerald H. Woehr Elementary School effective March 8, 2010 at a rate of \$7.51 per hour for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year.
6. Recommend ratification of approval to adjust the salary of Eileen Stout, a paraprofessional at the high school from \$13,333.00 to \$13,867.00 retroactive to November 23, 2009.

7. Recommend approval of Deborah Denardo to fill the leave of absence of Jennifer Gilbert, Kindergarten teacher from April 23, 2010 - June 30, 2010 at a salary of \$48,476.00 prorated equal to BA Step 1 (\$47,536.00 prorated) of the teachers salary guide with no benefits effective April 19, 2010.
8. Recommend approval of a tuition reimbursement for Tom Chemris to take a spring course at Thomas Edison State College entitled "Human Resource Administration" for 3 credits and be reimbursed at a per credit amount of \$225.00 per credit pending receipt of a grade of "B" or better, proof of payment and the availability of funds.
9. Recommend approval of a tuition reimbursement for Renee Capasso to take a summer course at Saint Joseph's University entitled "Technology & Instructional Design for Differentiated Instruction" for 3 credits and be reimbursed at a per credit amount of \$225.00 per credit pending receipt of a grade of "B" or better, proof of payment and the availability of funds.
10. Recommend approval for Jeffrey Pierro to replace Rebecca Webb as a participant in the Teaching American History Grant effective immediately.
Seconded by Mr. Miller

Roll Call

Yes

Mr. Downs, Mr. Miller,
Mr. Hauge, Mr. Probasco,
Mrs. Soles, Mr. O'Donnell,
Mr. Buckalew

No

None

C. Policy

Mr. Probasco made a motion to approve the following:

1. Recommend approval on first reading of Board Policy 5112, Entrance Age.
2. Recommend approval on second reading of Board Policy 5516, Remotely Activating Communication Devices.
3. Recommend approval on second reading of Board Policy 1100.01, Open Door Policy.
Seconded by Mr. Downs
Discussion: Mr. Probasco commented on the Open Door Policy.

Roll Call

Yes

Mr. Probasco, Mr. Downs,
Mr. Hauge, Mrs. Soles,
Mr. Miller, Mr. O'Donnell,
Mr. Buckalew

No

None

D. Professional Development/Travel Reimbursements

Mr. Downs made a motion to approve the following:

1. Recommend approval of staff members to attend professional development workshops/conferences.

Seconded by Mr. Probasco

Roll Call

Yes

Mr. Downs, Mr. Probasco,
Mr. Hauge, Mrs. Soles,
Mr. Miller, Mr. O'Donnell,
Mr. Buckalew

No

None

E. Other Motions

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to approve the following:

1. Recommend approval of an *Admissions Agreement as to Non-Resident Student* from Ginger and William White to permit their child to attend the New Egypt Primary School, enrollment permitting, for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year according to stipulations contained in the 2009-2012 PTEA/PTBOE Collective Bargaining Agreement.
2. Recommend approval of an *Admissions Agreement as to Non-Resident Student* from Michael and LorieAnn Search to permit their children to attend the New Egypt Primary School, enrollment permitting, for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year according to stipulations contained in the 2009-2012 PTEA/PTBOE Collective Bargaining Agreement.
3. Recommend approval of the annual overnight Third Grade Lock-In to be held at the Dr. Gerald H. Woehr Elementary School on April 22, 2010 and April 29, 2010.
4. Recommend approval of the revised 2010-2011 District School Calendar.

Seconded by Mr. Miller

Roll Call

Yes

Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Miller,
Mr. Hauge, Mr. Probasco,
Mrs. Soles, Mr. Downs,
Mr. Buckalew

No

None

F. Facilities

G. Field Trips

Mrs. Soles made a motion to approve the following:

1. Recommend approval of the following field trips.

Seconded by Mr. Probasco

Roll Call

Yes

Mrs. Soles, Mr. Probasco,
Mr. Hauge, Mr. Miller,
Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Downs,
Mr. Buckalew

No

None

XVI. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY SCHOOL RELATED TOPIC

Lisa Rajeski commented on the cuts mandated by the state are going to occur whether our budget passes or not. She also stated if the community votes the budget down this will do nothing but make a bad situation worse. She stated by voting yes, you have power to direct those tax dollars to improve education in New Egypt.

Glen Jacobus commented on the teachers having to earn as you learn. He asked if it was possible to put a balloon segment into the salary guide.

Mr. Stein commented on the Collective Bargaining Agreement and the Board spoke to the Association.

Mitch Geier commented on the real world and people are feeling the recession. He stated his employees have taken salary cuts. He also stated on the employees in the district giving back 5%.

XVII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. O'Donnell commented on the study he did and no idea how it got out to the community. Mr. O'Donnell commented on the letters and phone calls he received regarding the full day kindergarten.

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion on table that the Board of Education agrees to not touch the kindergarten program for the 2010-2011 budget.

Mr. Downs seconded the motion.

Mr. Downs stated that as a Board we should be looking at continuity of educational programs and full day kindergarten. He commented on various arts and extra curricular activities. He suggested we carefully look before we disrupt educational care.

Mr. O'Donnell commented on the kindergarten program and also commented on making random cuts on JV program. He stated this is a funding problem not a priority problem.

Mr. O'Donnell stated there is no reason why we can't keep the full day kindergarten program and still have sports. He also commented on the pay to play for extra curricular and sports.

Mr. Probasco stated that no one wants to cut 1/2 day kindergarten or sports and as a whole we are trying to the best we can.

Mr. Probasco commented on the additional bussing for the afternoon program and what is that going to cost.

Mr. Gripp responded it is already calculated in the program.

Mr. O'Donnell commented that if we scale back in sports and extra curricular activities the kids will not turn out to be hooligans.

Mr. O'Donnell stated he cannot vote for a budget the way it is structured now that eliminates a very important academic program.

Mr. Downs stated he will support the budget.

Mr. O'Donnell commented on he will be selling the budget but cannot vote on it as it is structured right now.

Mr. Miller stated he understands how everyone has a passion for the full day kindergarten and is a little disappointed that after 3 ½ hours of public comment that numerous items were identified and suggested including full day kindergarten that the Board would be put into this position at this time for a motion when there are comments being made that there is still time for things to be discussed. He commented on the Board having a discussion on all the comments being made. He also stated he appreciates the analysis of the data but not a magnificent success.

Mr. Hauge commented he is not an educator and had very lengthy discussion with Administration who are the experts in education and talk about overall welfare of the district.

Mr. Hauge commented they tried to measure the effects as a whole of all these cuts. He stated he is put out by this tactic. He said if you vote on this today and if you want to vote on this today you effectively take it off the table and you would have lied to everyone that is here.

Mr. O'Donnell stated the finance committee met with the administrators for the second time and we got a list of prioritized cuts and the very last thing on the list was reducing kindergarten to a ½ day. He then stated that the next time he saw the list it was reprioritized and the kindergarten program moved way up on the list.

Mr. Probasco explained why the kindergarten was on the bottom they thought it was at elimination and kindergarten is not mandated.

Mr. Miller stated not clear on function on the Finance Committee.

Mrs. Soles stated she was taking everything in because she felt the community deserved that. She suggested to go back with the Board and guidance from administration that we heard from the community now we need to look again. She also stated to be put into position after 3 ½ hours of listening and taking everything in she is disgusting that you would put us in this position.

Mrs. Soles stated you cannot single out one item without thinking clearly everything through.

Mr. Hauge made a motion to table the whole thing.

Mr. Miller seconded the motion.

Mr. Downs said to table is in order and Board has a concern here.

Motion made by Mr. Hauge to table.

Seconded by Mr. Miller

Seconded by Mr. Miller

Roll Call

Yes

Mr. Hauge, Mr. Miller,
Mr. Probasco, Mrs. Soles
Mr. Downs, Mr. Buckalew
Mr. O'Donnell

No

XVIII. OLD BUSINESS

XIX. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

Mr. Probasco stated moving forward we need to be positive. He commented the cuts are bad and the economy is bad and hopefully later ideas can be revisited.

Mrs. Soles stated this past week has been very trying for the entire district and we function as a team. She thanked the principals and staff for their dedication.

Mrs. Soles stated she is not in favor of cutting any program or any activity from any students much less not eliminating any staff or faculty positions. She stated that one program is not more important than any other program than impacts the students' lives.

Mrs. Soles stated this is a very emotional time in our community and asked that we move forward away from anger and frustration to get to the point and reach the ballot on April 20.

Mrs. Soles stated we need to be there for the students and guide them in a positive way. She also thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

Mr. O'Donnell commented on the budget meeting at 6:30 on April 26 and thanked everyone for coming.

Mr. Miller thanked everyone for coming out tonight and providing input and suggestions. He commented on moving forward and also stated it is not anyone's fault in the community or district. He wants to have a productive discussion.

Mr. Hauge stated it is very difficult for anyone involved to not take this personally and we all care about what happens in this district. He stated they are going to do everything possible to take things into account but we are not in a good situation. He also stated we have lost good people who have touched our kids' lives.

Mr. Hauge stated the Administrators' also have touched the lives of our kids and they are part of this team.

Mr. Downs commented on the Administrators' touching the lives of our kids. He expressed his frustration and please forgive his passion and severe frustration.

Mr. Downs stated he will not be here tomorrow and you have his full support.

Mr. Stein stated the Board has the right to go into executive session tomorrow night and discuss contract and negotiation strategy.

Mr. Buckalew stated we all have to come together and the Board appreciates all the comments made tonight. He commented on all the input and suggestions from the kids as well as the community.

Mr. Buckalew stated it is a rough road and we will get through it.

Mr. Buckalew thanked Mr. O'Donnell for his service on the Board for the last three years.

Mr. Downs made a motion to adjourn at 11:27 PM.
Seconded by Mr. Hauge, Passed unanimously.

Frank E. Gripp III
Business Administrator/Board Secretary