

I. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

The June 1, 2010 Special Public Meeting of the Edison Township Board of Education was called to order by Board President, Gene I. Maeroff, at 7:00 P.M. at Edison High School, 50 Boulevard of Eagles, Edison, NJ.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Michaud took the roll, and the following members were present:

Mr. Gene I. Maeroff, President, Ms. Aimee Szilagyi, Vice President, Mr. David J. Dickinson, Mr. William H. Van Pelt, Mrs. Deborah A. Anes, Mr. Joseph Romano, Mrs. Veena Iyer, Mrs. Theresa E. Ward and Mrs. Lori A. Bonderowitz.

Also in attendance were Mr. John A. DiMuzio, Acting Superintendent, Mr. Daniel P. Michaud, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. John Fenimore, Director of Curriculum, Mr. John Russell, Director of Enrollment/Crisis Management/Summer Programs, Ms. Deborah Bredahl, No Child Left Behind Coordinator, Mr. Paul Jenney, Jr., Facilities Supervisor and Mr. Joseph J. Jankowski, Board Attorney.

III. OPENING STATEMENT

Mr. Maeroff read the following opening statement:

"The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Edison Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Board of Education Administrative Offices. Copies of these notices were sent to The Home News and Tribune and the Star Ledger on May 21, 2010.

The Public may participate at regular meetings in accordance with the By-Laws and the applicable State regulations.

IV. PRESIDENT'S BUDGET MESSAGE

Mr. Maeroff, Board President, introduced the revised budget to the Board.

He reported that "no one sitting in front of you, no one sitting in this audience is happy with the proposed budget cuts on tonight's agenda. Collectively, these reductions will not redound to the benefit of education in Edison Township. But the voters spoke, the Town Council acted according to state mandate, and we are compelled to cut our expenditures. We could argue endlessly about whether this reduction is better than that reduction, but after careful and conscientious consideration by the administration and members of the school board, we produced the list that you have before you. No one delights in it.

Some of the cuts immerse us in a philosophical debate that is playing out in school districts across the country. Just what services should a school board itself provide and which services may be turned over to outside contractors? This newly-constituted school board did not advocate any of this privatization; the proposals came from the administration as the best ways to do deal with our required reductions and we agreed.

As it is, expenses associated with employees now consume \$4 of every \$5 that we spend. We pay more than \$20 million alone for the health care of employees, their spouses, and their children. We are obligated to labor contracts that contain provisions that are no longer sustainable. The reality of these facts and their impact on our budget cannot be separated from the cuts that we are making. We have less and less leeway to adjust our budget and so we chop away at such items as middle school interscholastic sports, transportation, student after-school clubs, and even elementary-school strings instruction in our marvelous music program.

The amount of aid that the Edison Township Public Schools will get from the state is a pittance, less than 4 percent of our revenues in a state that, on average, provides 40 percent of the revenues of public schools. How can this be? It is simply because a series of rulings by the New Jersey Supreme Court created a special class of public schools--the Abbott districts in such locales as Newark, Paterson, and New Brunswick--that get most of their funding from the state. We pay for it. In Trenton, the cupboards are bare and the law is against us.

It would have helped if the teacher union had taken a salary freeze on new money, as our other three, much smaller unions did. But the condition regarding payments for health costs that the teacher union attached to its offer for a freeze was not in the long-run best interests of the taxpayers. I am troubled by a letter sent out last week by the ETEA leadership to all of the association's members. The two-page letter states at the bottom of the first page that "the only counter-proposal that was made by the BoE was to freeze salaries unconditionally, as the other units have done." That is simply not the case; we made a counter-proposal that would have relieved association members of having to contribute to increases in the premium for the prescription portion of the health care package in exchange for doubling the co-pays. The three ETEA leaders left the room to consider the offer; if that isn't a counter-proposal I don't know what is.

Moreover, though counsel advised us that we could not put in writing any agreement to use frozen funds for a specific purpose, we did agree orally—right from the start—to seek to apply at least 75 percent of the monies obtained through a freeze to preserving the jobs of association members. Let me say, too, that we never spoke to the union of a total freeze. All that was ever at stake so far as the board was concerned was a freeze on the 2 percent contractual provision applicable to new money. We never mentioned increments on the steps or longevity payments, which would have continued under the freeze on new money only.

There might also eventually have been some relief, maybe a few hundred thousand dollars for Edison, if the local teacher union were willing to sign off on the proposal we submitted to the federal government for Race to the Top money. The NJEA now says it is willing to sign the statewide agreement, but we got no such signature from the local union. And that apparently dims the chances of Edison receiving a portion of the approximately \$400 million that New Jersey could be in line to get if its Race to the Top application is approved by the federal government.

So, this newly-constituted school board has inherited a debacle, years in the making, that only now is coming to fruition. It was predictable, but during the good times everyone ignored the impending signs. Well, the good times have ended and very likely nothing will ever again be the same as it was. This school system must gird itself for a succession of years like this one. The perfect storm is upon us."

Mr. DiMuzio, Mr. Andrew Hodulik, board auditor and Mr. Michaud discussed the revised budget and the budget cut made by the town council. Mr. Michaud and Mr. Hodulik reported historical data illustrating the district surpluses at year end and addressed the transfer of funds over the last three years.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS – RESOLUTION ONLY

There were no comments at this time.

VI. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED BUDGET REDUCTIONS (Exhibit A)

Mr. Maeroff asked for a motion to approve the proposed budget reductions. Mr. Van Pelt made the motion, seconded by Ms. Szilagyi. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Ward, Mr. Van Pelt (Except abstained on Proposed Cut #17 Only)
Ms. Szilagyi, Mr. Maeroff

ABSTAINED: Mr. Van Pelt – Proposed Cut #17 Only

NAYS: Mrs. Bonderowitz, Mrs. Iyer, Mr. Romano,
Mrs. Anes, Mr. Dickinson

The motion was not carried.

Mr. Maeroff suggested the Board reconsider the proposed budget reductions. Mrs. Ward made the motion to reconsider, seconded by Ms. Szilagyi. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Bonderowitz, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Iyer,
Mrs. Anes, Mr. Van Pelt, Mr. Dickinson,
Ms. Szilagyi, Mr. Maeroff

NAYS: Mr. Romano

The motion was carried.

Mr. Maeroff asked for a motion to revote on the proposed budget reductions. Mr. Van Pelt made the motion, seconded by Ms. Szilagyi. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Bonderowitz, Mrs. Ward,
Mr. Van Pelt (Except Abstained on Item #17 Only),
Ms. Szilagyi, Mr. Maeroff

ABSTAINED: Mr. Van Pelt – Item #17 Only,

NAYS: Mrs. Iyer, Mr. Romano, Mrs. Anes,
Mr. Dickinson

The motion was carried.

VII. RE-ADOPTION OF REVISED 2010-2011 SCHOOL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Edison Township Board of Education, County of Middlesex, New Jersey has submitted the budget for the 2010-2011 school year and has determined the sum of

\$198,637,780

to be necessary for the operation of the Public Schools of Edison Township, County of Middlesex, New Jersey, for the school year beginning July 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the funding for the 2010-2011 school year will be generated from the following sources:

Local Tax Levy	\$185,081,031
State Aid	7,876,175
Tuition (Other Districts)	60,000
Other State Aid	683,899
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,516,849
Special Federal Programs	3,419,826
Appropriated Free Balance	-0-

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED:

that the Edison Township Board of Education, County of Middlesex, New Jersey hereby fix and determine the amounts to be raised as follows:

For Current Expense, the sum of:	\$190,819,221
For Capital Outlay	1,725,048
For Debt Service	1,989,786
For Special Revenue Projects	4,103,725
TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED IS:	\$198,637,780

and;

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED:

that the Edison Township Board of Education accepts the state aid as follows: Transportation Aid - \$0; Special Education Aid - \$3,757,229; Equalization Aid - \$3,970,409; Security Aid - \$0 and Debt Service Aid - \$148,537 for a total of \$7,876,175.

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED:

that the Edison Township Board of Education hereby, in accordance with the N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2010-2011 school year at the sum of \$133,025; and

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED:

that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that that the maximum amount is not exceeded; and

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED:

that the Secretary be, and he is hereby instructed to prepare two certificates of this action, one to be sent to the Mayor and Council, and the other to the Middlesex Executive County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Patrick Piegari.

Mr. Maeroff asked for a motion to approve the re-adoption of the revised 2010-2011 school budget. Mr. Van Pelt made the motion, seconded by Ms. Szilagyi. Mr. Michaud took roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Bonderowitz, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Iyer,
Mr. Romano, Mrs. Anes, Mr. Van Pelt,
Ms. Szilagyi, Mr. Maeroff

NAYS: Mr. Dickinson

The motion was carried.

VIII. REDUCTION IN FORCE

<u>GUIDANCE/SAC</u>	<u>School</u>		<u>School</u>
BARONE, Andrew	EDH	LIN, Lisa	JPH
GLASSBERG, Brian	JPH	SCAMMACA, Lora	EDH
<u>LPN/PARA</u>			
WALLACE, Michelle	EDH		
<u>LIBRARY AIDES/ASSISTANT</u>			
CRISCITELLO, Joann	LIN-LTS	LEONARDIS, Kathleen	LNC
DAGROSA, Deborah	LIN	MIRFIELD, Valerie	MLK
FURILLA, Lorraine	JMI	MOLINARO, Antonia	JMP-LOA
GINDA, Gail	MON	PIPALA, Frances	MEN
HICKEY, Marie	MAR	SASWAY, Judith	BEN
HIGGINS, Gail	WAS	WOERNER, Gail	WBR
<u>PARAPROFESSIONALS</u>			
ABRY, Kerry	CEB	LUTZ, MaryLou	JMP
ALONSO, Christine	FDR	MAGRUDER, Jennifer	JMP
AMARNATH, Alamelu	JPH	MANJALLY, Michelle	FDR
BALAJI, Sharmila	FDR	MARCILLE, Diana	MEN
BANOS, Nancy	TJM	MARCUS, Laurie	MEN
BARTUS, Donna	WAS	MCMANUS, Coleen	HHM
BIRRI, Linda	EDH	MENDELSON, Linda	CEB
BRUCK, Maryanne	MEN	MODRESKI, Melissa	FDR
CAMPIONE, Susan	WWM	MOUNT, Colleen	MEN
CANGEMI, Maria	MEN	MULDOWNEY, Ann	CEB
CAPACCIO, Gina	MLK	MUNJAL, Neelam	LIND
CHAMBERLAIN, Carolyn	FDR	NEMETH, Diane	WAS
CHOKSI, Pranali	EDH	NICHOLS, Elizabeth	JMI
COGHLIN, Jennifer	TJM	NORMANT, Dawn	LNC
COX, Susan	FDR	PATEL, Minal	WBR

PARAPROFESSIONALS

CURRAN, Linda	MEN	PATEL, Shilpa	FDR
DAICHMAN, Karen	MLK	PEARLSTEIN, Allison	FDR
DEAKYNE, Jill	MAR	PELC, Patricia	MEN
DELIA, Carmen	JMP	PLASTINE, William	WWM
DEMPSEY, Debra	WAS	PREGO, Doreen	FDR
DENIS, Cedric	WWM	QUINN, Daniel	JAM
DEPASQUALE, Miriam	WBR	RADLER, Lois	JMI
DESAI, Rita	LNC	RAHMAN, Saadia	WAS
DINUZZO, Kathleen	FDR	ROBBINS, Denise	FDR
DOUGHERTY, Louise	BEN	ROCKER, Kathleen	FDR
DWORKIN, Caren	MAR	RONAN, Andrea	BEN
EBBRECHT, Joanne	MEN	RUSHEFSKY, Corinne	TJM
EICHERT, Cathy	WAS	SCHUCK, Karen	TJM
FERRAZZANO, Judith	BEN	SCHWARTZ, Mark	EDH
FINLEY, Deborah	WAS	SCHWARTZ, Shelley	FDR
FORD, Catherine	JMI	SEAGO, Susan	WAS
FOX, Rochelle	JMP	SEAGRIFF, Lorraine	LNC
GABRIEL, Janet	FDR	SERENYI, Lesley	WAS
GIARDINA, Elaine	WBR	SEYFFART, Kathleen	MLK
GOODMAN, Sharon	BEN	SHAH, Rena	FDR
GORE, Elizabeth	MAR	SHANKER, Lynn	MLK
GREENSTEIN, Victoria	JAM	SHAPIRO, Linda	EDH
GRIECO, Mark	WBR	SHELDON, Deborah	TJM
GRUTZMACHER, Lora	WWM	SHIP, Michele	WWM
HOOPS, Karen	WWM	STOREY, Melissa	EDH
JAFFE, Therese	MEN	THAKER, Vaishali	MEN
JAY, Cindy	CEB	TROIA, Christine	FDR
JENSEN, William	WWM	TUCHFELD, Joan	MEN
JOHNSON, Cathleen	MAR	UTRECHT, Ellen	JAM
JONES, Lorriane	WAS	VARMA, Sabeena	MLK
KAPITAN, Mary	LNC	WALDRON, Karen	CEB
KELLY-RUSSO, Margaret	CEB	WALES, Lisa	MAR
KHANNA, Babita	MLK	WILKEN, Sima	EDH
KUMAR, Indira	FDR	ZEBROWSKI, Linda	JPH
LAW, Kathleen	MLK	NARDONE, James - ISS	EDH
LEFRAK, Bonnie	CEB	ALLENDE, Isabel - ESL	WAS
LISTASH, Barbara	MON	COHEN, Sheri - ESL	JMP
LOMBARDI, Mary	WAS	KELLER, Rich - OOD	JPH
<u>SECURITY GUARDS</u>			
ADAMS, Richard	EDH	RAMOS, Jimmy	EDH
MALUTA, Jason	JPH	RUCHINSKI, Joseph	EDH
MCKNIGHT, Ernestine	JPH	URBANSKI, Edward	EDH
MILLER, Michael	JPH	WILLIAMS, George	JPH
<u>TEACHER AIDES</u>			
COLLETTA, Patricia	WWM	SHIRLEY, Patricia	JPH
CUCCOLO, Joan	FDR	SULLIVAN, Kathleen	HHM
SHAH, Nita	MEN		

Mr. Maeroff asked for a motion to approve the reduction in force list. Mr. Van Pelt made the motion, seconded by Ms. Szilagyi. Mr. Michaud took roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Bonderowitz, Mrs. Ward, Mr. Van Pelt,
Ms. Szilagyi, Mr. Maeroff

NAYS: Mrs. Iyer, Mr. Romano, Mrs. Anes,
Mr. Dickinson

The motion was carried.

IX. BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Van Pelt stated that he will review the line items of the budget again to see if additional cuts can be made in order to eliminate the need to privatize the paraprofessionals.

Mrs. Bonderowitz stated that she will need all the information on the budget to help determine if there is an alternative.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

XI. ADJOURN TO PRIVILEGED SESSION

Mr. Michaud read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 PL 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist;

NOW, THEREFORE
BE IT RESOLVED: by the Board of Education of the Township of Edison, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matters:

➤ Discuss Superintendent Candidates

It is anticipated at this time that the above-stated subject matter shall be made public at such time as the need for non-disclosure no longer exists.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Mr. Maeroff asked for a motion to adjourn to closed session at 12:14 A.M. Mr. Dickinson made the motion, seconded by Ms. Szilagyi. Mr. Michaud took a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Bonderowitz, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Iyer,
Mr. Romano, Mrs. Anes, Mr. Van Pelt,
Mr. Dickinson, Ms. Szilagyi, Mr. Maeroff

NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

XII. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Mr. Maeroff asked for a motion to reconvene the public portion of this June 1, 2010 special meeting at 1:52 A.M. Mrs. Anes made the motion, seconded by Mr. Romano. Mr. Michaud took roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

AYES: Mrs. Bonderowitz, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Iyer,
Mr. Romano, Mrs. Anes, Mr. Dickinson,
Ms. Szilagyi, Mr. Maeroff

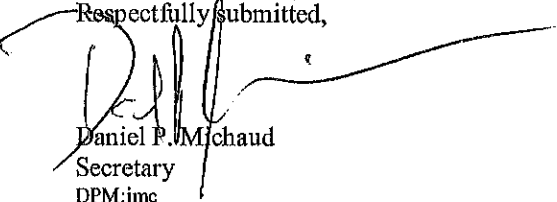
NAYS: None

The motion was carried.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. Maeroff asked for a motion to adjourn this June 1, 2010 special meeting of the Edison Township Board of Education at 1:53 A.M. Mrs. Ward made the motion, seconded by Ms. Szilagyi and approved by all members present.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel P. Michaud
Secretary
DPM:jmc