

Souderton Area School District
Board of School Directors
760 Lower Road
Souderton, PA 18964

A special public meeting of the Souderton Area Board of School Directors was held on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, at the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Bernard S. Currie, followed by instructions on meeting protocol, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. William R. Stone, Jr., Board Secretary, called the roll. Board members present were:

PRESENT:	Jill S. Basile	Scott C. Jelinski
	Nicholas A. Braccio	Ken R. Keith
	William J. Brong	Thomas A. Kwiatkowski
	Bernard S. Currie	Donna M. Scheuren
	Matt Holliday	

SOLICITOR: Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.

Also present at the meeting were: Maryellen Brousseau, Donna Brown, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Bill Hazel, Dr. Christopher Hey, Mark James, Dr. Frederick Johnson, Carol Luciani, Tim Roberts, Elisa Snedaker (Treasurer), William Stone, Jr. (Secretary), Dr. Sam Varano, a reporter from *The Reporter* newspaper, and community members.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No public comment at this time.

ACTION BY BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Johnson announced that Mr. Stone would be making a presentation on the 2012-2013 Final Budget.

Mr. Stone presented an executive summary of the budget which includes:

- 3% Real Estate Tax Increase
- \$1.5 M in revenue enhancements and expenditure reductions in accordance with Policy #603 (#1 to #11)
- Revenue equaling \$107,467,055
- Expenditures equaling \$107,385,077

Mr. Stone concluded his presentation by stating that the 2012-2013 Final Budget was presented as a balanced budget.

The final revenue budget contains components that will require a 3.0% real estate tax increase.

Mr. Stone explained how the tax increase was calculated. The implications of the calculation shows an increase of 0.815 mills over the 2011-2012 rate and an annual increase of \$122.25 in real estate taxes for a home assessed at \$150,000. Homeowners with approved Homestead/Farmstead status will receive \$187.66 in the form of a tax credit on their real estate tax bill. Seventy-nine percent of the revenue budget

ACTION BY BOARD MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

comes from local sources. At this point, Mr. Stone reviewed selected revenue areas and talked about the increase or decrease in those areas over the current year's estimate.

Mr. Stone spent some time reviewing the most significant changes between the Proposed Final Budget and the Final Budget.

The expenditure side of the budget was reviewed by Mr. Stone. Forty percent of the expenditure budget is spent on regular education, while 15% of the expenditure budget is spent on special education.

Dr. Johnson recommended that the Board move forward with a motion to approve the 2012-2013 Final Budget for the Souderton Area School District.

There was a motion from Mr. Jelinski, with a second from Mr. Keith to close the discussion on the budget and take a vote. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 8 affirmative votes to 1 negative vote (Mr. Brong voting no), it was. . .

RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors approve the Souderton Area School District 2012-2013 Final Budget as presented:

The Finance Committee is recommending adoption of the 2012-2013 Final Budget in the amount of \$107,385,077 and local taxes to support this budget are established as listed:

The REAL ESTATE TAX of 28.005 mills and a PER CAPITA TAX of \$5.00 under Section 679 be levied, and,

The following Act 511 taxes are continued for the 2012-2013 fiscal year:

REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX.....	1%
EARNED INCOME TAX.....	1%
PER CAPITA TAX.....	\$10.00

The Real Estate Tax, Earned Income Tax on residents, and the Per Capita Taxes under Act 511 are shared equally with municipalities. **EXHIBIT A**

Motion to Approve the 2012 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

Dr. Johnson recommended that the Board move forward with a motion to approve the 2012 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution as presented by Mr. Stone.

There was a motion from Mr. Jelinski, with a second from Mrs. Basile to close the discussion on the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution and take a vote. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 9 affirmative votes to 0 negative votes, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors approve the 2012 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution as presented.

EXHIBIT B

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ruth Potter, resident of Lower Salford Township, read a statement on behalf of parents and community members regarding the possibility of redistricting and closure of Lower Salford Elementary School. She presented a petition to the Board with over 300 names of people who want to stop the closure of Lower Salford Elementary School. **EXHIBIT C**

Mr. Currie responded by mentioning that the elementary enrollment topic would be discussed at the Operations Committee meeting to be held later in the evening. He invited the parents and community members to stay for the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no other business to discuss, a motion was made by Mrs. Basile, with a second by Mr. Keith to adjourn the meeting. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 9 affirmative votes to 0 negative votes, it was . . .

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 6:49 PM.

Respectfully,

William R. Stone, Jr.
School Board Secretary