

**Springfield Township Board of Education
Jobstown, NJ 08041
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 29, 2014**

Call to Order: A **Public Hearing** on the proposed FY2014-2015 School District Budget was called to order by Mr. Reinisch on Tuesday, April 29, 2014, at 7:38 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

Roll Call of Members:

David Reinisch, President -- present
Michael Ritterman, Vice President -- present
Joseph M. Bucs -- present
Christopher Corbo -- present
Andrew B. Eaton -- present

Lisa Giovanelli – *arrived at 7:45 p.m.*
Gregory Madia -- present
Dennis Schmieder -- present
James Specca – present

Others present:

Edith Conroy, Christina Moskal

Public Notice:

As per the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6, notice of this Public Hearing of the Springfield Township Board of Education to be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 7:30 p.m., in the cafeteria, in Jobstown, New Jersey.

Sent to: Burlington County Times
Board of Education Members
Springfield Township Clerk

Posted: Springfield Township School
Board of Education Office
Springfield Twp Municipal Building, Jobstown, NJ

Pledge of Allegiance:

The President led the Board and the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Before a matter is placed on the agenda, Administration has thoroughly reviewed it. Board Members preview the agenda items five days prior to the meeting and discuss questionable items with the Superintendent.

The Springfield Township BOE welcomes public comment during our public meetings. Please be advised, neither School Board Members nor Administration shall engage the audience in dialogue or attempt to respond to a particular comment at that time. However, the appropriate Administrator or Board Representative will issue a reply in a timely manner. If a response is requested, please provide your contact information on the sign-in sheet or contact the Administration separately. Public Comment #1 is reserved for agenda specific comments or statements. Public Comment #2 is for general comments or statements.

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Public Comment #1:

1. Mr. Pantano said that he was surprised to see a 2% increase. He asked for the justification for the tax increase moving forward, given the excess fund balance and capital reserve that was used for the roof and gym projects.
2. Mr. Schleider stated that the 2% tax levy increase is needed to keep the district current, including readiness for PARCC testing and essential technology that keeps up with the future.
3. Mrs. Sepessy spoke about her involvement with technology, Rider University, and the next generation science standards. She said that these items are needed to prepare students for the future.
4. Mr. Sobotka said that although no one disagrees that technology is important, there is a concern about the security measures that are in place for the prevention of theft of the technology.
5. Ms. Jacques stated that as a taxpayer she is disappointed that the Board is not particularly transparent with providing residents without children budget information. She also said that there is no opportunity for input regarding what goes into the budget.

FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET HEARING AND APPROVAL

A. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Presentation

B. Questions and comments from the Board were entertained

C. Questions and comments from the Public were entertained

D. Formal action regarding the FY2015 Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, the Springfield Township Board of Education hereby adopts the following budget for the 2014-15 school year for transmittal to the New Jersey Department of Education, as approved by the Burlington County Executive County Superintendent.

The proposed budget includes sufficient funds to provide curriculum and instruction which will enable all students to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards, and is in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A and N.J.A.C. Title 6 and 6A.

**Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement
2014-2015**

WHEREAS, the Springfield Township Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

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WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out-of-District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out-of-District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$30,000 for all staff and board members.

Adoption of the 2014-2015 Budget

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL REVENUES</u>	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2014-15 Total Expenditures	4,912,485	77,679	0	4,990,164
Less: Anticipated Revenues	<u>1,462,236</u>	<u>77,679</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,539,915</u>
Taxes to be Raised	<u>3,450,249</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,450,249</u>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to acknowledge that the 2014-2015 budget as described above results in a general fund tax levy of \$3,450,249.00.

Motion to send budget back to FFT Committee for review: Eaton Second: Bucs

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Bucs/Eaton/Madia/Ritterman

No: Corbo/Giovanelli/Reinisch/Schmieder/Specca

Motion Failed: 4-5

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Motion to Approve: Giovanelli

Second: Specca

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Corbo/Giovanelli/Reinisch/Ritterman/Schmieder/Specca

No: Bucs/Eaton/Madia

Approval: 6-3

Public Comment #2:

1. Mr. Schleider said that he loved seeing Northern students at tonight's meeting and is sad to hear that technology is not being utilized for instruction. He shared that teachers fight for the limited technology available in Springfield. He also mentioned that the community will have an opportunity to be involved during the upcoming Education and Technology Showcase.
2. Mr. Sobotka said that it was interesting for BOE members to state that the problem may be with the referendum. He spoke about the recent revaluation and how the public may be hesitant if they see a bond issue. He said that the Board had an opportunity to get the trust of the public tonight.
3. Mrs. Giovanelli mentioned that the last time the district did a 0% tax increase the referendum still failed. She said that the cuts that would have been made were not fair to the children.
4. Mr. Hale said that the Board not taking the opportunity to re-look at the budget does not do a lot to secure the trust of the community. He also spoke regarding his stance on the past referendum and his thoughts regarding what he felt was a disservice to the community.
5. Mr. Murphy said that he agrees with Mr. Eaton. He also referenced the three prior failed referendums. He also spoke about the student to employee ratio.
6. Ms. Jacques said that she was disappointed that the Board did not take the opportunity to review the budget for an extra 30 days. She also mentioned that she is glad to hear about transparency for next year.
7. Mr. Ritterman said that the Board should have taken an extra 30 days to review the budget. He also mentioned that trust comes from the end result and the administration deserves to be supported in the upcoming year.
8. Mr. Corbo said that he supports Mr. Ritterman's comment. He said that he understands that it is very difficult to project out 18 months of costs. He mentioned that he wanted a 0% tax levy increase in the beginning, but he listened to the administration and now understands that it is in his children's best interest to have the 2% tax levy increase. He also noted that he did listen to the community input despite his "yes" vote.
9. Mr. Pantano spoke regarding fund balance, looking at data differently, and the financial health of the school.
10. Mr. Specca said that administration is running the school efficiently and they are keeping the district healthy. He said that funds are being kept in the system and are not being wasted.
11. Mr. Reinisch thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. He encouraged everyone to attend all meetings and school functions, not just the annual budget hearing.

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12. Mr. Ritterman suggested that if anyone has questions throughout the year and are concerned about transparency, they should take advantage of the opportunity to go to administration to ask questions.
13. Mr. Hale commended administration for coming in at 2% and mentioned that other districts in the county are going above 2%. Mr. Hale asked why the Board could not take advantage of an additional 30 day review of the budget.
14. Mr. Lippincott said that he was confused as to how someone could ask what the district is doing with iPads. He said that his grandchildren ask to use his iPad frequently and said that the district is need of more technology. He mentioned that he has been attending all BOE Meetings. Mr. Lippincott also said that the budget numbers were explained in the presentation and everyone should applaud the Board and administration for this budget.

Mrs. Conroy announced that the second Strategic Action Planning meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. She invited everyone to attend.

Motion to Enter Executive Session: Time: 10:09 p.m.

Purpose: Personnel

Motion: Giovanelli

Second: Ritterman

Approval: 9-0

Motion to return to Regular Session: Time: 10:19 p.m.

Motion: Giovanelli

Second: Specca

Approval: 9-0

Motion to adjourn: Time: 10:20 p.m.

Motion: Giovanelli

Second: Specca

Approval: 9-0

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Moskal
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary