

MEETING OF THE LAKEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON, MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009, AT 8:30 A.M., IN THE PRINCETON AVENUE AUDITORIUM, 655 PRINCETON AVENUE, LAKEWOOD, NEW JERSEY 08701

Mr. Galdo, Board President, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Cynthia Romano, Administrative Assistant to the Board read the following notice:

SUNSHINE LAW

***Sunshine
Law***

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231, of the Laws of 1976 (THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT), Mr. Finger notified the public that notice of the date, time, location and agenda of this meeting, to the extent known, was provided at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the commencement of this meeting in the following manner:

1. By posting such notice on the public announcement board of the Lakewood Board of Education Offices, and the Lakewood Township Municipal Building.
2. By mailing such notice to the offices of the Asbury Park Press and the Tri-Town News.
3. By filing such notice with the Board Secretary.
4. By mailing such notice to all individuals who requested and paid for a copy of same.

ROLL CALL:

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Mrs. Miccio, Mr. Neumann, Mr. Ostreicher, Mr. Silver, Mr. Galdo. Mr. Thomas arrived 8:35 a.m.

Board Members Absent: Mr. Grunhut, Mr. Gonter, Mr. Tift

Also Attending: Eugenia E. Lawson, Acting

Also

Superintendent, William T.
Andersen, Assistant Superin-
tendent, Robert S. Finger,
Business Administrator,
Michael I. Inzelbuch, Esq.

Attending

MOTION TO APPROVE ENTIRE AGENDA

***Motion To
Approve Agenda***

Mr. Ostreicher moved, seconded by Mr. Neumann
to approve the entire agenda.

Mr. Finger read the following resolution into the
minutes:

Approval to adopt the revised 2009-10 budget
incorporating the revisions approved by the Lake-
wood Township Committee as follows:

***Revised
2009-10 Budget
Resolution***

WHEREAS, the Lakewood Township Committee has
approved revisions to the 2009-10 budget that was de-
feated by the voters at the annual school election held
on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 and;

WHEREAS, the Lakewood Township Board of Educa-
tion, has reviewed the revisions approved by the Lake-
wood Township Committee and;

WHEREAS, the Lakewood Township Board of Educa-
tion is in agreement with said revisions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lake-
wood Township Board of Education certifies the revised
tax levy for the 2009-10 school year as follows:

	<u>Defeated Levy</u>	<u>Revised Levy</u>
Total General Fund	\$ 72,381,018	\$ 71,593,625
Total Debt Service Fund	\$ <u>1,242,075</u>	\$ <u>1,242,075</u>

Total	\$ 73,623,093	\$ 72,835,700
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lakewood Township Board of Education approves reductions to the following appropriation line accounts for the 2009-10 school year as follows:

11-000-262-420	\$646,239
11-000-291-270	<u>\$141,154</u>
	\$787,393

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lakewood Township Board of Education approves the Tax Levy Payment Schedule as follows:

	<u>General Fund</u>
7/1/2009	\$ 5,900,000.00
8/1/2009	\$ 6,693,625.00
9/1/2009	\$ 5,900,000.00
10/1/2009	\$ 5,900,000.00
11/1/2009	\$ 5,900,000.00
12/1/2009	\$ 5,900,000.00
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	\$ 36,193,625.00

1/1/2010	\$ 5,900,000.00
2/1/2010	\$ 5,900,000.00
3/1/2010	\$ 5,900,000.00
4/1/2010	\$ 5,900,000.00
5/1/2010	\$ 5,900,000.00
6/1/2010	\$ 5,900,000.00
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	\$ 35,400,000.00

Total	\$ 71,593,625.00
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Debt Service Fund

7/1/2009	\$	621,037.50
1/1/2010	\$	621,037.50
	\$	<u>1,242,075.00</u>

Mr. Silver – “I just wanted to commend all the Board members and the staff members for all they do on behalf of the Township and I appreciate their diligence in trying to trim the budget as much as they can. I feel however that more needs to be done to try and do as many cuts as possible. The average taxpayer on the street who I speak to has made it very clear to me that they would prefer not to have any tax levy at all.”

Mr. Silver

Mr. Ostreicher – “Do I understand Mr. Silver to say that they don’t want any tax levy at all and to abolish the public school system as well as all the services that the private schools get. Why can’t we stick to the agenda. Let Mr. Silver cast his vote and we will move on. There is a time for comment at the end.”

Mr. Ostreicher

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Mr. Silver – “Through the Chair. I just want to rectify what Mr. Ostreicher said. I said any tax increases. But anyways due to the financial turmoil, this year I feel does not warrant a tax increase and I would just vote no.”

Mr. Silver

Mr. Galdo – “Let’s not get out of hand with this. I accept your statements Mr. Silver. I’ll make a lot of changes if you want. I’ll eliminate bussing, special education and a lot of other things on the other side of the track. I don’t want to go that route. We are unified body and we’re going to stay that way.”

Mr. Galdo

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Mr. President, as of today, I’m still the Board Parliamentarian. I’m going to stick to what the law is. Members have the right at the appropriate time and I will go over the Roberts Rules with you in closed session next time, but I believe Mr. Silver has voted no and it’s his God given right. So if we could go to the next person.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

ROLL CALL ON TOWNSHIP CUTS:

Roll Call

YES: Mrs. Miccio, Mr. Neumann,
Mr. Ostreicher, Mr. Galdo

NO: Mr. Silver

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION FAILED

NEEDS MAJORITY OF FULL BOARD

Mr. Inzelbuch – “You asked me when we spoke Sunday, to ask the following question. Just so we are all on the same page. Did the Board members who are here receive their packages on Friday. If you could do a roll call Ms. Romano.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

ROLL CALL ON PACKET DELIVERY

Roll Call

YES: Mrs. Miccio, Mr. Neumann,
Mr. Ostreicher, Mr. Silver,
Mr. Galdo

NO: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION PASSED

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Mr. Galdo – “Let me tell you why I asked for that and then you can finish. There has been a lot of controversy in the backroom so to speak concerning the legitimacy of people to

Mr. Galdo

say well I didn't know, I didn't read. Maybe I should have. When I became President of this body with the help of the Vice President we insisted agendas be provided in a timely manner. I do not accept the excuse that you didn't read. You are given agendas in a timely manner and read them. If you want to play politics, you came to the right place because I'll cut you off every time. I suggest you read those agendas and don't play stupid like you did recently. Now Michael go ahead."

Mrs. Miccio – "Mr. President, in view of what you just said, I would like to make a statement. I received the packet and I read it. However when I saw the contracts I made notes but then we get a new agenda and that's no excuse again. What is unexcused is the way we run the conference meeting. We spent an awful lot of time discussing something that I vaguely remember what it was. We never went over the contracts or salaries or anything else. And this is what the Board conferences are for. We didn't get out here in public until 9:30 p.m. that day and that is a disgrace. But what did we discuss. It was one contract. Up to a point, I agree with Mr. Silver. I read his statements in the paper and I did not accept that for an excuse that you had been duped sir. That is not. My excuse is the fact that I missed one meeting before. When I looked at the contract, I had questions, but I said you know what Irene, you deserve it because you did not attend one of the meetings. So that must have been discussed. That was my statement, however, unless we start running the meetings properly and go through the agenda without the changes that drive me crazy. I spend a lot of time analyzing the agenda when I get it home and making notes and then I come here and I'm handed a new piece of paper. And I don't

Mrs. Miccio

have the time to go through my agenda, recopy the notes. Unless we start reviewing the agenda in conference, I'm going out to the public and I will make long statements."

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Mr. Inzelbuch – "Through the Chair. Just so we know and as Board Parliamentarian I have to let you know this, there was a vote to accept the cuts of the Township. Mr. Thomas did arrive about two minutes. You need a full majority of the Board. That's the only item on the agenda for today. There were four votes to accept the cuts if I'm correct and one vote by Mr. Silver not to accept the cuts. You need five votes. You don't need to make a new motion. The Board just has to allow you to vote. All in favor to allow Mr. Thomas to vote. And Mr. Thomas your vote is in favor to accept the cuts. Now we have five votes to accept the Township cuts."

Mr. Inzelbuch

Ms. Romano – "We now have five votes to accept the Township cuts which is a majority of the full Board. Therefore the motion passes."

Ms. Romano

Mrs. Miccio – "One more very short statement by me. I am very grateful to the Township that they were so modest in their cutting. I think I pay a lot more taxes than some people here and I can't afford them, but I also know where the money goes from this packet and in my conscience I say you have to vote for it. In my heart I know this is going to kill me again when I go to pay taxes, but I do. I pay my taxes and I struggle like most people do because I know where most of the money goes. I'm finished for today."

Mrs. Miccio

Mr. Galdo – "If no one else has anything, I would like to make a motion for adjournment."

Mr. Galdo

Mr. Silver – "Through the Chair. I want just to

Mr. Silver

comment on Irene. I agree with her 100%. I was trying to say when I was interrupted, that this year in particular due to the financial turmoil and everything else, many people who can't put food on their table were not looking for a tax increase of this year of all years in general. But I do agree with Irene very much what she said and everyone does a very good job. There is no one saying anything otherwise."

Mr. Galdo – "Thank you. All I want to say to that is someone said something about we don't know about things. We are going to institute something new this year. When you receive your committee

Mr. Galdo

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assignments, you will note there are dates listed the first and third or whatever, the second and fourth, and I anticipate and expect committee chairs to call at least one meeting a month. If we decide to go into workshops because of the situation concerning how we run this district monetarily, educationally, personnel and the like, we will call workshops to prepare us before we go out to the next public meeting to vote on these things. We are \$138,000,000 corporation for want of another term that produces one thing education and we are going to run this year as such more efficiently. If we call a blooming committee meeting, we expect you as a chair to chair it. You will have the information you need. So in answering what you said to me before Irene, we are going to try and keep everybody more informed."

Mr. Ostreicher – "Through the Chair. I do want to comment on Mrs. Miccio's comment and yes there are many times revised additions of the agenda that we receive as we enter into private session. However I want to commend Ms. Romano. These changes are typically delineated immediately as we walk in. This particular item was put on or taken off. So it doesn't require a tremendous amount of review when these changes do come in. As far as any changes or any-

Mr. Ostreicher

thing that happened in the previous meeting, we had an exact outline of all the raises and all the proposals what the old prices were and what the new prices were and if anybody to say that they weren't aware, they didn't understand or they didn't realize or I don't know if I'm quoting you correctly. Did you say that you were duped? Because I don't trust the press when they quote people, they do sometimes have a tendency to misquote. Did you say that Mr. Silver?"

Mr. Silver – "Through the Chair. I did say that on the agenda. I did not say that, I think it was the newspaper that wrote that."

Mr. Silver

Mr. Ostreicher – "I appreciate it that you clarified it. I would have been very upset to know that actually a member would have used that particular quote. And I appreciate the clarification. In any

Mr. Ostreicher

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case I do want to point out that the changes are typically very minor and Mrs. Miccio I believe that Ms. Romano always points out exactly what these changes are."

Mr. Inzelbuch – "If I could, the Board President and I spoke this Sunday. There are several things the Board President wants to institute. One is that the person who delivers the packages on typically at least 24 hours before will sign a certification that he left either at the door or gave to the person the agenda. Number two, I have a concern, we just finished a matter, an OPRA litigation and I would like a certification from the Business Administrator that in fact the agenda was posted on the website 24 hours before. From what I understand, there are some technical situations, but that is Mr. Rosenberg's

Mr. Inzelbuch

job. We will have these certifications. Thank you Ms. Romano.”

Mr. Silver – “Through the Chair. I would just like to respond to Mr. Ostreicher if he could not interrupt me. At looking at the agenda, it actually didn’t say anything about any comparisons. It just had the actual price next to the reinstatement of the services. Akiva Gonter is actually the only one who requested a comparison chart at which I was not informed of until closed session. Typically when there is a new-comer, somebody takes the time off to tell the new-comer that they should look at the agenda beforehand and if they have any questions, they could request a comparison as did Mr. Gonter as he is a veteran here. So at the actual agenda which I had in front of me, it did not say anything about a raise. So I just wanted to correct him. That’s all.”

Mr. Silver

Mr. Neumann – “Through the Chair. I feel that all the agenda items have been gone through and discussed. I would like to make a motion to adjourn.”

Mr. Neumann

Mr. Thomas – “No, through the Chair. I was trying to speak for about ten minutes. Listen I just want to reiterate two things. One, something Chet said is very crucial to this Board and we haven’t been doing it in a very long time. He spoke to the committees and the assignments at hand. If we are going to be about con-

Mr. Thomas

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ducting true business of education in this district, people are going to have to take their committees seriously because we have some very grave issues to deal with in this district. Two what Mrs. Miccio said as it relates to our agenda and the agenda coming up later, there needs to be a deadline as to what can be added. I’m getting tired of walking in here and I don’t care if it’s written out, spelled out or whatever, if you are prepared to talk about one thing and you’ve

got this paper, this organization here. We have five different stacks. We have the things that are fixed, all the things we have to read and the old agendas and yes this one was written out, but we used to sometimes come in and they would change the whole agenda. Take this one and give that one and that is no reflection on Ms. Romano. It's a reflection of the simple fact that things are allowed to be added quite late at times and not sometimes, it's regular. I could understand sometimes. It happens to us every single Board meeting. I don't think there has been a meeting in the last three or four that we got an agenda that wasn't changed. And to speak to the last point. We are responsible as Board members to read what's on the agenda. If we vote for the agenda irregardless of what's in it then we are the ones that are responsible for every single item in there. Myself included. If I vote for something and later I say I didn't know, then I just made a very stupid decision that doesn't reflect on anyone else other than me. So what Mrs. Miccio said is going to be very true going forward our meetings are going to take a whole lot more time. Items are going to have to be dealt with, line by line, item by item because individuals may not have been up on their game. I'm not going to say I was duped because I definitely wasn't. I didn't pay attention to everything that I needed to pay attention to and I'm responsible for that and me alone. So I have to do better as a Board member and that's where I fell short and I can't blame it on anyone else other than myself."

Mr. Galdo – "I want to step on one other thing, then I'm going to close out. You just heard me talk about workshops. Let us confront the fact dear Board members we are running a \$138,000,000 corporation whose product is education. If we must and I'm talking very serious about this, develop workshops to criteria that

Mr. Galdo

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comes before the agenda, whether it be things with our Board Attorney, with our Superintendent, with our financial office, we are going to do that. This Board cannot just afford to show up, eat lunch and go about its business. It's too serious now and I am confronting the fact that workshops prior to general agenda meetings and public meetings may be a way to go to resolve some of the business of this Board."

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

Mr. Neumann moved, seconded by Mr. Ostreicher to adjourn the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

Roll Call

YES: Mrs. Miccio, Mr. Neumann,
Mr. Ostreicher, Mr. Silver,
Mr. Thomas, Mr. Galdo

NO: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Galdo adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Mtg. Adj.

Respectfully submitted,

**ROBERT S. FINGER
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/
BOARD SECRETARY**

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