

March 21, 2013

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on March 21, 2013, at the New Providence High School/Middle School Cafeteria, 35 Pioneer Drive, by the Board President, Mr. Wolak.

Present on roll call were William Dibble, Robert Dinerman, David Hasenkopf, Ira Krauss, Adam Smith, Susan Vogel and John Wolak. Also present were Dr. David Miceli, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Deborah Feinberg, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services; James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Sandra Searing, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Supervision; and approximately 30 members of the public.

Mr. Wolak led in the salute to the flag.

Mr. Wolak read the following statement:

This is a public meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence. Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with PL 1975, Chapter 231, in that an annual notice was made in conformance with Section 13 of the Act.

Whenever the business of the Board requires it to convene to Closed Session, the session will begin no later than 10:00 p.m. At the conclusion of the need for Closed Session, the Board will reconvene to the public portion of the meeting. At that time the Board will complete any other business that may be before it and the public will then be given an opportunity to be heard before the meeting is adjourned.

Mr. Wolak welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. He turned the meeting over to Mr. Smith, Finance Chairperson to begin the 2013/2014 Proposed Budget Presentation.

2013/2014 Proposed Budget Presentation – Public Hearing

Mr. Smith thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He stated this is a good sound budget. The budget process has been on-going since last fall at the school level with the department heads and principals. Dr. Miceli and Mr. Testa presented the proposed budget to the Finance Committee in late January, 2013. The Finance Committee went through the proposed budget line by line. The preliminary budget was sent to the County for review. The County then sends their comments back to the District. The proposed budget is then placed on the Agenda and presented to the Community, with a question/answer session at the Public Hearing. Since the law has changed and there is no public vote, the Board members vote on the proposed budget at the Public Hearing. Once approved, the budget is sent to the County. Mr. Smith read the District's *Mission Statement* into the record. He then reviewed the following, in detail: the Board's five year goals (September 2010-2015); District Philosophy; Student Achievement of the Class of 2012, the Arts and Athletics; recent recognitions for the District, including the District's #1 ranking in New Jersey Monthly Magazine; the Board's Budget Goals, which include reviewing all programs and staffing, maximizing operational efficiencies, adhering to the 2% tax levy law, and maintaining the culture of the District; Budget Highlights such as additional staff and continued personal learning initiative with the iPad; and On-going Efficiencies such as co-op purchasing for school supplies, ACES program, in-house professional development, shared services with the Borough and other districts, and solar energy. Mr. Smith stated that the total proposed budget for the 2013/2014 school year is \$33,821,555. There will be no cuts in academic programs or co-curricular activities. The increase in general fund expenditures from the 2012/2013 original budget to the 2013/2014 proposed budget is \$294,739, or .88%. This proposed budget is based on an estimated 10% increase in health and dental benefit premiums. Mr. Smith noted that this proposed budget includes employee health and dental benefit contributions in the amount of \$593,354. Mr. Smith

reviewed the budgetary cost per pupil and the operating fund unrestricted state aid. As for revenue: the 2013/2014 state aid allocation increased by \$29,613, which will be used in next years budget to offset property taxes; debt service in the amount of \$343,996 was reduced by \$51,599 (15%); and \$976,400 of surplus appropriated, \$63,790 more than 2013/2013. Mr. Smith explained the District's history of state aid. For the 2008/2009 school year, the District received \$1,377,109 in state aid; the 2013/2014 state aid allocation per the funding formula prior to adjustment is \$1,776,806; and the 2013/2014 state aid allocation is \$871,537. The 2013/2014 proposed school tax levy has increased by \$242,546 or .78% from the 2012/2013 school tax levy. Mr. Smith noted that the District does not need to request any waivers. Also, this District budgets to need, not cap. Mr. Smith explained the effect of this proposed budget on the average household. The average home is assessed at \$286,190 (a market value of \$552,063). The cost of the first half of 2013/2014 is \$47.00, with the previously approved second half of 2012/2013 of \$94.00, which is a total of \$141.00, or 2%, for the 2013 calendar year. He added that the total tax base decreased by \$11,592,136 from 2012. If the tax base stayed flat, the increase would have been \$77.00 or 1.1%. Mr. Smith stated that the District will continue to control expenses and do our best to provide students with a great education at a reasonable price.

Mr. Wolak thanked Mr. Smith for his comprehensive budget presentation.

Mr. Wolak, Board President, declared a Public Hearing at 8:11 p.m., on the proposed 2013/2014 school budget.

Public Comments/Questions

Mr. Corsi, 28 8th Street, asked the Board how much is left in surplus.

Mr. Testa responded 2%, approximately \$600,000.

Mr. Corsi asked if that is what the Board tries to keep in surplus.

Mr. Testa responded yes, the District attempts to have a 2% surplus, as required by law.

Mr. Corsi commented that the public should know that as long as the budget is 2% or less, there is no public vote on the budget.

There being no further comments from the public, the Board President declared the public hearing on the proposed 2013/2014 school budget closed at 8:13 p.m.

Mr. Wolak thanked everyone attending the Public Hearing.

ACTION ITEMS

Finance

Mr. Smith, Committee Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 3 as listed below:

2013/2014 Budget Resolution Adopted

1. Adopt the Proposed 2013/2014 School Budget:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence, County of Union, New Jersey, to approve the 2013/2014 school district budget as follows:

| | <u>General Fund</u> | <u>Special Revenues</u> | <u>Debt Service</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 2013/14 Total Expenditures | \$33,821,555 | \$480,207 | \$1,486,537 | \$35,788,299 |
| Less: Anticipated Revenues | 2,380,347 | 480,207 | 292,397 | 3,152,951 |
| Local Tax Levy | <u>\$31,441,208</u> | <u>\$ - 0 -</u> | <u>\$1,194,140</u> | <u>\$32,635,348</u> |

2013/2014 Maximum Expenditures Approved

2. Approve the maximum expenditures for the 2013/2014 school year as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Public Relations Costs | \$11,331.00 |
| Legal Services | \$60,000.00 |
| Student Recognition Awards | \$ 9,000.00 |

Maximum Expenditure Resolution Approved

3. Approve the following resolution:

The Board of Education approves establishing a maximum travel expenditure amount of \$69,000.00 for the 2013/2014 school year. The maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2012/2013 school year is \$69,000.00, of which, \$20,362.95 has been spent and \$21,993.33 encumbered to date.

Seconded by: Mr. Krauss

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Yea</u> Mr. Dibble | <u>Yea</u> Mr. Krauss |
| <u>Yea</u> Mr. Dinerman | <u>Yea</u> Mr. Smith |
| <u>Yea</u> Mr. Hasenkopf | <u>Yea</u> Mrs. Vogel |
| <u>Yea</u> Mr. Wolak | |

Public Hearing

Mr. Wolak opened the meeting to the public at 8:16 p.m.

Mrs. Turner
12 Colony

Asked for an update and any progress made since the last Board meeting regarding the rising number of students in the classroom.

Mr. Wolak responded that the Board and administration continue to monitor and review the ongoing process of this matter. Additionally, since the last Board meeting, Dr. Miceli gave a presentation at Salt Brook School to the PTA. He also met with the principal, teachers, and staff. Once the investigation is complete, he will present his findings to the Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Committee, and the Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security Committee. At this time, it has been determined that given where we are in the school calendar year and due to the circumstances, there will not be a short term solution. It is a long term matter and we must consider all aspects, including the facilities. There will be no short term implementation.

Mrs. Turner asked for a time frame on the matter.

Mr. Wolak responded at this time, it is difficult to predict a time frame. A solution will depend on many variables and options. He assured Mrs. Turner that the administration and Board committees are looking at the situation regularly and taking it very seriously. They are considering the broader scale district-wide, not just Salt Brook School. This matter requires careful study and review.

Mrs. Turner noted that at the last meeting, someone in the audience suggested that families may want to switch schools. Is that an option?

Mr. Wolak responded that presently, switching schools is not feasible, but is on the table for future consideration.

There being no other comments from the public, the President declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 8:18p.m.

Closed Session

Mr. Dinerman moved to adopt the following resolution:

1. This body shall on March 21, 2013 at 8:19 p.m. in the New Providence High School/Middle School Cafeteria, 35 Pioneer Drive, discuss in closed session, pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act, specific matters which may generally be described as follows:
 - Personnel
 - Student matters related to Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying
2. The minutes of the discussion in closed session of the aforementioned matters may be disclosed to the public after final determination of action has been reached.

Mrs. Vogel seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Return to Public Session

The Board reconvened to public session at 9:51 p.m. Mr. Wolak called the Board to order.

Members present were Mr. Dibble, Mr. Dinerman, Mr. Hasenkopf, Mr. Krauss, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Vogel, and Mr. Wolak.

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mr. Krauss, and seconded by Mr. Dibble, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

James E. Testa, Board Secretary
3/21/13 Board Meeting/Public Hearing