

March 7, 2024

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY

The Board of Education held a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2024 beginning at 7:22 PM in the Summit High School auditorium. Those present: Mr. Cho, presiding, Mr. Colón, Ms. Cohn, Ms. Erday, Ms. Justice, Ms. Kelly, and Ms. Stanton.

Also present were Mr. Hough, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Jess, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Ms. Sarno, Assistant Business Administrator. There were two members of the public in attendance.

NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION

The following notice was presented:

Let the minutes reflect that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the regulations of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mr. Cho opened the meeting and asked that Mr. Colón, as the Operations Committee Chair, begin the discussion.

DISCUSSION – BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mr. Colón thanked the Business Office, specifically Mr. Jess and Ms. Sarno, for their hard work during this budget process. We want a prudent budget that maintains the level of excellence expected by the community. While this budget is fiscally responsible in light of a stubborn inflationary environment, it is also supportive of the educational resources that support Summit as leaders in public education. Considering this balance, the Operations Committee recommends the budget be approved tonight.

Ms. Kelly asked questions regarding the term “district adequacy”; addition of two Middle School teachers; assessing the popularity of current offerings; total cost of SEL initiatives; process for decisions related to district facility and capital projects; projected reserve balance at the end of this year. Mr. Jess, Mr. Hough and Mr. Cho responded.

Mr. Colón asked about expected grants to help fund the capital projects. Mr. Jess responded.

Mr. Cho stated this is his 4<sup>th</sup> budget cycle, and while most of the increases he has seen is due to increased salaries, the Business Office continues to try to capture savings where possible. The district is expanding programming and instructional initiatives in development of an excellent curriculum – the student demand and needs warrant so many of our increased expenses. This budget is consistent with the district goals.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Motion by Mr. Colón, seconded by Ms. Stanton, unanimously approved by voice vote to close public comment.

APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 SCHOOL BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. Colón moved the following:

RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2024-2025 School Year and sent to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in accordance with the statutory deadline for review and approval:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
2024-2025 Total Expenditures	\$85,367,333	\$ 777,773	0	\$86,145,106
Less Anticipated Revenues	12,133,400	777,773	0	12,911,173
Local Tax Levy to be Raised	\$73,233,933	0	0	\$73,233,933

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Local Source in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the public hearing be held in the Wilson Board Meeting Room on Friday, March 22, 2024 at 1:00 PM for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2024-2025 school year, and

FURTHER RESOLVED that included in the general fund appropriations the Summit City Board of Education authorize the approval of withdrawal from Capital Reserve in the amount of \$650,000 as follows:

- \$150,000 - Handicap ramp repair at Summit High School
- \$100,000 - Interior & exterior door replacement district-wide
- \$350,000 - Jefferson playground update
- \$ 50,000 - Bathroom renovations at Summit High School, and

FURTHER RESOLVED that as per N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2(d) included in the general fund appropriations, the Summit City Board of Education authorize the approval of withdrawal from Maintenance Reserve in the amount of \$550,000 as follows:

- \$350,000 – Replacement of flooring in H.S. auditorium & senior lounge

\$100,000 – Architect/engineering fees district-wide

\$100,000 – Floor replacement at LCJ Summit Middle School, and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for enrollment in the amount of \$364,875. The district intends to utilize this adjustment for supplies and materials necessary for the additional students, and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$307,852. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

NOTE: Figures subject to change up to the time of adoption of this resolution based on state aid figures or other adjustments

Seconded by Ms. Justice. The roll was called and all present voted “Aye.” The motion was declared adopted.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Erday, seconded by Ms. Kelly, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Derek J. Jess  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Summit Public Schools

