

PENNSAUKEN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Administration Building
1695 Hylton Road, Pennsauken, New Jersey 08110

**BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING – PUBLIC HEARING
(SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET)
Thursday, May 2, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Advanced written notice of this meeting of the Pennsauken Township Board of Education was transmitted to the Courier Post and the Burlington County Times. Notice transmitted in the legal notice section of the Courier Post and the Burlington County Times stating the time, date, location and that formal action may be taken at that time. Notice was also posted with the Township Clerk.

As President, I declare this to be a legal meeting of the Board of Education.

ROLL CALL

Board Member	Present	Absent
President: Mrs. Young	X	
Vice President: Ms. Johnson	X	
Mr. Alves	X	
Mr. Carey	X	
Mrs. Diaz	X	
Mrs. Hutton	X	
Mr. Jarbough-Rafeh		X
Mrs. Matos	X	
Mr. McDevitt		X

Also in attendance:

	Present	Absent
Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Tarchichi	X	
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary: Mr. Ogunkanmi	X	
Board Solicitor: Mr. Li	X	

FLAG SALUTE

- Moment of Silence

PRESENTATION

- 2024-25 PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

PUBLIC HEARING/COMMENT

The Board of Education now welcomes the public to comment on the items which are on our agenda tonight. Community members should first try to resolve their concerns by speaking directly to school administrators before bringing those concerns to the Board. It may not always be possible or appropriate for the Board to directly answer questions during the public comment period. Each speaker is allotted a maximum of two (2) minutes to make their statement. No one may speak more than once on the same topic. You are required to give your name and address before speaking. Please keep

your comments respectful and non-defamatory, and maintain the level of decorum appropriate for a public meeting where minors may be in the audience.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mrs. Diaz	X			Mr. McDevitt			
Mrs. Hutton	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mr. Jarbough-Rafeh							

APPROVAL TO: OPEN PUBLIC HEARING/COMMENT

MOTION BY: Mr. Carey

SECOND BY: Mr. Alves

MOTION: Carried

- **David Luthman, Resident – Expressed dissatisfaction regarding the impact of the budget on local tax payers.**
- **Matt Sax, Resident, PEA President – Thanked the Board and Dr. Tarchichi regarding positive changes in the curriculum.**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mrs. Diaz	X			Mr. McDevitt			
Mrs. Hutton	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mr. Jarbough-Rafeh							

APPROVAL TO: CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING/COMMENT

MOTION BY: Ms. Johnson

SECOND BY: Mr. Carey

MOTION: Carried

ITEMS FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL

BUSINESS & FINANCE

1. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the 2024-2025 Pennsauken Township School District budget as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local tax Levy</u>
General Fund	153,812,444.00	45,714,335.00
Reserve Transfers	9,000,000.00	
General Fund Grand Total	162,812,444.00	
Special Revenue Fund	6,108,293.00	
Debt Services Fund	2,487,844.00	1,862,473.00
Totals	171,408,581.00	47,576,808.00

WHEREAS the Pennsauken Board of Education includes in the final budget the Tax levy enrollment adjustment in the amount of \$614,811.00, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-11.2.

WHEREAS the Pennsauken Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for increased in health care costs, in the amount of \$151,242.00. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-11.3

2. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Pennsauken 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

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.2 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 as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1.2, which includes attendance at regularly scheduled in-state county meetings, department or association sponsored events or in-state professional development activities, where prior Board approval shall not be required unless the annual threshold for a staff member exceeds \$1,500.00 in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, the Pennsauken Board of Education established \$89,900.00 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$16,157.00 as of this date; now

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves professional development, travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$100,000.00 for all staff and board members for the 2024/2025 school year.

3. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS N.J.A.C. 6A:23A – 5.2 requires the Pennsauken Township Board of Education to establish maximum annual dollar items during budget preparation for dissemination of public information.

AND WHEREAS the Pennsauken Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to dissemination information to parents and the community in an efficient and timely manner.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Pennsauken Board of Education establishes a budget maximum for dissemination of public information of \$50,000.00.

4. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the following resolution authorizing the use of capital reserve funds to pay a portion of the costs of a capital improvement project; authorizing appropriate officials to undertake certain actions in connection therewith; and taking certain actions related thereto

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of the Township of Pennsauken ("Board" when referring to the governing body and "School District" when referring to the legal entity governed by the Board), in the County of Camden, New Jersey ("State"), has, after much research and investigation, determined to undertake a capital improvement program project consisting of: (i) Addition of 13 classrooms to PHS (Magnet School), Auto Shop painting booth addition to PHS (Vocational Program), Carson and Franklin Elementary Schools HVAC installations, PHS and Middle School BAS integration HVAC controls installation, Middle School lockers replacement, various buildings outdoor signage, PHS and Middle Schools auditorium seating replacement, Baldwin Elementary roof replacement, 4 school buses, 3 school vans and 1 trash truck; as further described in the information prepared in connection therewith and on file in the offices of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary (collectively, the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the School District is authorized by, *inter alia*, N.J.A.C. 6A:23-14.1 et seq, as amended and supplemented (collectively, the "Capital Reserve Law"), to transfer funds from its Capital Reserve Account to the Capital Projects Fund to fund the costs of a capital project; and

WHEREAS, the School District is considering paying for a portion of the Project with funds transferred from its Capital Reserve Account in an amount not to exceed \$8,500,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP

OF PENNSAUKEN, IN THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to withdraw funds from the School District's Capital Reserve Fund in an amount not to exceed \$8,500,000.00 for the purpose of paying for a portion of the costs of the Project.

Section 2. All actions heretofore taken and documents prepared or executed by the Board, Superintendent of Schools, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Solicitor, Auditor and Special Counsel in connection with the Project and the payment thereof are hereby authorized, ratified and confirmed.

Section 3. All resolutions or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and rescinded to the extent of any such inconsistency.

Section 4. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption this 2nd day of May, 2024.

5. RECOMMEND the Pennsauken Board of Education approve the following resolution authorizing the use of maintenance reserve funds to pay a portion of the costs of a maintenance improvement project; authorizing appropriate officials to undertake certain actions in connection therewith; and taking certain actions related thereto

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of the Township of Pennsauken ("Board" when referring to the governing body and "School District" when referring to the legal entity governed by the Board), in the County of Camden, New Jersey ("State"), has, after much research and investigation, determined to undertake a maintenance improvement program project consisting of: (i) Elementary asphalt coating repairs, Delair School fence and fire alarm replacement, Franklin concrete ramp and step repairs, PHS and Middle Schools asbestos floor removal, flooring replacement, bathroom partitions repairs, curbing repairs, PHS and Middle Schools auxiliary gym curtain replacement and Intermediate School fence replacement;

WHEREAS, the School District is authorized by, *inter alia*, N.J.A.C. 6A:23-14.2 *et seq*, as amended and supplemented (collectively, the "Maintenance Reserve Law"), to transfer funds from its Maintenance Reserve Account to the Capital Projects Fund to fund the costs of a maintenance project; and

WHEREAS, the School District is considering paying for a portion of the Project with funds transferred from its Maintenance Reserve Account in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PENNSAUKEN, IN THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to withdraw funds from the School District's Maintenance Reserve Fund in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 for the purpose of paying for a portion of the costs of the Project.

Section 2. All actions heretofore taken and documents prepared or executed by the Board, Superintendent of Schools, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Solicitor, Auditor and Special Counsel in connection with the Project and the payment thereof are hereby authorized, ratified and confirmed.

Section 3. All resolutions or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and rescinded to the extent of any such inconsistency.

Section 4. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption this 2nd day of May, 2024.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mrs. Matos		X	
Mrs. Diaz	X			Mr. McDevitt			
Mrs. Hutton	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mr. Jarbough-Rafeh							

APPROVAL OF: AGENDA ITEMS 1-5

MOTION BY: Ms. Johnson

SECOND BY: Mr. Alves

MOTION BY: Carried

PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL

The Board now welcomes the public to comment on any educational issue or school matter of community interest. Once again, each speaker is allotted a maximum of two (2) minutes to make their statement. No one may speak more than once on the same topic. You are required to give your name and address before speaking.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mrs. Diaz	X			Mr. McDevitt			
Mrs. Hutton	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mr. Jarbough-Rafeh							

APPROVAL TO: OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION BY: Ms. Johnson

SECOND BY: Mr. Carey

MOTION BY: Carried

- **Lisa Eckel, Resident – Thanked the Business Administrator for his excellent strategic balancing of the budget.**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mrs. Diaz	X			Mr. McDevitt			
Mrs. Hutton	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mr. Jarbough-Rafeh							

APPROVAL TO: CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION BY: Ms. Johnson

SECOND BY: Mr. Carey

MOTION BY: Carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Township of Pennsauken that it adjourn to

Executive Session as prescribed under the “Sunshine Law”, if necessary, in order to discuss legal issues, contracts and personnel issues. Any discussion held by the Board of Education that need not remain confidential will be made public. Matters under discussion will not be disclosed to the public until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Pennsauken Board of Education has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of the Pennsauken Board of Education will reconvene at the conclusion of closed session, at approximately _____ p.m. this evening.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pennsauken Board of Education will convene into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

_____A matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public. (Provision relied upon: _____)

_____A matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government.

_____A matter the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as any records, data, reports, recommendations, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including but not limited to information relative to the individual's personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly.

_____A collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in a collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body. (Specify contract: _____)

_____A matter involving the purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed.

_____Tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public whose disclosure could impair such protection.

_____An investigation of violations or possible violations of the law.

_____A pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party, or a matter falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer. (If pending or anticipated litigation, the matter is: _____)

_____A matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting. The nature of discussion is _____and the employee(s) involved has been provided the required notice and has not requested the discussion be held in open session.

_____Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Board Attorney advises the Board of Education that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the School District or any other entity with respect to said discussion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby declares that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place and hereby directs the Board Secretary to take the appropriate action to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

TOPICS:

- No executive session.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Ms. Johnson – Students from the band/color guard had an outstanding performance and will be competing in Wildwood this week. Thanked all involved for a fantastic job.
- Mrs. Young – Ms. Johnson led a representative from the New Jersey School Board Association on a tour of the district's CTE programs.
- Dr. Tarchichi – The New Jersey School Board Association representative was very impressed with the district's CTE programs. Pennsauken School District has been invited to speak at the NJSBA Board meeting regarding the CTE programs. Also spoke on the success of the Athletics programs with many students drawing scouts and recruitment from major colleges. Credited the coaches, teachers and facilities for promoting the success of these programs.
- Ms. Johnson – Thanked Ms. Rosenheim and Mr. Olsen for their help with the NJSBA tour.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Alves	X			Ms. Johnson	X		
Mr. Carey	X			Mrs. Matos	X		
Mrs. Diaz	X			Mr. McDevitt			
Mrs. Hutton	X			Mrs. Young	X		
Mr. Jarbough-Rafeh							

APPROVAL TO: ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION BY: Ms. Johnson

SECOND BY: Ms. Hutton

MOTION BY: Carried

TIME: 8:01 p.m.