

**MINUTES OF THE PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING**

March 22, 2017 – 6:44 p.m.
Administrative Offices

Presiding: Comm. Christopher Irving, President

Present:

Dr. Donnie Evans, State District Superintendent
Ms. Eileen Shafer, Deputy Superintendent
Robert Murray, Esq., General Counsel

Comm. Emanuel Capers
*Comm. Oshin Castillo
Comm. Chrystal Cleaves, Vice President
Comm. Jonathan Hodges

Comm. Manuel Martinez
Comm. Lilisa Mimms
Comm. Nakima Redmon

Absent:

Comm. Flavio Rivera

The Salute to the Flag was led by Comm. Irving.

Comm. Cleaves read the Open Public Meetings Act:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of, and to attend the meetings of the Paterson Public School District, as well as other public bodies at which any business affecting the interest of the public is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this law, the Paterson Public School District has caused notice of this meeting:

**Special Meeting
March 22, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
Administrative Offices
90 Delaware Avenue
Paterson, New Jersey**

to be published by having the date, time and place posted in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Paterson, at the entrance of the Paterson Public School offices, on the district's website, and by sending notice of the meeting to the Arab Voice, El Diario, the Italian Voice, the North Jersey Herald & News, and The Record.

Comm. Cleaves: Could I ask everyone to please stand for a moment of silence? We lost a student today at Martin Luther King. It was a little girl that was sick. She had a brain tumor and she passed today. Could we please just stand for a moment of silence for her?

Comm. Irving: Thank you all very much. Here we are. I want to welcome everyone this evening. I'm going to ask the Superintendent to actually begin the meeting just to clarify

the position of where we are regarding the public dissemination of the school district budget and also clarify the Board's opportunity to view it in district. Then I'd like for you to go right into the presentation for where we are, the cost drivers, how you've been able to balance the budget, and what that means. I really would like the Board to be able to ask strenuous questions or clarifications regarding any of the action items that you discussed. Then I'd like to go to the public and give them the opportunity to ask any questions and have those answered. Depending on how long this conversation goes, I may stop after about an hour and a half, maybe two hours, go to the public, and maybe come back for additional conversations and discussion.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

Dr. Evans: The Board should have either before them or coming to them a memorandum with some attachments to which I'm going to refer. I'm going to review the memorandum not necessarily in the order that the information is presented in an effort to respond first to the clarification issue that Mr. President asked me to address. It's actually Item 4 in the memorandum that discusses where we are and why we're where we are. Then there's clarifying information or documents that include statute as well as state guidelines as it relates to budget development that provides supporting information in relation to the information. Item 4 gets at the first question that Mr. President raised. In it I note that questions have been raised about the budget development process. Attached are following publications that clarify or otherwise inform answers to these questions. The first document is the New Jersey Department of Education Budget Guidelines and Electronic Data Collection Manual. It's the booklet that looks like this for Board members. It's the step-by-step process that districts are to follow in the development of budgets. The second one is New Jersey Administrative Code entitled 6A, which includes statutes 6A-23A, all the way up to most of the statutes to 9.6. That actually provides the grounding and the legal support for the information that's included in the guidelines document. In addition to that, I've attached our budget development schedules for the past three years so you can compare what we did this year in terms of scheduling versus the past two years in that document as well. I will say at this point you may recall last year that we went into April in our conversations around the budget with the permission of the County Executive Superintendent and the Department of Education because there were still some residual questions. There was information that the Board and the community was asking for and we were permitted to go into at least one week or maybe into the eighth or ninth of April. They gave us additional time to submit it because we were similarly challenged as we are this year in terms of being able to get the information from the Executive County Superintendent and to get it out in a timely manner. We were permitted to go a little longer. As I went through my notes, I had memorialized that and I'm glad I reviewed my notes. But I go on here to say that appropriations or funding afforded to the district for 2007-2008 through 2017-2018 is also included. That information is quite telling. It basically shows that we've been essentially flat-funded from the state for eight years. That's a long time and it's taking a serious toll on our budget. No question about it. I felt that would be information of interest to you as well. You have an approved charter schools list from 2012-2013 to 2017-2018 which is also quite telling. You will see the increases over the years and the number of charter schools, the number of students that they are serving, and implications for the impact of costs to the district. In an email to the Board yesterday I noted specifically information from two conversations I had yesterday with the Executive County Superintendent, Mr. Robert Davis. He made it very clear that the 400-plus page budget document itself and the user-friendly version were not to be distributed publicly by any school district until the Executive County Superintendent approved what he has in form. He reminded me that the numbers could change. There's a limit, but the numbers could change. In the meantime, he and I in a

communiqué with Bob Bumpus in the State Department of Education felt that it would be appropriate that if individual Board members wanted to take a look at the user-friendly version, then you could make an appointment or come by and privately view a user-friendly version either in my office or we can arrange with Cheryl or whoever has space for you to come in and take a look at it. But under no circumstances should we allow it to leave the building until he gives thumbs up. As also previously noted, the preliminary budget has been submitted and the preliminary is to make sure that we fill in all the blanks, include all the information that we need to include recognizing that some of those numbers may change. He was pretty clear about that. I wanted to reiterate that as well. The major point in starting out my comments is that we are a little later than we had normally been. We're in the same place last year in terms of the timeline to get it the Executive County Superintendent. We met his timeline, but it was later than it normally is. Usually it's like the first of March. The dates that I've seen on the documents in the past were the first, second, or third of March. This year it wasn't due until the ninth. That threw us back more than we anticipated and that's why we're later than normal in getting it to you. If it reaches a point where there is a desire for there to be additional considerations of time, then the Board needs to make that decision and I will pass that along to the Executive County Superintendent. Now I move on to the second part unless there are questions about that.

Comm. Hodges: I thank you for that. I really appreciate that discussion because I've had conversations with Mr. Davis and the School Boards Association and two school districts. The confusion is we have had presentations, not of the budget, but how you plan to close the gap in the past. The concern is now there's a \$20 million budget gap. You have to cut something, change something, or remove something in order to reach those numbers. If you're going to submit a budget after that, which the Board does not see or have any inkling of what you've done, that's problematic. That was the source of my questions. Three years ago when I was President you did have a budget presentation which discussed, not the actual budget, but showed you the areas and the general outlines of what you were going to do. That's what I was looking for this year. That was the source of my questioning. I could not see how you could submit a budget to the County Superintendent without anyone knowing what was there. The other issue is once we get the budget back you can only change 10% per line. That's what the law says. If you put things in place that the Board does not want there, we're stuck with it. That's why I raised the kinds of issues and concerns that I raised. Other districts aren't doing that. Wayne has its budget on its site right now, the day after. Not the actual budget, but the budget presentation that it gave to its Board members. Jersey City had actual meetings where they sat down and showed the Board members what they were doing because they couldn't go into this blindly having no idea what you and your excellent staff have done, whether it would hamper them down the road. We did not do that this year. In fact, we had a meeting that was going to discuss budget priorities which was cancelled, which caused me all kinds of concerns because I did not know when this presentation was going to take place before we actually submitted a budget to the County Superintendent. That was the source of my concern. Having to see the budget is one thing and the law is clear on that. But enabling your Board to have some sort of inkling of what's going to happen to security, teachers, other personnel, nursing, librarians, art teachers, music teachers, things that we normally cut in the face deficits. Having the Board in the dark until after the County Superintendent sees it to me is reckless, particularly if we're now taking ownership of this entire process.

*Comm. Castillo enters the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Dr. Evans: The Board has. I would suggest to you that the various committees have been vetting internally various aspects of the budget.

Comm. Irving: Let me also just clarify we had a meeting in January where every single one of those folks who sit to my left came before this Board with budget reduction strategies. Their goal and charge in December was to come up with those strategies and present them to the Board. It was also at that January meeting that the Board gave input and insight relative to those strategies and then charged the Superintendent and his staff through the finance committee to support you all to help construct the budget. I'm going to be consistent. I think that process did happen and I think we did it very early for the purposes of making sure this Board was informed so when we got the budget we weren't surprised for what we would see.

Comm. Hodges: You gave us strategies. I've not seen what actually resulted from those strategies. I'm not interested in what may or may not have taken place. I want to know what you actually did before it goes to the County Superintendent of Schools. That's my concern. You had general discussions of how you might approach that, but that was not a category-by-category discussion of what was going to actually take place. That's my problem. When he gets in his office we can't change it within very narrow limits. What other districts do is inform their Board. I don't know what you've done in the finance committee. I'm not privy to that. Should be, but I wasn't privy to it. This Board as a whole takes the responsibility for whatever was sent out by the Business Administrator. Discussing theories in January doesn't help us to show us before the budget actually hits his desk so we can say we talked about this not that, or this is important, not that, or we need to put more stress here than there. Now we're stuck and we can't change anything in a substantive way. That's the problem that I have and I continue to have. It's been recognized all across the state because Elizabeth has the same thing. They have their presentation on theirs. Wayne, if you go on their website, has their presentation there as well. I stopped there at that point, but you can go on and on. When I called the School Boards Association, they were saying you don't do it that way, which is what I communicated with you. They told me to call Mr. Davis. I don't think he and I were talking about the same thing. It's very clear. That was the reason I raised that question to you. There are \$20 million that you have to close. Mr. President, you may know what's in it and how it was done and you may have the generalized approaches. But I have no idea, they have no idea and they have a right to. That's all I'm saying.

Comm. Irving: I agree with you entirely and it was this Board after that January meeting who charged the finance committee to take those recommendations and formulate them and support the Superintendent to present that to the Board, which is being done tonight. Am I correct?

Dr. Evans: Correct.

Comm. Mimms: Two things just to reiterate my comments at the last Board meeting. That's why I was very vocal about the fact that we were voting on a line item from fiscal, which we had not seen. To vote yes for it and you had not seen it didn't make sense. That why I openly expressed the fact that it's here and we're voting on it tonight. Some people still voted yes, which I didn't understand. We voted yes on something that was being submitted on behalf of the entire Board that you had not seen. I'm going to say yes to something and they say, "What was in it?" I have no clue. I verbally expressed it at the last meeting and obviously voted no. I remember the meeting in January. It was a great meeting but a lot of the issues we found were irrelevant. We were asking why they were on the list and we found out that the things that were presented we all said, and it wasn't just one or two, I think all of us agreed that it doesn't make sense. Now it goes back to fiscal but that's why I have a concern. I know we're going to go through it

tonight, but I see some of the same items in the recommendations, which we said in January did not make sense. I'll talk about it more at that point when we get there. I know we agreed as a Board when they were presented to us. We found out there was really no cost savings for the district and nothing that was going to assist us in really helping our children be educated. Everybody agreed after we heard and listened. To see some of those items still here and that were submitted to the County Superintendent, which we really don't have a lot of leverage to change, and on top of it, which I'll talk about later, that 2% tax increase for homeowners. I sent a note out afterwards to the entire Board and to you as well and I went to the community. If the county is not doing it, if city hall is not doing, there's absolutely no way we as a School Board can increase.

Comm. Irving: They're raising the tax rate.

Comm. Mimms: I'm a homeowner and I pay taxes. I just can't see how we as a district will be able to justify it. I see what's here, but what I don't see here, which I guess we'll get into more detail, is what we are giving our kids. I see closing buildings. I don't see music is being added. I don't see art. I don't see science. I don't see any of that indicated here. I don't see the ending of IFL, which is a cost savings. I don't see that with a dollar amount attached to it. I'm quite sure if we all have those discussions I want to hear what that dollar amount looks like because that may be the offset of that \$800,000 for the 2% tax increase. Those are the balances that I want to hear about when we have this discussion tonight. Even though we physically don't see it, now I'm finding out we have to have a meeting when two years ago on this Board we had the actual binder. We were able to go through it, read it, and detail it. Now not to have anything and to continually come to a meeting, and next week we're supposed to vote on this, I just think is a disservice to the Board and to the community. We're fighting for our community to make sure their children are being educated, even if they never show up at a Board meeting. Without the proper information it's hard for us to really fight for them.

Comm. Irving: I called Bob Davis earlier today and I expressed my disappointment. I can't speak for other districts and I don't know what issues they're having at the county office, but I know normally Dr. Evans will submit the budget electronically. The county does their thing and then gives the green light for us to have printed copies. In lieu of printed copies, there's also the PDF version and it's able to be downloaded if need be. My concern is his process is holding our process up. I mean that. It's holding up our process for people to be transparent and for folks in the community to see the budget if they want to touch it and feel it. They have a legal right to, but the County Superintendent is the one that ultimately signs off and determines when they release budgets. I just hope other folks in other towns call his office too and say click that button to release those budgets so people can view them.

Comm. Martinez: I do not disagree with the points that were raised. They're very valid and good points, but we need to be very clear about something. In that January meeting the budget reduction strategies that were put forth were the same strategies that were used to reduce the budget. To imply somehow that this was done blindly or we didn't know what they were going to do, it was laid out in January. What they laid out is exactly what they used to reduce the budget. We're going to get a little bit more in-depth into it today, but there was an outline given. What they presented that day were the strategies that they used to reduce the respective budgets. We did have an idea. We didn't have the details. Granted, I give you that. That's what we do in committee and that's what we'll get further into today. To imply that they didn't give an idea or overview of what they were going to be doing is just not accurate because that's

exactly what they presented in January and that's exactly the strategies they used to reduce the budget. We did have that overview.

Comm. Hodges: Mr. Martinez, first of all, if the fiscal committee decided to craft the budget, which is apparently what you're saying you did...

Comm. Irving: No, you're saying that.

Comm. Martinez: No.

Comm. Hodges: You said you were part of that process.

Comm. Irving: We helped to inform and advise. Those were your comments you just made.

Comm. Hodges: You were helping to craft the budget.

Comm. Irving: That's not what I said.

Comm. Hodges: Any way you want to call it.

Comm. Irving: Please continue, sir.

Comm. Hodges: Thank you. I will do that. You did not inform us of what you were going to do.

Comm. Irving: We have minutes, sir, that we give you that detail in great detail...

Comm. Hodges: You discussed that you were going to turn around and sell buildings? One of the last things that Dr. Evans said...

Comm. Irving: Dr. Hodges, if you don't read the minutes, that's your business.

Comm. Hodges: Don't say I don't read minutes because I do. The one or two pages that you provide us I can read in a second. Trust me. That's not the way I want to conduct this. I'll simply say the last thing Dr. Evans said was we don't have places to put kids now. Those were his words. Dr. Evans, am I lying on you? Exactly! Here I see the sale of four schools. The last thing he said was we don't have places to put people. To bolster what Comm. Mimms said, we talked about how we didn't want to sell buildings. When you tell me, Mr. Martinez, that we talked about these strategies, we talked about how these strategies weren't going to be effective for us. Those were our concerns. We didn't say we wanted to move forward with this. We said just the opposite, particularly the sale of buildings. When you have the Superintendent of Schools telling you that the sale of buildings is going to hamper this district, he's telling you that. Now this is put into the budget. It runs contrary to any notion that we had an understanding in January of what was going to happen today. You can't tell me that.

Comm. Irving: I have to respectfully disagree with you and say that you and maybe a few other Board members may disagree, but there was no formal action taken from this Board to say that we weren't going to sell buildings. The whole purpose of that January meeting was to give this Board the opportunity to hold this staff accountable and help create a guide. It then went through the process that we have, which is a committee process, in which the fiscal committee ensured the creation of this budget has been done with fidelity and balance so that it can be presented to this Board in full. That's

where we are right now, Dr. Hodges. You may not like the fact that you weren't on the fiscal committee to be a part of that process. That's one piece. But you are getting the information now. You were a part of the conversation. I remember distinctly you had several recommendations that were heard by staff. But Comm. Mimms had a great point. There were several other elements that we felt certainly were suspect, which is why it had to be vetted through committee. I think the fiscal committee did an enormous job over the course of the last few months on behalf of this Board vetting and asking all the tough questions to ensure that the budget that we have received and that presentation that we're getting tonight is a balanced budget.

Comm. Redmon: When we first saw some of the stuff that was presented at our discussion in January I just felt that each year the Board is getting hit with the local tax levy. Last year after the budget was submitted and it was approved by the County Superintendent we got hit with a 7% increase. Now again it's proposed another 2% increase. We can't keep asking our local people to keep putting this tab on us. I can't agree with that. Last year it was proposed 7.5% of a tax levy. We have to do better than this. My next concern going back to the comments that Dr. Hodges was making is some of the buildings that we have listed here our students aren't even housed here. There's one building where our students are housed and everything else is now vacant. We don't have access for this. Some of these properties that are listed here are basically liabilities to the district. When we discussed it and tried to vet it through the process that we did in January we tried to make sure that we came up with some kind of feasibility rule. We did discuss this. These same properties that were here in January are the same properties that were presented to us. I can't just sit here and agree each year that this tax levy increase is being presented as a cost saving measure to the district. I just can't agree with that at this particular time. Every time we come here we get something presented, but the tax levy wasn't presented to us at that time in January.

Comm. Irving: That's true.

Comm. Redmon: If that was presented in January, then I'm pretty sure all the Board members that were sitting here would have said something. It wasn't even presented to us in the last meeting. I just can't sit here and say this was presented to me and this is what I agreed with. I can't agree with that. I can agree that some of this stuff that we suggested in January that's presented to us tonight has been here. We have asked questions and we did get due diligence through the cabinet to do their positions to give us answers on what we asked for. I have to be honest with that. This local control tax levy, I just can't agree with it. I'm sorry.

Comm. Mimms: We're beating a dead horse already with this, but at the end of the day we have to evaluate. We have the four buildings we're looking to sell. The problem I have is we're leasing properties. Why would we sell what we own and continue to lease? It does not make sense. We're leasing properties. Why would we not give up leases and refurbish or go into these facilities that we own instead of trying to sell something we own? We're in this building. We're paying an astronomical amount of money for I don't even know what the staff number is now. These buildings could actually take into one of these buildings and stop paying the lease that you're paying at 90 Delaware. We own them. Why sell what we own? Why don't we use what we have and look to come away from some of the leases and find out what the cost savings are? I'm quite sure some of the savings would top some of these numbers. I know we say the buildings are in bad shape and all these things, but refurbishing buildings will definitely save us more than what we're leasing. I don't know if that was an option, but the concern I have is in January we definitely had the strategies. We all talked about how the strategies had many holes. They just didn't work. We talked about it. I read

the minutes and all that, but I thought we would come back with a discussion outside of tonight before the submission of a budget. That's the problem. It says School 11. School 11 is the building, but you also have the Newcomer's program, which is \$1 million. I stressed that specifically because we had buildings that were in worse shape than the Newcomer's program. We have those kids that are in those buildings that we're not trying to relocate. None of those schools are identified here and that's why I expressed it. What are the worst schools? Dr. Evans gave them to us and none of those schools are listed here, but I see there's a push for the relocation of this program. I have no problem making sure our kids are safe, but why don't we look at the kids that are in the worst buildings first? We can't just say let's move this program. Great Falls Academy, School 17, and School 14 are not on the list. Yes, we give it to the administration and they do what they do with it, but we're the end-all. We're the ones that should be driving what this should look like, not just on buildings. Buildings are one aspect. What programs are we going to give to our children? Is there going to be music? Is there going to be art? What programs do we have? I know there's an analysis. I'm grateful that they're working on it. Those are the things that should have been given before we go into this process so we can say this program has been around, now it's ending, so we're going to save \$1 million. This one is ending or maybe we don't need to go back and recertify or whatever needs to be done. We'll have a cost savings here. Without having those analyses, it's hard to even have these types of conversations. We look at things on paper. I see the busing. I believe that's Passaic County Tech. Is that known to the community? I know it's a cost that we incur, but these affect students and whether they're our students or not, it impacts the community. Without the community being aware of these things or us being privy until tonight and then the next week we have to vote on it, is a disservice to our children and the upcoming school year. It's a disservice to the parents who have to make sure that their kids are being educated. I just think that selling properties is never a good thing, especially when you're leasing. You're selling because you own everything, that's fine. But if you're selling and you're leasing, it just doesn't make sense. I think we need to revisit this, especially these things that are programs versus a school. Some of these things are programs. They're not even schools. That's what I have a problem with. We're looking at moving a program versus children that are in school. We have lead issues, asbestos issues, and all types of concerns in our buildings and those kids are still in those schools. Even though we remediated and did some fixes to it, those kids are still there. Now we're looking at this program which is fairly new and now we have a big concern to move these 200 kids versus all of the other 28,000 kids in the district. That's my concern and I'm going to keep pushing that until this list changes. To me this list does not reflect the needs of our children in the district.

Comm. Cleaves: I agree with Comm. Mimms that we can sit here and go round and round. I'd like to see what Dr. Evans has to present to us because I think we have more conversation once he presents whatever he needs to present. What we're saying now we've already said. We've already heard it. We've already said it. The community has already heard us say it. Let's see what he has provided for us this evening and let's take a look at that now and then have our comments based on what we asked him to do, what he's actually done, and what he's presenting to us this evening so that the community can also chime in on what Dr. Evans was charged to do. Let's see if in fact any of our questions or concerns may be addressed in his presentation, as opposed to us keeping going back and forth at each other over things that we already know that we've requested.

Comm. Hodges: My concerns could have been addressed if this was handed out prior to the submission.

Comm. Cleaves: Point well taken, Dr. Hodges. But I'd like to see what Dr. Evans has for us.

Comm. Hodges: I hear that. Smith Street is also a school. There are two schools that are on here. Again, that's my problem. We did not have this information so we can think intelligently before you submitted it. You can't change this school, Comm. Mimms, because it's over 10%. You can't stop these things. That's the problem.

Comm. Cleaves: Let's see what our real problem is.

Comm. Hodges: That's my problem. You can't change it. No matter what's in there, this can't be changed. This process is wrong. That's all I'm going to say. Whether you agree or not, it's wrong. Other school districts don't do this for that very reason. The rest of their boards are sitting on the outside not knowing what's going on and they get shocked and surprised after the fact, which is what I was trying to stop from happening very early in the year. I was attacked by you folks saying that I was wrong and trying to mislead the public. This is precisely what happens. I'm going to stop now.

Comm. Irving: Thank you for doing so. There's a process and a protocol that we as a Board employ. Dr. Hodges has a right to object to the process. I just think the objection needs to be respectful, but he has the right to object to the process. We had a protocol in January. We followed it. It is now being shared and executed, but his objections are duly noted.

Comm. Capers: I have a question about the charter schools.

Comm. Irving: Let's let him go into his presentation. The charter schools and the leasing of property...

Comm. Capers: Is this a part of this presentation? I just had one quick question.

Dr. Evans: I'm going to make reference to it.

Comm. Capers: Are we going to have a time after the presentation to ask different questions?

Comm. Irving: Absolutely.

Comm. Capers: I'm just trying to figure out how this process is working so I know.

Comm. Irving: I'd like to allow Dr. Evans to go through the cost drivers, what got us financially to this point, and what he recommends in order to balance the budget. Comm. Mimms brings up a great point about why lease certain spaces versus selling certain ones. I think there is a rationale and methodology that we were presented with that at least for us in finance makes sense. You may say it still doesn't make sense, but at least you now have a working idea for what the reasoning is.

Comm. Capers: Is the Superintendent's presentation in front of us?

Dr. Evans: I'm going to review each item in this memorandum. A comment and then I'm going to go item by item and in some cases literally read so I don't leave anything out. While the dollar amount for each line cannot change or deviate by more than 10%, the objects on those lines can. It's the numbers that Mr. Davis is worried about. He

couldn't care less whether it's building A, building B, or no building at all. It's the bottom line on that item. I just want to clarify that.

Comm. Irving: Thank you.

Dr. Evans: Item 1 simply is an introductory sentence indicating the funding, as you already know, has remained relatively flat for the past eight years. It has not deviated up or down less than a half of one percent. One of those pages includes the appropriations to us from the state, from the federal government, and from local revenues as well. If you look at the state line, it has remained relatively flat for the past eight years. That's an interesting observation to make. A lot has happened in eight years. Costs have gone up. A number of things have contributed to the programs that we started out with then that we do not have now. I go on in A and B to mention the budget deficits, not spending deficits. By that, in terms of where the issues typically are. Some will think maybe we overspent or maybe we did this or not. We've never overspent. What we do in terms of budgeting from year to year in developing a budget becomes the challenge. Budget gaps that evolve are typically attributable to three items – salaries, benefits, and in more recent increases in charter school enrollment. Those are the biggest influences on the budget that we're wrestling with at this particular point in time. Item 2 gets into what we typically refer to as the cost drivers for this year, the things that are impacting our budget for this current process for the 2017-2018 school year. There are = collective bargaining agreements that represent salary increases that are embedded within them or that result from those agreement. Health benefits represent a significant increase. That's one of the big three that I mentioned earlier. The \$6 million for salaries is also one of those big three. We're going to have to contribute more to pensions because of decisions made in Trenton. We have our general operational costs for anything from electricity to gas or whatever utilities we use and other operational costs. Transportation to Don Bosco was a real surprise to us. It was originally projected that was going to be \$450,000 per year and indeed it's \$900,000. The impact to us is \$450,000. Increased anticipated charter school enrollment is \$11 million that will come from our budget this year if they fully enroll the number of students that they project to enroll. We're looking at special education costs now because of some challenges that we've talked to you about in terms of some of the changes that we've had to make with some of the vendors and those kinds of things. We anticipate an additional \$1.5 million. Other potential cost drivers that we have not costed out in some cases include the fund balance for the coming year. We have to make sure that we maintain a fund balance. Even if we start out low as we did this year we have an obligation within a particular timeframe established by the Department of Education to rebuild that fund balance. The fiscal impact of current litigation - we're involved in various forms of litigation for various reasons that the Board is aware of. Contract negotiations with PEA - we're not sure what that's going to yield, as it relates to increases in next year's budget. We don't know if the contract is going to be resolved this spring, this summer, or next summer. We have no idea. Whenever it does, it's going to have a fiscal impact. No question about it. Potential increases in student enrollment. We have in some recent years increased our enrollment. Again, we have to weigh that against the impact of charter schools and youngsters going to charter schools. In either case, we pay. If they go to charter schools, we pay. If they stay with us, we pay. It's going to impact us one way or another. Increases in worker's compensation - we're expecting some as well. Any time we lay off or RIF individuals, that's not exactly worker's compensation. That's a different category. Worker's compensation involves workers who are injured and those kinds of things as well. That's a difficult one to predict, but it could impact our budget. Continued delayed maintenance on our facilities. Any time we take off the table repairs that our facilities badly need, past or present, it's going to impact long-term on the ultimate cost of making

those repairs. The longer buildings go unrepaired, the more it's going to cost to repair them. We've suffered for years from deferred maintenance and as we continue to cut and reduce funds it has a greater and greater impact on that category. Those are the anticipated cost drivers, roughly \$33 million. That would constitute the major gap that we have to fill. How are we going to fill that \$33 million gap? I've outlined the steps that we've determined can accomplish that. They're in the form of reductions, adjustments, and eliminations or fund transfers to the preliminary budget. Until the Executive County Superintendent signs off, the budget is considered preliminary. The total for Item 3 is \$33.7 million. Compare that to the \$32.9 million gap. We've exceeded the gap. This closes that gap. I want to make that clear upfront, if all of these things ultimately become part of our budget. From excess surplus we were very successful in rebuilding our excess surplus this year. We took some major stapes. Some are very painful, but enough to be able to provide \$17.6 million of it to contribute to next year's budget. The fund balance is actually slightly larger than that. We're not using it all, but that's a good starting point. That's the practice over the years that actually has gotten us to where we are. Every year the district has used fund balance to balance the budget. This is less than it has been in previous years. I think the largest was \$32 million one year. That's the starting point for us, \$17.6 million. Consultant costs - we went from \$2.3 million in consultants two years ago to \$931,000 this year, to \$221,000 projected for next year. We're listening and are slowly bringing it down. I know the Board has been very clear in what it would like for us to do. The community has spoken to it, and so we're reducing it. Reduced or eliminated district level administrative and non-administrative positions - I will say regarding that one we have backup but we're not prepared to give that backup just yet. We have to go through a process to determine who is going to be impacted because of the RIF'g guidelines or reducing forces. The last man in is the first man out. That hasn't been determined yet, but we've targeted specific positions as a starting point. This is not a guesstimate in terms of the amount. We know what the targeted amount is, but we're not ready to release the names yet until we determine exactly is it going to be John Smith or John Doe. That will impact on the figure for that person. In many cases, there's one person in one position and it's a one-of-a-kind position, so you name the position and you name the person. That's why were cautious about giving out names yet. Numbers we can give out, but names would be a challenge. I mentioned the elementary charter impact of \$1.8 million. We have high school administrative staff, \$1.8 million. Let me go back and explain what I mean by charter impact and administrative impact. Those are positions to be reduced. Let's say we have 1,000 kids go from the district to a charter school. Unless we experience growth, then we don't need teachers for those 1,000 kids for us. You follow me? That's why it has a positive fiscal impact on our budget.

Comm. Capers: I'm sorry. Can you repeat that?

Dr. Evans: Kids don't come in round numbers all the time, but just hypothetically let's say 1,000 elementary students go from our district to a charter school. That's 1,000 kids who are not sitting in our classrooms to educate. It then represents a savings. We don't need to hire teachers to teach 1,000 kids who aren't with us. Do you follow me? You have to consolidate classes and those kinds of things and we've gone through those exercises actually.

Comm. Hodges: My concern is you don't have 1,000 kids come from one school.

Dr. Evans: No, we don't.

Comm. Hodges: It's hard to consolidate enough. Plus, even though they're gone, 40% of their costs are still here because of that very reason. They don't all come from School 6.

Dr. Evans: That does figure into this figure. We take that into consideration. High school administrative, there are some adjustments. Again, I'm not ready to get into the specifics of that because once I name a position that means that person. I want to hold back on that. But we've determined a reduction across high schools in administrative staff by \$1 million. Reduce eliminated school level administrative and non-administrative positions. That goes beyond the items that I've mentioned there. There are some vacant positions right now that we've questioned whether or not we really need to fill or not. In large measure it includes that group. We've targeted some other positions that may ultimately become a part of that group and most likely will. Together it all adds up to \$3 million plus in terms of dollars. The minimum will be \$3 million. Postponing and delaying technical upgrades. Those are conversations that Dr. Campbell and Ms. Ayala and others have had. There are some things that we can do to tighten our belts in that area that would yield that amount. Creating in-house programs for many special education kids, not all our special education kids because I think it would be foolish of us to try and relocate all our special education kids that we have in private settings outside for which we contract for services back into the district. Number one, special education is a critical shortage area. We couldn't find the teachers. That's the reality and we know that. So why would we say we'll bring them all back? That wouldn't make sense. But we think it's reasonable to bring a portion of them back and over time more and more as teachers and space becomes available. That's the approach we're taking.

Comm. Hodges: If you're talking about bringing them back, I'm assuming you're bringing back classes of kids.

Dr. Evans: Yes.

Comm. Hodges: You're getting rid of buildings. Where are you going to put these kids?

Dr. Evans: If you look at the capacity of our buildings, you'll see a range of buildings that have from 65% to 70% capacity to 110% capacity. If you're talking about a class, many of our buildings can accommodate a class. Number G, reduce courtesy busing. I purposefully put 'reduced.' We have still youngsters who live in areas where there are no sidewalks and to expect a youngster to get out and compete with the traffic on the pavement is unrealistic and unsafe. We will not put our kids in that kind of a circumstance, but we do have a few circumstances where that happens. In that case, they may live within the established limits, but we would still transport them because it's unsafe for them to walk. There are other circumstances where there are major thoroughfares. Again, that presents a safety issue. I'll use an extreme example. I don't think we have many kids that live on both sides of Route 20. There are circumstances across the city when you look at other major streets where crossing that street is more dangerous and potentially more costly than sending a bus. In those circumstances it's a safety issue. Those are the kinds of exceptions that we would make.

Comm. Capers: How many students will be affected by that?

Dr. Evans: We'll have to get that you tomorrow. I didn't bring it with me.

Comm. Cleaves: Does this reduction in courtesy busing affect the students that go to Passaic County Tech?

Dr. Evans: There are some. Not all, but some.

Comm. Redmon: It will probably affect Chamberlain Avenue. That's less than two miles.

Comm. Mimms: Will we still make some exceptions? I know there are some between the 1.5 and the 2 whom we made exceptions for in the past. Have we taken consideration for those in this number? There are some that we've done that for previously.

Dr. Evans: Yes. On a case-by-case basis we'll look at any situation. If there's a safety issue, whether it's no sidewalks and the kids have to walk on the street and compete with cars to get to school, or crossing a major thoroughfare where traffic is a problem, and there may be other examples I'm not mentioning. I'll give you one example that has troubled me, and I hate to mention specific neighborhoods. You all may remember a year or two ago we were debating relocating and combining youngsters from School 6 and School 21. I've driven through that neighborhood enough to conclude that it would be unsafe for us to require a little kid to walk from one end to the other, from the School 6 area over to School 21. That was an example where we said we're going to bus these kids. We didn't actually make the big move that we were talking about, but still some kids are in special programs like bilingual and things like that going from one area to the other. We made an exception for those as an example. Again, it's a different kind of a safety issue. We'll look at it on a case-by-case basis.

Comm. Hodges: Dr. Evans, I would hope that you would develop some very firm guidelines. What's going to happen is parents are going to be very upset and they're going to say, "I'm across the street from so-and-so. They're getting on the bus and my child can't." We already had that kind of situation. You need to make some firm guidelines.

Dr. Evans: You're absolutely right, Dr. Hodges, and we will.

Comm. Cleaves: With the courtesy busing I know that we also provide bus passes for...

Dr. Evans: For our high school students.

Comm. Cleaves: Is that included in this cost? Does that come out of different monies like Title I?

Ms. Shafer: This is strictly courtesy busing. The bus tickets are in addition to this. They're two different buckets.

Comm. Capers: It was the same question that Comm. Cleaves had. It was about the bus tickets. How much money are we spending? Do we know that number? How can we reduce that? Are we taking these concerns for the courtesy busing that the other Commissioners are bringing up? How many kids are going to be affected? Is there going to be a definitive plan in place if we do the reductions?

Dr. Evans: Absolutely.

Comm. Capers: We will see that when?

Dr. Evans: Can we get to tomorrow or Friday? Yes.

Comm. Capers: Thank you.

Comm. Mimms: We just actually had that in workshop and we just voted on it at the last meeting. The new bus passes were just in workshop and they were a line item. We just voted on it at the last meeting. I know they can still give it to you, but it's actually in that document. It was a large amount. I forgot the number, but we just actually voted on it.

Dr. Evans: While Ms. Ayala is doing her research, unless there's another question, I'll go on to I and J. I and J are extended learning programs for our high school students, Credit Recovery and Twilight. Those are being reduced significantly by the amounts that you see, \$75,000 and \$84,000 respectively. The local levy that the Board is already weighing in on and I do understand. That's what it would be if it's 2%, \$829,000. Other sources to replenish the budget, these items are not included in the figure at the beginning of Number 3, the \$33.7 million. That does not include items under L, facilities and contracted services. The strategy, particularly for the property sales, is actually to continue to rebuild our fund balance as opposed to balance the budget going in. Contracted services, substitute teachers, and selective aides - Mr. Rojas is leading that effort and he's already provided some information to that end as well. We're still working on cost estimates for that. Again, that figure is not included in the figures that I've given you already. Then there are the property sales. Some of those are estimates that we've gotten from Mr. Morlino. 11 is a figure that we're still searching for our final number for. We're estimating right now that to be roughly \$2 million if that occurs. Those are the items that we anticipate using to offset the \$33 million in anticipated increases. That means going in we're not coming out with a budget that's not balanced. That's the point. Number four I've already reviewed with you. Ms. Ayala, do you have a figure yet?

Comm. Hodges: Obviously, I'm going to raise the issue of technology, but I'll come back to that.

Comm. Cleaves: I got your back.

Comm. Hodges: Is there any consideration for privatizing any of the service groups that we have now?

Dr. Evans: Service groups?

Comm. Hodges: Employees - laborers or whatever.

Dr. Evans: Not that I'm aware of.

Comm. Hodges: Custodians, chiefs, or anything like that.

Dr. Evans: No one has made that suggestion to me.

Comm. Hodges: Okay. You should be aware that there's a rumor going around that's concerning. Because of the phasing out of E-Rate, a significant portion of what we were posing in technology has to be done in a timely fashion. This means that what you can potentially be backtracking on is what you do in the classroom. I will simply tell you that we're already substantially behind there. If you're planning to do less in the classroom with technology than what you're doing now, then you're putting your

students even further behind the eight-ball than everybody, not only in this county and in the northern region, but in the State of New Jersey and in the country. People were coding years ago and we haven't even approached that. You don't have the staff on board to do that.

Dr. Evans: I think we are doing some coding.

Comm. Hodges: You're doing a little coding, but you don't have the staff in place to do what you need to do across the board. I'm very concerned about any area in terms of technology because that's going to impact not only instruction, but our ability to keep our emails and our telephone service operational, which we can't seem to do now, and if we're not careful, maintaining your data.

Dr. Evans: Very true.

Comm. Capers: In the technology upgrades in the \$1.2 million there are some schools in our district without security cameras, such as School 2. A lot of schools have old phone systems in there. Is this in the \$1.2 million?

Dr. Evans: I'm not sure.

Dr. Jeron Campbell: No, it's not.

Comm. Cleaves: Could you give us a little insight?

Comm. Capers: Are we looking into putting security cameras in the different schools? Where is that cost going to come from?

Comm. Cleaves: Not if we're cutting.

Dr. Campbell: Good evening. I actually gave Daisy three budgets for technology. That's the way I like to do it. The biggest of the three involved a \$1.8 million upgrade that we're doing. We call it the Synesis upgrade. Essentially, we already wired all of our buildings for 10-gig fiber. It's an infrastructure component. The \$1.8 million will be to buy core stations which we need to take advantage of that speed. Right now every building is at 1 gig. We completed 15 buildings up to 10 gigs and now we're going to do the rest of them. The quote for completing all of our schools to be running at 10-gig speed was \$1.8 million. I offered as a savings for the district this coming year to say if you take away anything so this would not affect laptops or classrooms, it would affect this infrastructure upgrade. We'd rather you delay that and take that money out of the budget. We'd still be left with some of it. It wasn't the whole \$1.8 million. It's \$1.2 million. We still keep \$600,000, which we can do some buildings with, but we wouldn't be able to do every building. We just do what we can and then hopefully the next year we do more. This is an infrastructure piece. It just happens to be very large. It's not things like cameras and laptops. We'd still be doing those things.

Comm. Capers: Each school has a technology budget. Is this in that \$1.2 million?

Dr. Campbell: No, it is not.

Comm. Capers: It's totally something different.

Dr. Campbell: Absolutely. This is our departmental technology budget.

Comm. Capers: Do we know how much per school they get towards technology?

Dr. Campbell: It probably varies. Every school doesn't have to spend their money on technology. They can dedicate a portion of their budget to technology. It varies tremendously by school.

Comm. Mimms: It's great that we're increasing the bandwidth, but what is the sustainability? We're only going up to 10. How long will that hold us? Is this a short-term fix? What's the long term?

Dr. Campbell: Most districts can't even believe we're going to 10 gigs. That's actually quite large. That's where we want to get as a district. Even at 1 gig we're fine. We're adding devices and other things. Technology keeps moving forward. You want to expand your bandwidth so you can handle more in the future. That's what we're doing. We're setting the district up to be prepared for the future.

Comm. Redmon: With the \$600,000 that you're proposing as a savings, would that sustain our infrastructure that holds our stuff at Rosa Parks High School?

Dr. Campbell: Where we are today will remain. This is only to improve. Like I said, we've done a block of schools. We had funding for that last year. Now we're trying to do it all. Given the fact that we did need to introduce some savings out of our budget, we told them we'd rather delay that particular project, do whatever we can for this year, and just keep doing it a block of schools per year rather than all of them just as a savings measure. It won't decrease anything. This is only to increase.

Comm. Mimms: When looking into this, it's great for the bandwidth. What about systems interfacing? Have we taken a look at ensuring that all of our systems interface without any new phase developments where we have to increase? Have we taken a look at all of what we're doing in the district?

Dr. Campbell: Every other contract, whether it be telephone, hardware, or software, are still in place. Our budget will continue. We'll continue to do upgrades. We'll continue with the same vendors. This is strictly just that one large project that I was fortunate enough to have that I could decrease in order to make sure that my department was contributing to the district in this budget.

Comm. Mimms: Not for this. I'm just saying in addition. Sometimes there are new phases or improvements. Based on what we're looking to do in technology, are we looking into how much that will cost us? What is a fixed cost to those things that we would need to do? With Kronos and different things that we're using, do we have some type of cost estimate in place to say these are some things we probably would need in the future, but here are some other opportunities that are available that may save us versus going to Kronos and have them develop it and all that? It's just a point of observation, not just for this, but just something we probably need to look at so that we're continually increasing our capacity and our bandwidth within technology.

Dr. Campbell: Part of our technology committee is actually working on a technology plan right now. We're looking at where we want to go in the future and part of that surely will be a cost analysis because we'll have to say is it realistic or not. We're actually doing that right now as part of the technology committee.

Comm. Hodges: Is your Title I funding for this budget secure?

Dr. Evans: The projected figures that I saw, correct me if I'm wrong Ms. Shafer, reduced it slightly by \$1 or \$2 million. It's a slight reduction.

Comm. Hodges: I'm hoping that the Board received a copy of the information I sent them from the School Boards Association. If you have a chance to go through it you will see that there is an assault on funding in anticipation of opening the door for vouchers. They want to transfer the money from Title I to vouchers. The attack is coming in a number of different areas. This is just one bill. There are four bills. This is just 610. There are four different attempts to do this and I want to be able to focus on just this one. The concern I have is they're going after school nutrition, child insurance, even E-Rate. They've eliminated nine companies in this bill that will provide internet services for free for kids. We actually pay for that as part of our bill. There's a portion of your cable bill that covers all that. They're eliminating nine companies that can provide that service to kids who are in distressed communities. They're going after a number of very concerning areas. The accountability is what I'm really worried about. Child nutrition is another area. Just the Title funding in general they're going to change to a block grant. The state will then decide they have other needs for this money. Will we be able to say come January 2018 that those monies are secure? We have to prepare very cautiously for the 2018-2019 budget in terms of Title I. We have a lot of things that are dependent on our Title I money.

Dr. Evans: Absolutely.

Comm. Hodges: You have a reduced number, but it's guaranteed until the end of this budget year?

Dr. Evans: For this year? Yes.

Comm. Hodges: How much of a reduction is it?

Dr. Evans: \$1 to \$2 million. We can get the exact figure. It wasn't a high percent. It was roughly \$1 to \$2 million.

Comm. Hodges: It didn't go up even though your needs go up.

Dr. Evans: Correct.

Comm. Irving: If it's okay with you all, it's 8:00 and I just want to keep choosing what to discuss. I'd like to see if we can go into public portion and then come back to ask additional questions of the Superintendent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

It was moved by Comm. Cleaves, seconded by Comm. Redmon that the Public Comments portion of the meeting be opened. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

Mr. Corey Teague: Good evening members of the council. I'm coming again, as you know, concerning special education. I do know that today the Supreme Court did hand down a ruling that pretty much told the schools that you have to do a lot more for kids that have special needs besides just providing a daycare setting. We actually have to work with them, which is going to bring us into another issue. I'm sure you all know an IEP is a legal document. If any of the services in that particular document are not carried out, that's a breach of that contract. Then the parents can turn around and sue.

It's appropriate to try to go to the district and see if you can get a resolution that way. If not, they can take it to the next step because it is a legal document. The district signs a portion of it and the parent signs a portion of it. Once both parties agree to the services from that point on the district is responsible for carrying out those services. With the budget cuts that are being proposed I think I heard something about special education, the busing, and where they're going to place students. I'm really interested in knowing what that number is and what exactly the plan is in detail. I understand there are probably some rules and laws that won't allow the public to see it right now, but I need to know specifics. How many students are they planning on? What age group? What grade? What schools? Where are they planning on bringing them to? All of that is very important because there are a lot of parents out here who have children with special needs and they're not paying attention. I'm not saying that everyone is like that, but there's a large number. You're talking 5,000 students in the district. That's not even counting the students that the parents haven't even brought in to even go through the process to see if they need services. I really need to know that in detail. How many students is the district planning on bringing back? Do we have certified teachers who can cover it? I had to even move my son out of the district because we didn't have enough teachers that were certified to handle that. Do we have those teachers in place? Exactly how many students are going to be brought back? How many teachers will be available to cover those classes the minute those students are returned? Especially for students that are multiply-disabled, these are serious questions. Until we can really get to the bottom of this, we're going to start seeing a lot of lawsuits and parents coming forward and going to the media and those kinds of things. I'm going to continue to come here and bring that in front because it seems like that continues to get pushed to the back. I was excited going back to my first comment that the Supreme Court rendered a ruling earlier saying that schools should be in a position or should want to provide more for students with special needs rather than the bare essentials or just the bare minimum. There should be more. That's what I'm advocating for and I'll continue to advocate for that, especially for my two. I have two children that both are in special education. So you will be seeing me here week after week until the answers are sufficient. Thank you.

Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly: Good evening everyone. It was a long day. Our second budget hearing was down in Rowan College and I didn't realize how far Rowan College was until this morning. I thought we were into Delaware or Maryland by the time we got there. Then there were two other meetings after that. Listening to the budget discussion I just think it's important that we're involved in the process and as Commissioners you spread the word and get people out to these budget hearings. Our next budget hearing will be on Wednesday at Felician College in Lodi at 10:00 a.m. You can all ahead to the OLS office or my office to get signed up to speak. There is an importance in the community coming out and speaking. There is an importance in Commissioners and people with an investment in our community to come out and speak. This is my sixth year in the Assembly and I've on budget for six years. Last year was the most involvement interaction that I've seen with our community outside of the regulars. Corey Teague comes down all the time and well as Dr. Hodges and a couple of the people. We had parents actually get involved in the process. If you don't get involved in the process things like Dr. Hodges said, it's a reality that the Trump administration has already said that studies have proven that after-school programs do not have an impact on our children. I don't know what children he's talking about. Anybody who now is proposing to cut Meals On Wheels for senior citizens and cutting their health benefits you know children are going to be at the forefront, particularly urban areas when it comes to cuts. These things are real issues. We had programs last summer with the Paterson Task Force and the Department of Agriculture where over 500 kids every Friday were able to bring home two breakfasts and two lunches with

them at the end of the day from the first, fourth, and fifth wards. It was such a great program that our numbers increased because people do not understand that people are out here starving. People are really starving. It's not a myth that people are starving, which brings me right to our budget here in the school district. We cannot even entertain raising any taxes for the residents of Paterson. During the Christie administration in 2011 we've been taxed at the rate of a 29% property tax increase. In 2012, 3.5% property tax increase. In 2013, 9.9% property tax increase. In 2014, a 5.2% property tax increase. In 2015, if you want to call it a cap, 2%. Last year, we had a 7% increase. If you understand and you ride around our town, even the more affluent neighborhoods like Eastside, Hillcrest, or Lakeview you see abandoned and boarded houses. We talk to residents every day that cannot pay their gas and electric. Senior citizens who are on soup lines because they cannot eat. If they can't, what do you think our children are facing every day, the 30,000 kids in our school district, when they come to school? When you make cuts, put it in the hands of the Christie administration, not you Commissioners. You owe it to nobody to make cuts that you don't believe in. Do not balance a budget on the backs of our young people and not the middle class as many people talk about, the poor people. We have poor people. Our median income is around \$34,000 in this city. Think about it intensely. There just cannot be a conversation about zeroes, X's, and O's and we have to get to this point. Think about the next time an Imani Tumer is shot. Think about the next time a Nadre Bugg is shot and killed. Think about the senseless violence and drug trade that we battle and try to turn a blind eye to in our community. This is a real issue. It's a human issue. It's not just about a budget proposal. I need you to stand up. I need you to fight. I need you to come together as a team. Your petty differences that you may have, be it republican or democrat or west side of town or east side of town, you're no different than the Bloods and the Crips when you're fighting. You need to come together as one as an administration and say let's do the right thing for our city and our community. I think there are better days ahead, but we cannot take for granted if we continue to cut that that money will never return. Make sure you sit up, really roll your sleeves up, check your egos at the door, get it right, and get it done for our children. Thank you very much and have a good night.

Ms. Rosie Grant: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Three minutes is short, but I'd like to read to you from the New Jersey Administrative Code law. I believe you have it. It's section 6A23A-8.2 Public Notice and Inspection. Each district Board of Education upon submission of its budget application to the Executive County Superintendent or by the statutory submission date, whichever is earlier, shall make available upon request for public inspection all budget and supporting documentation contained in the budget application and all other documents listed in NJAC6A23A-8.1 once the budget application has been submitted to the Executive County Superintendent for approval. This is what's in the law. Dr. Evans, I understand you shared with us what you were told, but I do submit that what you were told is contrary to the law. Somebody is breaking the law in this case. That's the first point I wanted to make. The second is I'm pleased that you're having this conversation, the administration and the Board, tonight. I submit that this should have happened before the budget was submitted to the County Superintendent. This is a very important conversation that you're having about what goes into the budget, how you get the resources, and how you spend the resources. The Board has fiscal responsibility now. So it's up to you, the elected body, to make sure that our money is in order and to transmit your desires to the administration. I understand you did that at your January meeting, but I would say that as far as my observations from being at the public meetings, it was not done this depth. It is all your responsibility, not just the fiscal committee's responsibility. I'm looking at the community members and parents budget priority list and there is one thing listed there that I said around what's happening with literacy. I know that I had a 20-item list that I submitted to

you and the administration by email. There are some things that are covered by other people, but there are quite a few things that are missing from the list. Finally, thank you Assemblyman Wimberly, for your message. I testified to the Senate this week and I'm testifying to the Assembly next week, but we need more voices. I know that parents are going next week and I appreciate the work that's been done to do that. We need the message to be clear. We need you, our elected representatives, to push back at the state. It's your duty to fight for our kids. We can't just say this is what it is and we just have to accept it. We can't recover the money that's gone, but just this year we can ask for the school formula to be funded by our legislative representatives. They need us to back them. They're perfectly willing to ask, but they need the public outcry. Thank you.

Ms. Terry James: Hi. I'm a parent of a nine-year-old at School 24. She's in a self-contained class. My concern is special education. Every single year she's not getting her therapies according to her IEP. Every single year your contract with the speech therapist or the occupational therapist doesn't work out. Our children suffer from that. She's not receiving her therapies. She's not even receiving her compensatory hours because you don't have therapists. You're cutting teachers. For what? You don't even have teachers to teach the students that you have. You don't have enough, but then you're RIF'g the teachers that you do have, which makes no sense to me. You talk about budget cuts. We can start with you. Honestly, no offense, I've seen a huge decline in this district since some of you have been in your seats. Don't take it personal, but that's what it has been. I'm sorry. I'm really upset because my daughter is falling through the cracks. I've been at that school almost every single day for a month fighting for her and we're still sitting in the same spot. When New Jersey Law files that lawsuit against you guys, you will see my name in that, too. It's been going on too long that she's been falling through the cracks and everybody is pointing fingers at each other. My tax money is not paying people to sit there and just cash a check and not do their job. That's all I have to say.

Ms. LaVonne Jones-McEachern: Good evening. I don't even know where to start. What Assemblyman Wimberly stated before he left that we all need to stand up, take notice, and get out there, I want to add roll up your sleeves and get in the trenches. Right now just sitting back there listening to all of this, we're going over the same thing we went over last year. I'm running down the street and we're taking buses here. I too testified yesterday at the Senate. They know what we need, but we're not there asking. I said to them I'm not here begging, but I want equality. That's what we have to do. Just like Assemblyman Wimberly said, I say it. Check your rocks at the door and we need to get real. You cannot put these numbers in a computer and make it look nice. I came out of a business setting and I know how it all works from the ground up. I also want to ask the question about collective bargaining. We're talking about cost drivers, benefits, and health. Those are lucrative things. But what are we getting in return? I ask the question who's at the collective bargaining table looking out for our needs? It is a give and take. I know that. I've been there in big business and we can't keep giving and getting nothing in return. I hope nobody goes out and says I always say I can repeat whatever I said. There was a situation when they were going to name the school or something. Maybe I didn't get all the facts, but they were saying some teachers were asked if they could give extra time or what have you. They said the union said you have to give overtime or whatever. If we aren't building free things into these contract negotiations we're wasting our time. We are giving the store away if we are not getting anything back. We need to stand up, take notice, and everybody ought to be there. I went there alone yesterday. I was driven there from here, but I was the only speaker that spoke. They know what's going on in Paterson because I had a one-on-one dialect with the Senator. Another one was confused. They're thinking we got it going on here in Paterson and the Senator said, "Wait. Let me correct you." She even said you just

got 1,400 new students. Yes, we did. We need to be there fighting for us. Putting these formulas in the computer and taking these numbers and trying to adjust them doesn't work. You have to get in the trenches. You have to roll up your sleeves because we can't get the job done if we don't know what the realistic job is. We have to be able to do it in order to get the correct information, pass it on, and get what we need for our students. That's the only way. I hope everybody is going to be there next Wednesday. We're going to have a bus leaving from here. I'm going to be on the bus. We have to do this. I don't even want to use the word, but what I felt sitting there just listening, it was the same script from last year. All we do is move line item to line item. We know what the cost drivers are. We have to fix it. We have to get real. If we're going to do the job, we need to get real. This plan is not going to help anybody. It's going to take us down.

Ms. Elizabeth Elias: Hello everybody. Once again, here again with the same thing last year and the year before that. You mentioned School 6. I'm the parent from School 21. I'm just here again to say stick to the basics. Everybody is going around trying to be a superhero and doing all these different types of programs. We can't even stick to the basics, such as the transportation, security guards, and nurses. You're still allowing charter schools. From what I hear I'm not that smart, but logically thinking basic things are not being done. How can you keep going overboard with the basics? We don't have reading teachers, math teachers, and science teachers. How can you do all these extra curriculums and don't have the basics? It's like you're trying to run without learning how to walk. If we go to war, we go to war with sticks and they have guns. Last year we had a whole bunch of parents that attended the meeting, but we had a little bit more time of communication because we were fighting since February. Again, there is late communication. I tell you all the time let's communicate together. At the end of the day when we're don't with everything your names are the ones on the chair. If you have a resume, your resume is going to be bad. Everything that you guys do, you don't see you're representing us as a city. Wherever we go, it's you on there. Some of you guys don't get paid. Some of you get paid. Dr. Evans, you get paid. Before I used to come to you and attack, but I don't even want to do that. Next time when we have the meeting on Wednesday I hope you're there. Even if you can't talk because I know you work for them, represent us the right way. The parents are not here but you guys are not there either. Last year there was a lot of voting on. This was packed last year with so many people trying to vote. A lot of councilmen were here saying, "Vote for me. I'm going to represent you." They're not here. Where are the parents? Where are the teachers? It's only a few of us. We're always here. It's a community. It's a village. We have to represent us. I have to represent me. You have to represent you. If we don't do it like that, we're never going to win, Dr. Evans. Maybe you care because you don't get paid, but I care. If I go to the next city these kids come from Paterson. I'm afraid to even move out because it's following my children. Last year I asked the chairman if we can talk. Do you know what he did? He gave each parent two minutes and it was more than 60 of us up there. I asked him that. It works and it shows. Just like when I asked and I told Ms. Peron to tell Dr. Evans to come to School 21 and let me know why and it worked. That's how it's going to work. If you ask for us, it's going to work. But if you don't talk and you don't come together out of your heart and understand that some kids are dying because they have miseducation, it's going to be more. Two kids just died that were not even 25 years old. They got shot and burned up in the streets of Paterson by another 30-year-old. I'm not saying that one thing has to do with another. They don't even have recreational programs, the basics, Dr. Evans. It's the basic things like reading. Forget about the after-school programs. Give us reading, writing, science, and the arts, things that will keep us busy. In the future, please fight for that. Then the other stuff will come in place. You cannot walk without crawling and you cannot run if you don't know who to walk. Do you understand that? That's all.

Ms. Charles Ferrer: Good evening. I was listening to some of what you said. I came in on the tail end. You were talking about selling the buildings down on Church Street. I have a slight feeling that those buildings might have heated with oil. I'm not sure. If they did, did you factor in the cost to remove those oil tanks? They are probably in the ground like most buildings from that time period. You just can no longer saw them in half and throw sand in them. That's not the law anymore. I was looking over the different lists and Comm. Redmon raised a good point about shared services. I was thinking we're spending a lot of money to paint this building. The article said \$372,000. I can't understand why we just didn't slap some white paint up there and could have used the balance of that money to buy some of that snow removal equipment that they had over in Prospect Park that Paterson used to clean the streets. If we had equipment like that, we could partner with Paterson where we would first clear our playgrounds and then all the neighbors around those schools would move their cars and then we could properly clean the streets. Therefore, working shared services we wouldn't have the issues of poorly plowed streets and things like that. I was in Hawthorne and you could park right up against the curb. In Totowa it was the same thing. Maybe our guys need some training. I don't know, but we have to do better. Ms. Grant brought up a very valid point that I was going to talk about. I was disturbed when I read how some Board members were asked to vote on the preliminary budget but they hadn't seen it. People that are on the budget committee had seen it, but others hadn't. She hit it right on the head that the law is the law. We're not looking for the user-friendly budget. I don't need to know what Ms. Shafer makes and what Dr. Evans makes. I'm not looking for that budget. If the law says that the budget is supposed to be there, then the actual budget that shows all the numbers should be available. No Commissioner and no taxpayer should have to go down to the business office to sit there and look at something that's this big. It's unacceptable. The law speaks volumes. When you disobey the law, it's showing a level of disrespect to the people who you're supposed to be representing. Since that has been brought forward I expect that this district will now follow the law. Don't put the user-friendly budget up there. I don't want to see it. I want to see the actual budget that shows the money. That's what people want to see. They want to see where the money goes. When you don't put what people really want to see up there, it's like we're working in the same world as Trump - alternative facts. What are you hiding? If there's nothing to hide, if we have transparency, then there's no reason not to show everything. Moving forward, I'm asking that the budget is there. I don't really want to hear anymore that the Board members haven't seen that entire budget. That's what they were elected for by the people of the City of Paterson. Respect, not disrespect! Thank you.

It was moved by Comm. Redmon, seconded by Comm. Castillo that the Public Comments portion of the meeting be closed. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

Comm. Irving: Dr. Evans, I just want to understand the next steps. There are some very good points that have been made tonight. I will call Mr. Davis myself first thing in the morning, but I think you need to express the concerns of the Board and the community. Clearly the budget exists, but he is handicapping you from allowing it to be released. Ultimately, you have to make a decision too knowing what you've given to the Board and the comments that have been made. Do you go along with what he's indicated? Or do you do what I think is the right thing to do? I think this Board unilaterally all agrees the sooner we can get the budget in the hands of the people the better. Period! Exclamation point! End of story. If that can be tomorrow, that would be

great. If that could be tonight, the sooner we get that information to the public the absolute better. I think the other piece is that there's an element to this that we have to pay attention to even after the budget is adopted. It's the action plan that follows this budget. There's Dr. Evans' presentation to the Board and us either voting up or down. No matter how that is, Dr. Evans still needs to explain through an action plan how he plans to exact these budget items and what they will look like in the next fiscal year. At the adoption, Dr. Evans, I'd like for you to at least have a timeline relative to when that implementation plan will be created and when the Board will be presented with that. All this affects what's going to happen in the fall for next year. I think that the Board needs to have a firm grasp of what that is going to look like prior to even us breaking for the summer. Are there any other questions relative this for Dr. Evans?

Comm. Hodges: Let me just say you can't expect the community to come out when you shut them out of the process. They've been shut out all throughout this entire process, which is why we were arguing early in the year. That's number one. They won't come here and they won't go to Trenton because they're not going to be part of that process or anywhere else. Dr. Evans, are you still of the opinion that we can ill afford the loss of school buildings as you were at the beginning of the year?

Dr. Evans: If the utilization of those buildings presents a problem for educating our kids, then I don't see a problem getting rid of them. We have some that fit that category. The other factor is do we have space elsewhere in the district to put the kids. Until recently, particularly for the youngsters at Newcomer's we didn't have anywhere else to put them, unless we split them up and sent a class here and a class there. When you're trying to get the kind of impact that you want in a true Newcomer's program, it's ineffective. This year as we looked at space there was space in a facility that would accommodate them. That facilitates that kind of move. You have to look at all the variables.

Comm. Hodges: That's why I need you to tell us what the constraints are. You made a statement earlier in the year on which I based my position on. The state has put us in a box in terms of facilities that we can purchase and renovations that we can incur. They were supposed to buy this. That was the original intent with this building. It was not to lease it for 7 years now or whatever it is. They were supposed to purchase this building for a preschool. That was the original intent of coming here. We had the extra space to do that. That would have taken a certain amount of money off the lease rolls and return it for other instruction to the district. We've been trying to drive that process to get out of leases and obtain buildings and move that lease money into other things. We can't do that because of the edicts of the state in many cases. We need to know whether we have more flexibility now to make some of those decisions. I'm not thinking about HARP anymore because there are other issues there. But there are other things, like the pickle factory, making sure that they extend the facilities for PANTHER. We can obtain that building, build an auditorium, a cafeteria, and doing other things so that it becomes a self-contained building and it gives you a parking lot so you don't have to pay money to all the teachers that are going to park their cars. These are things that we need to talk about and discuss. Not selling real estate, but making sure we purchase real estate so that we can have more effective programs in place. I need to know what kinds of things we are going to be able to do to bring those things about given the control that the state exercises over facilities. It's nice to go ask the County Superintendent, but I think this Board has to craft its own set of budget procedures so this does not happen again. We need to develop an outline of what the budget process should look like starting with Board priorities.

Comm. Irving: That I agree with you completely on.

Comm. Hodges: The public will be informed. There won't be any missing meetings or closing meetings. Everything we'll know ahead of time and we can tell the public we need you here. What happened last year is when they came here they got charged and went and fought in all these hearings. But they weren't here this year because when they came they didn't have anything. The meetings weren't publicized as being budget meetings so they didn't come. We need them because this battle gets worse. Even though Christie may be gone, what they have done with his budget moving forward for at least two years into the next Governor's term, his hands are going to be tied. Don't think there's suddenly going to be this gush of money. That's not happening because you have the state tax which is going to punch a \$500 million hole into the budget. He can't say, "I'm Governor now. Here's your money." That's not going to happen. You have to realize we may anticipate 2%, a token gift of money to say I'm doing something different, but it won't be a whole lot. It won't be anything near what we need to keep our budgets closed going forward for at least two years into the next Governor's term. To be realistic, this is extremely important. I don't know what's going to happen with charter schools, but the projection was 1,500 slots between now and 2020. We had a two-hour phone conference this morning. There's a hold harmless clause in that for every year. If the charter schools lose students, we still have to pay them even though those students come back to us. There's a large dollar figure that's added on which is unanticipated. You can't predict that. You have no idea. It will hit your budget whether you know it or want to or not. There are a lot of additional drivers and why we have to have a coherent process so we can discuss these things and pool our information so that we can plan successfully for our school district. That didn't happen this year. I'm very frightened because it comes after that the Devos era with loss of Title I funding and vouchers and on and on. There is the belief that we should be teaching religious materials in our schools and Bible classes and everything. That's their approach. That's her thinking. We could all use a prayer, but the question is whose prayer. What she has is very nearly dictated to. All I'm trying to say is this is a major problem. We should have had this discussion earlier, because we still have more things to talk about with the budget. I do apologize for becoming excitable. I am excitable. I'm frightened by what's happening here because there's no longer any state anymore. It's just us. If we're doing this to us, there's no one else to turn to. There's no one. We're doing this to us. That's why I'm excitable. I have no intentions of yelling at people. I yell all the time in general. What I understand is happening may be a lot more serious than other people understand. I'm worried about where we're headed. I'm seriously worried about where we're headed. Thank you.

Comm. Irving: I disagree with Dr. Hodges' foundations as far as the process, but I do agree with him as far as establishing protocol and a standing action plan for us as a Board in the future. I think that depending on the year, the fiscal situation, and the leadership the process ebbs and flows in incarnations. I think the only way to do that is to help mitigate that. That indicates that no matter who the Board president is, who the superintendent is, or what the fiscal condition is there is a process that's established going from December all the way until now until adoption that details when the Board meets, when the public meets, or at least gives us a timeframe for that. I think we should commit to working towards putting that document together. I'm going to volunteer Ms. Shafer to help me put that together. She's good at rubrics and all other good stuff. I think that between you and myself we can present the Board something back that at least says in December there will be two meetings to address x, y, and z. Again, we may come to a point in subsequent years where the Board may say we don't need the two meetings in February. We need one or three. But at least the Board has a plan and a process by which they move forward. I certainly concur with putting that document together.

Comm. Mimms: Based on this discussion and everything that we've been talking about now looking to talk to Mr. Davis and trying to get the preliminary budget where we can see it, I'm proposing another meeting prior to the adoption. If we only have next week to vote on it, we're not going to have time to look at this budget and be able to come together and make some determinations before the finalization of the budget. I'm not sure what date we have this week. I know Monday there's a special meeting.

Comm. Irving: If we can use next week's meeting as a budget hearing, we can ask Mr. Davis, since he wants to hold the process up, to use the workshop meeting as the adoption. Those meetings are already set. We give another two weeks to be able to elongate this process. If you are all okay with that I have no problem asking Mr. Davis to be able to do so. That also doesn't put us on the hook for having to find another day in the course of the next two weeks to fit it in. We can have another hearing on the 29th and then do the adoption on the 5th at the workshop. Daisy, the budget has to be adopted by when?

Ms. Daisy Ayala: April 7.

Comm. Irving: Then we do the adoption on the 5th. If that's okay with everybody, let's operate that. That allows us and the community the opportunity to get their hands on the information for the Board to be able to look into what happens to be here and ask more questions for how that's interpreted in the actual budget itself. We'll do another hearing on the 29th. Dr. Evans, I'll request that staff make themselves available so if the Board has any questions relative to any line items that need to be addressed staff is here to be able to answer those questions. Then on the 5th at the workshop meeting we'll actually do one more hearing, public portion, and adoption that day. Is that okay with you all?

Comm. Hodges: We need copies of the budget.

Comm. Irving: I think pushing it back is the only responsible thing to do. But in the interim I will communicate with you over email tomorrow what my conversation with Mr. Davis is. I may ask you all subsequently to call his office to lobby on our behalf as well.

Comm. Mimms: In addition when you're creating the document if we are provided so that we can give input. I know you said December, but I think we need to start maybe October just having discussions around it. The school year starts in September and we can start being more proactive with the budget process. Then whatever the document looks like we can all look at it and say maybe this needs to be added or whatever. Then we can vet it through.

Comm. Capers: I just had a couple of questions for Dr. Evans. How many school buildings are we currently leasing?

Dr. Evans: Three or four. Ms. Shafer, do you recall? I can make a list real quick.

Ms. Shafer: We have Boris Kroll. We sublease out part of the lease and it ends in June. We would be done with them, but we don't have any students.

Comm. Capers: That's the high school, right?

Ms. Shafer: Right, but we don't have any of our students in there right now. The other one is Colt Street where we have YES Academy and HARP. The other one is Prospect Park right now where we have Great Falls Academy.

Comm. Capers: Can we move any of them to School 11, because we own that building?

Ms. Shafer: Right now one of the considerations is to bring Great Falls Academy to School 11.

Comm. Capers: Is this consideration going into this budget?

Ms. Shafer: That's correct.

Comm. Capers: I'm just looking over the charter school and PCTI in just trying to understand it. Is there a cap on how many students we project to go to Tech and charter schools?

Dr. Evans: Yes. We've worked with them every year and actually Ms. Ayala is leading that process.

Comm. Capers: That sounds like a yes and a no.

Dr. Evans: It's not a yes or no question. They may want a certain number of students and then we go back and say what about this many. Would you explain the process, Ms. Ayala? She actually does that.

Comm. Capers: Can we make a cap?

Dr. Evans: No.

Comm. Irving: Not by law.

Comm. Capers: For charter or Tech.

Comm. Irving: Definitely not for charter.

Ms. Ayala: That's an interesting question. Every district wanted to negotiate with Passaic Tech because they too are having some challenges with the budget. However, he said no.

Comm. Capers: When you say he, who is he?

Ms. Ayala: The BA. When I spoke to him I explained to him our situation with the charter schools. We both agreed. The BA signed the document as well as Dr. Evans and I that we agreed that this is the number moving forward.

Comm. Capers: I know they're building a STEM building. How much is that?

Ms. Ayala: That's not going to impact this next year.

Comm. Capers: Not this budget. It's for the following year.

Ms. Ayala: The subsequent budget will most likely.

Comm. Hodges: Not the educator, but the BA is the one that's saying no. You're talking to the BA, right?

Ms. Ayala: The BA and I both agreed.

Comm. Hodges: You do understand what that means.

Comm. Capers: What does that mean?

Comm. Hodges: It's a financial thing. It's not an educational thing. It's a financial thing. Let's be very clear about that.

Ms. Ayala: Both Superintendents signed it as well.

Comm. Capers: You were talking about cost savings for charter schools. A lot of the kids are in charter schools so it's saving us money. How much is that cost savings versus how much we already were sending?

Dr. Evans: I don't have an answer for you. I can get it for you.

Comm. Redmon: Once we talk to the County Superintendent and he says it's okay to release the budget, will all Board members get it digitally like we got last year so we're able to go line by line to have a discussion? Then when we come to the meeting we're prepared to have our questions answered in a public session.

Comm. Irving: I will look to the Superintendent and make that request.

Comm. Redmon: I feel that it's easier for all of us to get it digitally instead of coming to the BA's office and having individual questions.

Comm. Irving: I found the digital version very helpful for me last year because as soon as they sent the link you just click the button, it popped right up and we were able to scroll through.

Dr. Evans: We'll make that available.

Comm. Irving: Again, I want to request that you call in the morning as well as I citing to Bob the concern and the pressing need to push back the budget adoption by two weeks.

Comm. Mimms: I heard Ms. Shafer just say that the consideration is to put Great Falls Academy at School 11. We're doing that. I have no issue with the Newcomer's program. I'm just trying to figure out why we're moving them. We're saying the building is so dilapidated, but we're putting other kids there. We're saying the consideration is to keep them there and add more kids to the building and get more usage out of it? Is that what we're saying?

Ms. Shafer: No. Right now what's on the table and we're discussing is to move the Newcomer's program. We have two or three buildings that are low in capacity. We're looking to split the Newcomer's Program by grade levels in order to put them in the schools that currently have capacity in order to bring Great Falls Academy to School 11.

Comm. Mimms: That was one of the recommendations I made last time. I don't want to move one group of kids and then we have some more kids that are a part of this.

Comm. Irving: Are there any further questions?

Comm. Hodges: I will remind the Board that the principal was very adamant in not wanting to split the school up. Am I correct? I don't want to misstate anything. The feeling was the interactions were so terribly important and they didn't want two different schools that were not as effective in giving that kind of educational service. The principal was extremely adamant about not wanting to do that very thing. I just want to remind you all of that. Not me, but the principal didn't want to do that, the person who is engaged in the actual management of the school. I would also encourage you to start in October because that's actually when the budget conversation begins. The Board should be having discussions around its priorities and looking at what's in front of them. I'm also worried about PARCC. That seems to be on life support right now in terms of it being used as a graduation vehicle. The Assembly passed a concurrent resolution very recently to eliminate PARCC as a graduation requirement. Now it's moving to the Senate where it may have some hardships. What kind of funding do we spend on PARCC to put all that together? I don't know what they're going to do in terms of moving to another test approach, but you will save bucks there. It probably won't impact the 2017-2018 budget.

Dr. Campbell: Can you repeat the question?

Comm. Hodges: I want to know the total cost for the PARCC operation.

Dr. Campbell: I'd have to go look at the budget.

Comm. Hodges: Okay. I don't need it tonight. Those dollars may be shifted or become available. I don't know if it will stop this year, but at least going forward.

Comm. Mimms: All of the recommendations and things that we inputted tonight just to see an updated list with those recommendations included, what shifts are going to be done to make this list look nicer to us. The other thing I want to do is give kudos. I had made a recommendation about the PARCC sites as well as some community members or parents had requested that we get a letter sent out. We know it's on the website and you did a great job with that. They requested that they get literature sent out to them. I just want to give kudos to Kemper McDowell and Dr. Jeron Campbell. They actually sent literature. I believe it went out this week to the parents and they have that. The other thing they're doing is a two-minute video to talk about PARCC and give a tutorial. I want to give kudos for that because it's just the small things that when parents ask for it and we give it to them they are excited about. I just wanted to give that kudos out to them for that.

Dr. Evans: Thank you.

Comm. Cleaves: I think the discussion was great, but I have one motion I'd like to make for the record. I'd like to move that we remove 3K from the budget, which is the local levy.

Comm. Irving: That's needs to be seconded.

Comm. Martinez: I will second that.

It was moved by Comm. Cleaves, seconded by Comm. Martinez that the Board instructs the Superintendent to remove the 2% levy from the budget as it will be reintroduced to the Board for next week. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

Comm. Irving: This just means that the Superintendent is going to have to find \$824,000. My expectation is that next week there will be an answer for where he'll be able to find that in the budget.

Comm. Hodges: Doesn't he already have a \$700,000 and change excess?

Comm. Martinez: That's the challenge, Dr. Hodges. You're spot on. That number is represented as \$824,000. I think between the surplus and some other fund balance we can find that somewhere else.

Comm. Cleaves: And because Comm. Mimms is a preacher and she likes to close she might just pass the plate.

Comm. Mimms: I know we mentioned it, but just a reconsideration of these buildings. We have some buildings to close. We can take another look at that. I wanted to make sure we stress that into the reconsiderations. Thank you so much.

It was moved by Comm. Cleaves, seconded by Comm. Redmon that the meeting be adjourned. On roll call all members voted in the affirmative. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.