

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LAKEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION, HELD ON THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 11, 2016, 7:30 P.M., AT THE LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, 855 SOMERSET AVENUE,
LAKEWOOD, NEW JERSEY 08701**

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Barry Iann, President

Thaddeus Thompson, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. He then read the following:

SUNSHINE LAW

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

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

II. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Mr. Barry Iann
Mr. Hillel Brull - arrived 7:42 p.m.
Mr. Isaac Goldsmith
Mrs. Ada Gonzalez
Mr. David Jacobovitch
Mr. Alex Janklowicz
Mr. Joshua Weinberger - arrived 7:46 p.m., left 9:30 p.m.
Mr. Isaac Zlatkin

Board Members Absent: Mr. Heriberto Rodriguez

Also Attending: Mrs. Laura A. Winters, Superintendent
Mr. Thaddeus Thompson, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Mr. Kevin Campbell, Assistant Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary
Mr. David Shafter, State Monitor
Mrs. Theresa Pollifrone-Sinatra, State Monitor
Mr. Marc Zitomer, Board Attorney

Translator: Miriam Medina

- III. PRESENTATIONS –
1. Board Attorney
 2. District Auditor – Dieter Lerch
 3. Transportation Consultant – Gus Kakavas
- IV. RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC - **The Recognition of the Public will be limited to 30 minutes. Therefore, each speaker will be given a maximum of 2 minutes to speak.**
1. Alejandra Morales
 2. Rabbi Weisberg
 3. Roxanne Martin
 4. Kim Singleton
 5. Noreen Gill
 6. Annette Kearney
 7. Michael Inzelbuch
 8. T'Shyne Jones
 9. Dr. Michael Rush
 10. Fred Rush
 11. Donald Ortiz
 12. Mario Melendez
 13. Cristina Tochiuitl
 14. Javier Lemus
 15. Rozita Cotto
 16. Pastor Wilson

STATEMENT BY BOARD PRESIDENT

Pursuant to Board Policy 0164, Roberts' Rules of Order shall govern the Board of Education in its deliberations and in the conduct of its meetings. As such, all comments from the public and from other members of the Board should be directed to the Board President who is responsible for presiding over the meeting.

The President shall direct all inquiries or comments to the appropriate Administrator or Board member for response, as appropriate. The law requires a period of public comment at our meetings, not a question or answer session or debate. The board president at his discretion may or may not feel it is appropriate to answer questions raised during the public comment period. The board and administration do take all public comments seriously and consider them when conducting business.

The President may interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive or obscene. In addition, Security Personnel may direct any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum, whether the person is at the microphone or at any other place in the meeting room. New Jersey law makes it a crime for any person to intentionally disrupt a public meeting. Law enforcement will be contacted if a person disrupts the meeting and fails to desist after being directed to do so. Finally, we ask that you silence all electronic devices.

V. RESOLUTION OF THE LAKEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the School Funding Reform Act ("SFRA") was enacted in 2008 in order to, ostensibly, provide a fair and accurate funding formula to address the needs of New Jersey's student population; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the funding formula devised by the Legislature when the SFRA was enacted, the SFRA provides funding based on the per-pupil amount deemed necessary to provide an education to every student, regardless of need; and

WHEREAS, the SFRA provides additional needs-based aid for students with disabilities, at-risk students and to students with limited English proficiency; and

WHEREAS, the District's out-of-District special education student population has increased from 206 students in the 2011-2012 school year to 369 students in the current, 2015-2016 school year, an increase of approximately 79%; and

WHEREAS, despite this stratospheric increase and the related financial implication on the District and its taxpayers, the District's State special education aid for the same period has only increased by approximately 8.25%; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the above, pursuant to State law, school districts must provide transportation to elementary pupils who live more than 2 miles from their home and for secondary students who live more than 2 ½ miles from their home, regardless of the cost associated with such transportation; and

WHEREAS, as with its responsibilities under the SFRA, the State is also required to provide transportation aid to the District in order to account for proportional and unaccounted-for costs associated with providing State-required transportation to certain pupils in the District; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with law, during the 2012-2013 school year, the District was required to provide transportation to 14,855 students, which, due to Lakewood's unique makeup and explosive rate of population growth, rose to 19,904 students for the current, 2015-2016 school year, an increase of 34%; and

WHEREAS, despite this increase and the State's responsibility to provide transportation aid, the District's overall State transportation aid amount increased by only 1.78% during the same time period and has actually remained flat for the prior two years; and

WHEREAS, the Board is concerned that the District's population growth and increase in costs placed on the District pursuant to law, coupled with the State's underfunding of the District's rightful amount of State aid, has resulted in a revenue stream that does not support the District's budget resulting in a deficit; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that the solution to these problems can only come through decisive legislative or executive action to fully fund the District's rightful share of State aid, rather than from stop-gap methods which may only extend or intensify the issue; and

WHEREAS, the Board is further concerned that due to Lakewood's hazardous roadways and lack of mass transit system, the State-imposed obligation to provide transportation only to students living great distances from school creates a dangerous and irresponsible safety hazard to District students forced to walk or travel on the District's roads to get to school; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that after consideration of the SFRA funding formula, the Lakewood Board of Education finds that the State of New Jersey has severely underfunded the District's SFRA aid and extraordinary aid entitlement by millions of dollars; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education further finds that the State of New Jersey has failed to provide the District with its fair share of State aid that takes into account increased District enrollment, increased transportation responsibilities for both in-District and out-of-District students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board finds that the continued failure or refusal of the State to fully fund the District's State aid entitlement, including transportation aid, special education aid and extraordinary aid, created an untenable burden on the District and its finances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in consideration of the above, the Board of Education fully expresses its support for, and endorsement of, the Petition on Behalf of the Lakewood Community to Senator Robert Singer, Assemblyman Sean Kean and Assemblyman David Rible, which has been distributed to concerned citizens in the District and which requests State action to address the precise issues raised herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby requests and authorizes the Board President to author a letter on behalf of the Board to our State legislators, urging them to introduce or co-sponsor legislation with the goal of modifying the District's State aid funding formula and changing the mandatory busing law so that the distance for mandated transportation will be reduced to ½ mile from home to school for cities with hazardous and overly congested roadways like Lakewood which do not have a mass transit system; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary shall forward a copy of the Petition and this resolution to our State Representatives, the New Jersey School Boards Association, local municipal leaders, the board secretaries of each school district in the county, the County Office of Education and the Office of the Commissioner of Education.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION (passed)

Motion: Mr. Jacobovitch **Second:** Mr. Zlatkin

7 Ayes: Mr. Brull, Mr. Goldsmith, Mr. Jacobovitch, Mr. Janklowicz, Mr. Zlatkin,
Mrs. Gonzalez, Mr. Iann

0 Nays:

0 Abstained:

2 Absent: Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Weinberger

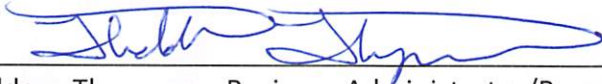
VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion: Mr. Zlatkin **Second:** Mr. Brull

Meeting was adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

I, Thaddeus Thompson, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, of the Lakewood Board of Education, hereby certify this to be a true copy of the Minutes from a public meeting held on February 11, 2016.



Thaddeus Thompson, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

March 16, 2016

PETITION ON BEHALF OF THE LAKEWOOD COMMUNITY TO
SENATOR ROBERT SINGER, ASSEMBLYMAN SEAN KEAN
and ASSEMBLYMAN DAVID RIBLE

**INCREASE LAKEWOOD'S TRANSPORTATION/SPECIAL EDUCATION
AID AND FULLY FUND THE SFRA.**

Background: Since the 2012-13 school year the number of students the school district is required to transport (non-courtesy bussing) increased by 34%, yet the District's State aid increased by only 1.78% and has remained flat for the last two years. Furthermore, our special education aid has increased by 8.25% during the past five year, yet our out-of-district special education population has increased by approximately 79% during this same time period. Moreover, the State's underfunding of School Funding Reform Act ("SFRA") and reduced extraordinary aid shortchanges the Lakewood School District by millions of dollars -- money which would otherwise help the District remain solvent.

**BY SIGNING THIS PETITION YOU ARE URGING THE LEGISLATORS FROM THE 30TH DISTRICT TO:
(1) PROVIDE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WITH STATE AID WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR LAKEWOOD'S
INCREASED ENROLLMENT SO THAT LAKEWOOD GETS ITS FAIR SHARE OF STATE AID BASED
UPON ENROLLMENT AND; (2) PROVIDE FULL FUNDING TO THE LAKEWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT
UNDER THE SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM ACT.**

**OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS FROM THE 30TH DISTRICT ARE RESPECTFULLY URGED TO
COMMUNICATE A RESPONSE TO THIS PETITION TO THE LAKEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

	<i>NAME</i>	<i>ADDRESS</i>	<i>EMAIL (Optional)</i>
1.	_____		
2.	_____		

[Note: Petition will be submitted to Legislators in 2 weeks so time is of the essence.]

**PETICIÓN DE PARTE DE LA COMUNIDAD LAKEWOOD AL SENADOR ROBERT SINGER, EL
ASAMBLEÍSTA SEAN KEAN Y EL ASAMBLEÍSTA DAVID RIBLE.**

AUMENTE LA AYUDA DE TRANSPORTE/EDUCACIÓN ESPECIAL DE LAKEWOOD Y TOTALMENTE FINANCIAR EL SFRA.

Información de Fondo: Desde el año escolar 2012-13 los números de estudiantes del distrito escolar han requerido transporte (no de cortesía) aumentado 34%. Sin embargo, el Distrito de la ayuda estatal sólo aumentó en 1.78 % y se ha mantenido estable en los últimos dos años. Además, nuestra ayuda de educación especial aumentó 8.25% durante los últimos cinco años, sin embargo, nuestra población fuera del Distrito Educación Especial ha aumentado en aproximadamente un 79% durante este mismo período de tiempo. Por otra parte, el hecho de que el Estado con los fondos del financiamiento de la Educación (Ley de Reforma "SFRA") y la reducida ayuda extraordinaria rebajaría el Distrito escolar de Lakewood por valor de millones de dólares, dinero que otros sabios ayudar al distrito permanecer solventes.

**FIRMANDO ESTA PETICIÓN ESTÁN INSTANDO A LOS LEGISLADORES DEL DISTRITO 30 PARA:
(1) PROPORCIONAR EL DISTRITO ESCOLAR CON AYUDAS ESTATALES QUE REPRESENTA EL
AUMENTO DE LA MATRÍCULA DE LAKEWOOD PARA QUE LAKEWOOD OBTIENE SU CUOTA DE
AYUDA ESTATAL BASADA EN LA INSCRIPCIÓN Y: (2) PROVEER FINANCIAMIENTO COMPLETO
PARA EL DISTRITO ESCOLAR DE LAKEWOOD, EN LA ESCUELA DE LEY DE REFORMA DE LA
FINANCIACIÓN.**

**NUESTROS FUNCIONARIOS ELECTOS DE DISTRITO 30 SE EXHORTA RESPETUOSAMENTE PARA
COMUNICAR LA RESPUESTA A ESTA PETICIÓN A LA JUNTA DE EDUCACIÓN DE LAKEWOOD.**

[Nota: La Petición será presentada a los Legisladores en 2 semanas por tanto el tiempo es primordial.]

NOMBRE	DIRECCION	CORREO ELECTRONICO (OPCIONAL)
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1. _____

2. _____