

March 7, 2016

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY**

A special meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, March 7, 2016, in the Wilson School Multi-Purpose Room beginning at 7:00 PM. Those present: Ms. Kalin, presiding, Ms. Chang, Ms. Colbert, Mr. Dietze, Mr. Freeman and Ms. McCann. Mr. Hanley arrived at 7:12 PM.

Also present were Mr. Chang, Superintendent, Mr. Pepe, Assistant Superintendent/Board Secretary, Dr. Glazer, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Kachmar-Desonne, Director of Special Services, Mr. Block, Director of Human Resources, and Ms. Schneider, Assistant Business Administrator. There were 34 people in the audience.

NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION

The following notice was presented:

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

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Pepe gave an update on state aid, budget adjustments, revised tax levy/impact and the tentative budget for adoption and delivery to the Executive County Superintendent.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Dietze, Operations Committee chairperson, reviewed changes made to the budget since the report given at the February 11th Workshop meeting.

DISCUSSION – BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mr. Freeman commended Mr. Pepe and Mr. Chang for funding programs needed and presenting a fiscally responsible budget.

Mr. Hanley thanked Mr. Pepe, Ms. Schneider, and Mr. Chang for their continued support of the district goals.

Mr. Dietze thanked Mr. Pepe, Ms. Schneider, and Mr. Chang.

Ms. McCann stated she met with Mr. Pepe and Ms. Schneider and they spoke in great detail about the health benefits portion of the budget; thanked the Business Office team for a budget that invests in technology, special education, and guidance.

Ms. Colbert stated she is a member of the Operations Committee and feel they ended in a good place, after some concerns stemming from the February 11th meeting. She stated she was very

happy they were able to get the cost of the health benefits down, and thanked Mr. Pepe and Ms. Schneider for their efforts.

Ms. Chang thanked Mr. Pepe, Ms. Schneider, and the Operations Committee and stated she was grateful they were able to negotiate the health benefits cost without cuts to programs.

Ms. Kalin stated she felt confident the budget would allow for the best educational experience for students.

DISCUSSION – PUBLIC

Mr. Poles, Principal of Jefferson School, read a statement on behalf of the Summit Principals Association noting:

- the district principals stand aligned with the Board of Education, teachers and administrators
- many requests are not included in the draft budget
- consistently having budgets below the 2% cap creates losses for students and instructional programs
- elementary guidance is limited, staff development was cut in half, teacher resources minimized – lost all content area supervisors
- look at district needs in the long-term
- need to consider moving to reinvest and pursue excellence today and in the future

Ms. Gumm commented on children with reading challenges – dyslexia and reading differences – and the cost of keeping kids classified and tested for reading. Mr. Chang responded.

Ms. Keegan stated she feels the district is falling short of focus areas by not having curriculum supervisors at the elementary level; she feels there is a need for guidance at the elementary schools.

Ms. Wilson read district focus area #3 and agreed with Mr. Poles that the Board should look at what is being cut and what is not being added.

Ms. Zahn stated she is disappointed that guidance did not make it into focus areas; she asked for more help due to increased testing requirements, basic skills, and replacement of literary coaches. Mr. Chang responded.

Another parent stated he was less concerned about being at 1.95% as apposed to funding the needs of our kids.

Ms. Lacunde asked about the increase in legal services from 2013-2014 and asked if that is the expectation. Mr. Pepe responded.

Mr. Wittick thanked the Board and administrators for their hard work and noted that the cost of healthcare is a challenge for all; he encouraged all residents to reach out to county freeholders to examine county taxes.

Councilman Rubino commended the Operations Committee and Board on the budget and noted that 30% of the city's budget goes to support the county.

Ms. Hanson thanked the board for the work done and had a comment about legal costs regarding special education – interested in how decisions are made to litigate, appeal, settle. Mr. Chang and Mr. Pepe responded.

Mr. Shanker thanked the Board for their hard work and stated that if the community is looking to add programs, they also need to decide what can be reduced.

Mr. Biagos, a new resident to Summit, thanked the Board for their hard work, and asked that the community decide if it is worth investing more into the schools.

Ms. Stein thanked the Board for their work in operating with fiscal restraint – she asked that they look at where we are not and what is not allocated in the budget. She asked what the budget would be without the health care cost. Mr. Pepe responded.

Ms. Cheney thanked the Board and stated on behalf of the Franklin School parents that they asked that class size remain small. Mr. Chang responded.

Ms. Gannon thanked the Board and asked that they look at a weighted model for enrollment and the dynamics of a class; she applauded the principals for speaking out for what students need; she encouraged residents to get to freeholder meetings regarding county taxes.

Mr. Zobel noted the investment in technology and special education and asked if they will get to see the investment in SES – are we more concerned with litigating vs. investing. Mr. Chang responded.

Council President McTernan thanked and congratulated the Board and the administration – he assured the public that they can trust Mr. Pepe, Mr. Chang, and Ms. Schneider – that every year the BOE budget reacts well to the unforeseen; they keep an eye on student success while keeping the taxpayer in mind.

Ms. Bonnet commented on the budget legal reserve – what kind of compliance procedures are in place to make sure money is spent prudently for special education. Mr. Pepe responded.

Ms. Wilson asked if we are still able to use the emergency reserve for healthcare. Ms. Schneider responded.

President Kalin thanked the Operations Committee, administration, and all that came out to the meeting for their questions and comments.

ADOPTION OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET 2016-2017

Mr. Dietze moved the following under Adoption of the Tentative Budget 2016-2017:

Adjustment Health Benefits

RESOLVED that the Summit City Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$483,289. The additional funds are included in the base budget and will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefits.

Capital Reserve Account Withdrawal

RESOLVED that the Summit City Board of Education requests the approval of a capital reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$729,220. The district intends to use these funds as follows: sidewalk project at Franklin & JPC \$87,020; stairs structure repair at Lincoln-Hubbard \$23,100; fire suppression sprinkler at LCJSMS \$24,100; brick repointing at Brayton \$35,000; roof sections replacement and security camera replacements at Summit H.S. \$560,000.

Adoption of Tentative Budget 2016-2017

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2016-2017 School Year and sent to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in accordance with the statutory deadline for review and approval:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
2016-2017 Total Expenditures	\$67,889,784	\$1,191,085	0	\$69,080,869
Less: Anticipated Revenues	4,920,895	\$1,191,085	0	6,111,980
Local Tax Levy to be Raised	\$62,968,889	0	0	\$62,968,889

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

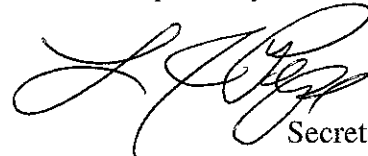
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the public hearing be held in City Hall Council Chambers, 512 Springfield Avenue, Summit, New Jersey on March 29, 2016 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2016-2017 School Year.

Motion was seconded by Mr. Freeman. The roll was called and all present voted “Aye.” The motion was declared adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Dietze, seconded by Mr. Freeman, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary