

April 2, 2020

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY**

The Board of Education held a Remote Special Budget Meeting on Thursday, April 2, 2020 beginning at 6:00 PM in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Local Operational Guidance – Covid-10: Guidance for Remote Public Meetings in New Jersey. Those present: Ms. Primack, presiding, Mr. Bonner, Mr. Colón, Ms. McCann Ms. Miller, Mr. Weinreich, and Dr. Wong.

Also present were Mr. Chang, Superintendent, Mr. Pepe, Assistant Superintendent/Board Secretary, and Ms. Sarno, Assistant Business Administrator. There were 93 people viewing the meeting remotely.

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.

President Primack reported that the Board had attempted to conduct this meeting on Monday, March 30, 2020 but had technical difficulties.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Chang stated that this year’s budget supports a well-rounded education with no changes since the adoption of the tentative budget. He thanked the Cabinet members, Principals, Supervisors for their hard work in aligning the budget with our vision; and the Business Office. He stated his is proud of the budget and happy to have it approved by the County.

Mr. Pepe stated that the budget has received County approval, and that there are no changes since the adoption of the tentative budget. This budget represents a 1.83% increase resulting in a tax impact of an increase of \$105.70 on the average home.

DISCUSSION – BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Ms. McCann read the following:

“Good evening. First, I want to thank Lou and the incredibly talented business office team, including Kathy Sarno, Jeanine Dotten, and anybody else I may have missed.

Also, I want to thank the Superintendent, cabinet, administration, principals, supervisors, teachers and all of the staff for working through the process to ensure the best allocation of our dollars to serve **all of our students, in the most effective and efficient way.**

Similar to most organizations, you don’t always get all of your requested budget dollars...but you continue to provide for our students with a positive attitude. This is true teamwork which is recognized, valued and appreciated.

I also want to thank the taxpayers...who are continuously supportive of our schools and our students...even those who do not have children in the schools. Thank you for your support.

And thank you to the many parent-run foundations who support our budget. We couldn't do it without you.

As I stated at the March board meeting, I am glad that we were able to stay under cap.

I truly appreciate that in an ideal world, staying under cap would not be a priority...but we unfortunately are living in the reality of the highest taxed state in the country with no relief in sight.

And so this becomes an unfortunate reality that must be considered in order to keep Summit affordable for the diverse community that we all appreciate and enjoy.

As I said at the March meeting, we were lucky this year to receive additional state aid, which allowed us to remain under the 2% cap without being forced to make many tough choices.

But as I leave the Board after 6 years, I recommend that before next year's budget, the district, with the help of the new Superintendent's fresh perspective, build on the great work that Lou and his team have already done, to think creatively about ways to operate more efficiently.

By doing this, the district will be prepared for next year...so that if we do not get any additional state aid, which seems likely, we can avoid having to make tough choices that great quality education that Summit expects.

With all of that said, I support this budget. Thank you for your time.”

Mr. Colón said he is pleased to see the level of rigor and thoroughness, and it shows the hard work of the Business Office - kudos to June, Lou, Kathy, Cabinet members, Principals, administrators, and all of the educators. He stated the budget is well-balanced as far as fiscal prudence and he fully supports it.

Dr. Wong thanked the Operations Committee, June, Lou, Kathy, and the administration for their hard work. Most importantly, she appreciates that it links the pillars and at the same time makes sure we're fiscally and educationally responsible. Dr. Wong thanked everyone and stated she supports the budget.

Mr. Weinreich thanked the teamwork of the Principals, Asst. Principals, Supervisors and all under the leadership of Lou, June, and Kathy. There is always a trade-off and we have maintained the high standards of education – we look at spending tax dollars carefully and understand that great education comes with careful cost analysis. Thanks to Chris Bonner for leading the Operations Committee. He supports this budget.

Ms. Miller read the following:

“Thank you, Madam President, and thank you to those who are with us virtually this evening. I will keep my comments brief.

First, I concur with every comment made by my colleagues on the Board. I especially concur in my support of the rigorous process undertaken to build this budget and the end result of that process.

I particularly am pleased, as the Chair of the Education Committee, with the well-rounded and inclusive education that this budget provides. Classroom academics, the arts, sports, clubs and the overall health and wellness of every single student is baked into every precious dollar represented in this budget. This is a point of pride. Allow me to remind us that providing this level of programming takes tremendous planning over the course of many years in the past and well into the future. This level of programming does not come inexpensively. We thank our community for appreciating that fact and for continuing to support us as we balance fiscal responsibility with educating every student, every school day, over the course of many years.

Like my fellow board members I thank the vast numbers of people and the groups, already mentioned, who make this process and our district what it is.

I enthusiastically support the budget for 2020-2021. Thank you.”

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

At this point in the meeting the Board welcomes comments from any member of the public about issues related to the 2020-2021 Proposed Final Budget only. The Board Secretary will check for any emails received from members of the public at this point, will identify the individual providing the written comment and will read and/or summarize the comment publicly and Administration and/or members of the governing body will provide answers and/or responses when applicable.

Mr. Pepe read emails he received from the following:

Mr. George Lucaci asked how the budget has been updated during the school closure to deal with students who do not have the technology necessary to appropriately receive remote education. Mr. Pepe and Mr. Chang responded.

Ms. Sandra Lizza stated that there should be 0% increase in the budget based on the current climate that we are in.

President Primack stated that she and Mr. Bonner will save their comments for the Board of School Estimate meeting.

APPROVAL OF 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET RESOLUTION:

Mr. Weinreich moved the following:

RESOLVED that the final budget be approved for the 2020-2021 school year as approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools and advertised in accordance with the statutory deadlines:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
2020-2021 Total Expenditures	\$74,944,137	\$ 1,076,501	0	\$76,020,638
Less Anticipated Revenues	8,071,496	1,076,501	0	9,147,997

Local Tax Levy to be Raised	\$66,872,641	0	0	\$66,872,641
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that included in the general fund appropriations is \$1,400,000 for deposit into the board of education’s approved Capital Reserve Account for funding of the Summit H.S. Roof Replacement Project. This deposit represents expenditures for construction elements that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Summit City Board of Education authorize the approval of withdrawal from capital reserve in the amount of \$1,400,000 for the Summit H.S. Roof Replacement Project, including \$44,000 for architectural services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Summit City Board of Education authorize the approval of withdrawal from maintenance reserve in the amount of \$229,712 to include \$84,000 for flooring projects at Brayton and Washington Elementary Schools and \$145,711.49 for Direct Install lighting upgrades and HVAC work at all five elementary schools and Wilson, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Summit City Board of Education authorize the approval of withdrawal from emergency reserve in the amount of \$20,000 for school security improvements in the form of additional security cameras at the elementary schools.

Seconded by Mr. Bonner. The roll was called, and all present voted “Aye.” The motion was declared adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Miller, seconded by Mr. Weinreich, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary