

LINWOOD, NEW JERSEY  
May 1, 2019

In compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" of the State of New Jersey adequate notice of this regular meeting has been provided. On January 7, 2019 written notice of this regular meeting was posted in two schools, City Hall, and the Linwood City Library. On that same date written notice was faxed and mailed to The Press and The Current.

The meeting of the Linwood Board of Education was called to order by Mrs. Zierys, Board President, in the Schiavo Auditorium, Belhaven Middle School, Linwood, New Jersey, Wednesday, May 1, 2019, 7:05 PM.

Mrs. Zierys led all present in a flag salute.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Scannell, Mr. Evinski, Mrs. Barrera, Mr. Goldstein, Mr. Kahn, Mrs. Lowry, Mrs. DeMorat and Mrs. Zierys

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** B. Pruitt, Superintendent, T. Weeks, School Business Administrator, S. Speirs & G. Meister, Principal, S. Tahsin, & L. Care, Supervisors, W. Donio, Solicitor, D. Lamkin, B. Falk, P. Childs, S. Speirs, S. Gardner, H.DiLeo, C. MacKinnon, S. Nebl, S. Lhulier, B. Gaffney, C. Flanagan, F. Pileiro, L. Care, K. Mazur, J. Byrnes, S. Tahsin, T. Lhulier, J. Cunniff, A. Buckberg, R. Kanzana, B. Kolmer, C. D'Alessandro, J. Dix, M. Dix, G. Despandi, D. McCabe, J. Sims, O. Caplan, D. Filipova, E. Scherbin, J. Smith, E. Evinski, C. Evinski, S. Marino, A. Brody

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Policy** – None

**Personnel** – None

**Curriculum** – None

**Negotiations** – None

**Strategic Plan** – None

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – Congratulation to the Kahn family on the birth of their daughter.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL BUDGET** - Motion made by Mr. Goldstein, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin to open the public hearing on the 2019-2020 school district budget.

Motion carried by roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

*Motion approved.*

## **Presentation and Discussion of Advertised Budget**

Mr. McLaughlin read a statement to be included in the addenda to the minutes. He commented on the crucial juncture for the school district budget now and moving forward. The population decrease of approximately 12% has already been offset by staffing reduction of approximately 10%. He stated he has reviewed the overall staffing and believes it to be appropriate for the Board and Administration objectives. He commented that the shrinking ratable base has impacted the decision on cuts in the past as well. He added there is a significant impact if the banked cap is not used moving forward.

Mrs. Scannell inquired if Mrs. Ziereis had any comments.

Mrs. Ziereis commented that she does echo Mr. McLaughlin's comments. She added that there has been three public meetings on the budget before tonight. She and other members have met with the Mayor and City Council to advise of the impact S-2 and the budget's future. The administration and board will work together to find innovative ways to continue to support what we do and even with that the board will be faced with tough decisions. Everyone is unhappy with the tax rate increase, but it is needed to continue the programs and services we offer the students of Linwood.

Mrs. Scannell stated that she has been on the Board for eighteen years. It was an appointed board who worked diligently. She stated that she can't support the budget. She stated the loss of the Adjustment Aid will be a huge monetary burden to the taxpayer. She stated it is unfortunate that we don't have the ratable base and the Board can't keep passing on these taxes.

Mr. Kahn stated that all members have made good points. He further stated the funding cuts hurt. He added the average cost per pupil is less than our neighbors. He further added the City had stated that this was a good year to have increase because the City and the County had a reduction of tax rate. He stated that it has been a tough decision but the banked cap is needed to support the budget. If not used it would hurt the kids and staff.

Mrs. Barrera thanked everyone for the hard work they put into the budget. She added that this is the best we can do at this time for our town as education is important. Student achievement is important and what brings people to the community.

Opened for Public Comment:

Mr. Lamkin, Teacher, LEA president thanked the Board on behalf of the LEA for all their efforts to keep the high standards. He further stated that they support the proposed budget based on those efforts made.

O. Kaplan, parent thanked the Board and stated that she supports the budget and tax increase. She added that they moved here for the schools.

Mrs. Matik, community member, thanked all for the budget presentation. She stated that she has friends who are purchasing a million dollar home in Longport because the taxes are better over there. They

were concerned about the increase in taxes. She also stated that the banked cap is an increase to the taxes.

Mrs. McCabe, parent, stated she supports the Board's plans. She stated they moved here for the schools. She added that programs already have been gutted, class sizes are larger, for example there are 28 students in middle school math. She added that the loss of the Library Media Specialist at Belhaven continues to be a concern. This programs supports the quality of education in Linwood. The past zero budgets has landed the District in this position. Mr. Matik stated previous budgets years that we were just kicking the can down the road, and we are now here with the can.

Mr. Barrera, parent, stated that his family moved here for the schools. He stated that home sales are on the increase which is good news. He thanked the Board members for all of their volunteer time they spend on the budget.

Ms. Rayma, parent, stated she just moved here for the schools. It was by far the choice due to the education. She requested the Board not reduce the services.

Mrs. Rha, teacher and community member, stated she is a twenty year resident who moved here for the schools. Her children received an excellent education and have been successful in college. She stated support for the budget to keep the school excellent.

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL BUDGET** - Motion made by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Goldstein, to close the public hearing on the 2019-2020 school district budget.

Motion carried by roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

*Motion approved.*

**2019-2020 School District Budget Adoption** Motion made by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mrs. Lowry, to approve the 2019 - 2020 School District budget. The general fund budget is \$14,955,845, Special Revenue Fund Budget is \$206,850, and the Debt Service Fund Budget is \$212,600.

### RESOLUTION

**BE IT RESOLVED** to approve the school district budget for the FY 2019-2020 School Year as follows:

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Local Tax Levy</b>
General Fund	\$14,955,845	\$12,336,561
Special Revenue Fund	206,850	
Debt Service Fund	212,600	207,156
Totals	\$15,375,295	\$12,543,717

**Regular General Fund Tax Levy-Base Budget**

**RESOLVED**, That there should be raised in Local Tax Levy for General Funds \$12,336,561 and Debt Service Funds \$207,156 for the ensuing FY 2019-2020 School Year.

**RESOLVED**, That Excess fund balance of \$620,503 and additional fund balance of \$200,000 be appropriated to support the 2019-2020 budget.

**RESOLVED**, That the 2016-2017 generated Banked Cap of \$620,077 be used to support the 2019-2020 base budget necessary to offset loss of state aid, increased special education costs in the base budget and that said need must be completed by the end of the budget year and cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

#### **Capital Reserve Deposits for Excess Costs/Other Cap. Projects**

**RESOLVED**, included in the general fund appropriations is \$1,000 designated for deposit from interest earned on the account into the board of education's approved Capital Reserve Account for future funding of other capital projects as outlined in the Long Range Facility Plan. This deposit is for excess costs of the stated school facilities project or an "other" capital project and represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards

#### **Capital Reserve Withdrawal – Excess Costs/Other Capital Projects**

Included in the general fund Budget is \$183,938 to be withdrawn from the Board of Education's approved Capital Reserve to fund the cost of the Seaview Elementary School and Belhaven Middle School Security Upgrade Projects and for District Wide Technology Infrastructure projects to include switches and wireless access. The additional Capital Reserve funds are for excess costs or for Other Capital Projects whose total costs are to be established and these funds represent expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards

#### **Maintenance Reserve Deposits**

**RESOLVED**, included in the general fund appropriations is \$500 designated for deposit from interest earned on the account into the board of education's approved Maintenance Reserve Account for future funding of other maintenance projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

#### **Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal – Required Maintenance Projects**

Included in the general fund Budget is \$40,000 to be withdrawn from the Board of Education's approved Maintenance Reserve to fund the cost of the Seaview Elementary School Playground Project. The additional Maintenance Reserve funds are needed in addition to fund required maintenance projects.

Motion carried by roll call vote, all members present voted yes, except Mrs. Scannell and Mrs. DeMorat who voted no.

*Motion approved.*

**Old Business** - None

**New Business-** None

**Comments from the Public-** None

**Comments from the Board-** Mr. Pruitt thanks everyone for moving this budget forward and the commitment to moving the district to the next level.

Mr. Pruitt thanked the LEF and PTO for the water bottle filling stations.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Motion made by Mrs. Lowry, seconded by Mrs. Scannell, to adjourn.  
(8:27 PM).

Motion carried by roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

*Motion approved.*

Respectfully submitted,

Teri J. Weeks, Business Administrator, Board Secretary