

**LINWOOD, NEW JERSEY**  
**March 13, 2019**

In compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" of the State of New Jersey adequate notice of this Special meeting has been provided. On March 1, 2019 written notice of this special 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, March 13, 2019, 7:00 PM.**

Mrs. Zierys led all present in a flag salute.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Eviniski, Mrs. Barrera, Mr. Goldstein, Mrs. DeMorat Mrs. Zierys, Mrs. Scannell, Mr. Kahn, Mrs. Lowry

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. McLaughlin

**OTHERS PRESENT:** B. Pruitt, Superintendent, T. Weeks, School Business Administrator, S. Tahsin, L. Care, & P Childs Supervisors, D. Lamkin, S. Gardner, M. Bansal, H DLeo, T. Pizagno, L. Dath, S. DeDomenicis, J. Byrnes, C. Flanagan, A. Brady, C. Eviniski, Mr. Matik, Mrs. Byrnes

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Policy** – None

**Personnel** – None

**Curriculum** – None.

**Negotiations** - None

**Operations** – None

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – None.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **FOR INFORMATION**

**Board Retreat** – 2019-2020 Budget Overview – Mr. Pruitt and Mrs. Weeks provided an overview of the 2019-2020 budget. The presentation included discussion on the use of banked cap and the amount to use, and the impact on the amount to use over the course of the next several years. The recommended budget uses \$620,077 of banked cap. This budget includes a reduction of administrative support staff through attrition and reduction in force, along with reduction of facility services, and supplies. The budget included a withdrawal from reserves to offset the cost of recommended projects including upgrades to the security vestibules, technology infrastructure, and the Seaview Playground. Tax rate under the recommended budget is a 6 cent rate increase plus the debt

service net increase is .6 cents for a total Linwood School tax rate change of 6.6 cents. The shift of the debt service from the City to the School was reviewed. The impact of the ratable base decline was highlighted as well.

**Discussion:** Mr. Goldstein thanked the Administration for the work put into the budget, thanking Mr. Pruitt and Mrs. Weeks for the presentation. Mr. Pruitt thanked Mrs. Weeks for the hours of time spent on compiling the data. Mrs. Ziereis stated while not happy when the Board has to pass a tax rate increase, the use of the banked cap to sustain the district moving forward is necessary. Mr. Pruitt read a statement from Mr. McLaughlin in support of the budget using banked cap of \$620,077 which also discussed the economic outlook and right-sizing of the district in previous years. Mrs. Ziereis added that Mrs. Barrera is taking the lead in the Strategic Planning process. From this process we look forward to the results that will guide the direction of the student achievement along with the great ideas from the new administration. Mrs. Barrera commented on student achievement and continuing to make the schools an awesome place, enticing families to move here. Mr. Pruitt stated the budget will be sent to the county office for approval and the Public Hearing will be held May 1.

**Communication** – Included in the packet

**OLD BUSINESS** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – Mr. Matik stated the City and County will be coming in with a negative to help offset the increase in the school tax rate. He added that 2/3 of the town does not have students. He continued with the state wide discussion on consolidation and that he felt it would be in the future. He stated the consolidation will be a detriment to property values. Mrs. Byrnes thanked the finance committee for all of the hard work.

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD** – Mrs. Barera stated the Board must continue to focus on student achievement. Mrs. Scannedl stated is a difficult year and the administration needs to be creative. Mrs. Ziereis thanked the City for all of their efforts. She added that additional office buildings are coming in to help with the ratable issue. Mrs. Ziereis also discussed a joint public relations initiative. The community is special and we need to let the potential families know about what Linwood has to offer.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Motion made by Mr. Goldstein, seconded by Mrs. DeMorat, to adjourn. (8:16PM).

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

Respectfully submitted,

Teri J. Weeks, Business Administrator,  
Board Secretary