

**LINWOOD, NEW JERSEY**  
**February 23, 2016**

**In compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" of the State of New Jersey adequate notice of this meeting of the Board of School Estimates has been provided. On February 3, 2016, written notice of this 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 School Estimates was called to order by Mayor DePamphilis, in the Schiavo Cafetorium, Belhaven Middle School, Linwood, New Jersey, Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 7:00 PM.**

**Mayor DePamphilis** led all present in a flag salute.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor DePamphilis, Mr. Heun, Mr. Matik, Mr. Sless and Mr. McLaughlin

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** M. Cappelluti, Interim Superintendent, T. Weeks, Business Administrator, J. Yochim, Spvsr, S.Coyle, L. Shannon, M. Stoll, D. McCabe, J. Byrnes, M. Hieb, T. Parente, S. Filangeri, J. Simpson, J. Cuniff, K. Blair, K. Jacobs, T. Lhulier, H. Derbyshire, E. Scherbin, T. Graziotto, M. Tighe, B. Getzler, D. Lamkin, J. Byrnes, M. Sobrinski, C. Meade, J. Mansueto, I. Luchessi, M. Schnepf, K. Savino, M. Mostecky, A. Waters, S. Marino, P. Vaccaro, C. Albert, C. Silverberg, MK Pellegrino, J. Goldstein, F. Pileiro, J. Pierce, L. Napoli, B. Marino, A. Larkin, L. Post, C. Cruz, T. Gordon, H. Rha, K. Prendergast.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING** - Motion made by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by **January 14, 2016** Mr. Heun, to approve the minutes of the Special meeting, held January 16, 2016.

Motion carried by roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

*Motion approved.*

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – D. McCabe read a statement in support of a particular teacher whose position may be impacted by the staffing reduction. She highlighted the reasons why we need staff and included a personal story expressing why the staff member was a necessary part of the school family.

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

**REVIEW OF THE 2016-2017 BUDGET PROJECTION** –Mrs. Weeks reviewed the 2016-2017 anticipated budget in a power point. The Administration has been charged with the task of achieving a \$0.0 tax rate increase in this proposed budget. This budget includes several staffing reductions, decrease in extra-curricular activities and supplies. The staffing reductions were presented and the impact to class size was provided. The issue of fund balance and future budget concerns was discussed. Projected reductions for the 2017-2018 budget was highlighted. The impact of the 0 tax rate increase budget was discussed along with the concerns of the impact from the anticipated County increase. The overall economic concerns of the local taxpayer was considered. The Participation Fee revenue source was eliminated per the request of City Council.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC -** M. Mostecky stated she understood the challenges to put the budget together. She also read a letter of support of a particular staff member and highlighted a personal experience to express the value of the staff member.

K. Blair, recently moved to Linwood, spoke on behalf of a particular staff member whose position may be impacted by the proposed staffing reductions. She expressed the reason they chose to live in Linwood was not because of the bike path, but because of the education.

J. Goldstein also spoke on behalf of a particular staff member whose position may be impacted by the proposed staffing reductions. She stated that she understands that the economy is not in our favor, but stated the Board should explore new avenues so they could keep roles models.

P. Vaccarro spoke on behalf of a particular staff member whose position may be impacted by the proposed staffing reductions. She inquired about fund balance, last budget cuts, Pay to Play and summer enrichment.

C. Meade expressed concerns over fund balance and the removal of Pay to Participate from the budgeted revenues.

I. Luchessi stated she moved to Linwood because of the schools. She made sacrifices so her children could attend Linwood schools including having to return to work. She sees it as an investment in their future.

S. Coyle thanked the Mayor, City Council, for their continued support. She expressed concerns over the 0 cent tax rate increase. She stated that the reductions are impacting veteran teachers. It may appear that the bottom line looks good, however, education, which is Linwood's greatest resource will be impacted.

E. Ryan spoke on behalf of a particular staff member whose position may be impacted by the proposed staffing reductions. She expressed concerns over the projects proposed in lieu of the teacher reductions.

M. Kaplan inquired how the district planned on staying as one of the better schools. She expressed concerns over the education funding that is being reduced.

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD** – Councilman Matik spoke about the concerns for the staffing reductions, the fund balance concerns, the impact for the next budget and also with regards to the number of foreclosures and homes for sale due to the economy. All of these have been considered.

Councilman Heun thanked Mrs. Weeks and Mrs. Yochim for the time they spent reviewing the budget. He understands that not everyone is happy in this difficult budget year. The reality is the student body decreased 19%. The staff members impacted are due to seniority and tenure rights. Who is impacted is not the Board's decision.

R. Sless stated he understands as his district also went through significant staffing reductions. All of our staff members are outstanding.

Mayor DePamphilis stated that there has only been a few budget years that have been difficult in his history. Linwood is facing tough times with the impact coming from Atlantic City. The increase in the county taxes will be significant. The Board will continue to look at the budget.

**COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**ADJOURNMENT** Motion made by Mr. Heun, seconded by Mr. Sless to adjourn (8:11 PM).

Motion carried and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri J. Weeks, Business Administrator,  
Board Secretary