

LINWOOD, NEW JERSEY
March 22, 2016

In compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" of the State of New Jersey adequate notice of this Public Hearing has been provided. On February 25, 2016, written notice of this Public Hearing 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. Gibson, in the Schiavo Auditorium, Belhaven Middle School, Linwood, New Jersey, Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 7:05 PM.

Mr. Sless led all present in a flag salute.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. DeMorat, Mrs. Scannell, Mr. McLaughlin, Judge Todd, Mrs. Zieries, and Mr. Sless

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Gibson

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Cappelluti, Interim Superintendent, T. Weeks, Business Administrator, J. Yochim, F. Rudnesky & S. Speirs, Principals, Mayor DePamphilis, Councilman Matik, Councilman Heun, J. Ward, J. Carey, S. Marino, L. Hindman, P. Vaccaro, S. Speirs, D. Lamkin, J. Cuniff, T. Timbrook, J. Byrnes, H. McGinty, H. Hieb, MJ Hieb, C. Dalessandro, S. Coyle, T. Lhulier, T. Pizagno, MK Pellegrino, F. Pileiro, M. Hieb, D. McCabe, C. Meade, J. Corbett, K. Prendergast, T. McGinty, B. Stromfeld, A. Stromfeld, K. Nirenberg, J. Nirenberg, K. Savino, M. Dias, J. Dix, K. Jacobs, B. LaMonaca, H. Rha, S. Wurzer, K. DeSalle, M. Schnepf, A. Stauffer, C. Swan, H. DiLeo, M. Mostecky, H. Framles, G. Stites, D. Hieb, D. Harvey, J. Goldstein, A. D'amato Barrera, L. Harvey, J. DellaFave, J. Wildman, M. Stoll, S. Evinski, E. Waldman

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Instruction – None

Operations – None

Governance – None

Negotiations - None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - Mr. Sless announced that there has been no change in the budget that has been presented. This budget stands at zero cent tax increase.

J. Carey, Somers Point resident, requested the Board reconsider cutting the Volleyball team. The program is an important feeder program for Mainland.

M. Diaz inquired why there is no longer a charge for the activities. She and many other parents are

willing to pay to keep the diverse programs. She also expressed her concerns over the use of fund balance and the impact for next year.

S. D'Amato spoke about the cuts to the extracurricular activities and read a statement supporting the activity fee as a means to maintain the programs. These programs are important for the personal growth of the students that will carry them throughout their life.

A Cocchi inquired if the Board decided to reduce the pay to play since the Mayor expressed concerns over the pay to participate fee. She stated the cuts will bring the district to be a below average district. She expressed concerns over the larger class size next year in fourth grade and the impact on academic achievement. She also stated there is a petition to move to an elected board.

M. Mostecky stated her property value continues to decline yet her property taxes continue to increase, which she is willing to pay, but each year the children receive less. Schools are the value to Linwood and the board needs to prioritize class size and activities.

D. Allendra stated she recently purchased a home specifically to educate her students in Linwood, a sacrifice her family made due to the higher taxes. She hoped the board would find a way to keep the staff.

J. Goldstein stated that we have asked you to make an attempt to keep the programs yet the budget remains unchanged.

M. Cappelluti, Interim Superintendent, said she left a large district who was experiencing the same decline in enrollment and budget constraints. On her first day in Linwood, she had to meet with staff to let them know that their positions may be impacted. This process is never easy, but with the class sizes as projected, the staffing is appropriate. We will continue to take a look at the budget and see what can be done.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ACTION REQUIRED

2016-2017 DISTRICT BUDGET – Motion made by Mrs. Scannell, seconded by Mrs. DeMorat to approve the following 2016-2017 school budget resolution.

2016-2017 BUDGET RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Linwood Board of Education, Atlantic County approves for the year 2016-2017 a school district budget for submission to the Board of School Estimates as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$14,045,525	\$11,218,084
Special Revenue Fund	224,960	
Total Base Budget	<u>\$14,270,485</u>	<u>\$11,218,084</u>

This proposed budget includes sufficient funds to implement the proposed planning process as described in this districts Annual Report pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-11 and to provide curriculum and instruction which will enable all students to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Furthermore, the school district has proposed programs and services in addition to the Core Curriculum Content Standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to acknowledge that the 2016-2017 budget as described results in a tax levy of \$11,218,084.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to set the maximum General Fund Travel Budget for the 2016-2017 school year per NJAC 6A:23A-7.3(a) efficiency regulations at \$32,120.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to set the maximum general fund professional service budget for the 2016-2017 school year per NJAC 6A:23A-5.2 efficiency regulations at \$163,500.

Capital Reserve Deposits for Excess Costs/Other Cap. Projects

RESOVLED, 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 core curriculum content standards.

Maintenance Reserve Deposits

RESOVLED, 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 core curriculum content standards.

Capital Reserve Withdrawal – Other Capital project

RESOLVED, included in the general fund Budget is \$286,500 to be withdrawn from the Board of Education's approved Capital Reserve to fund the cost of the district's various other projects, including Seaview Cafetorium Floor Replacement, District Solar Project, Belhaven HVAC Controls Upgrade Project, Seaview Field Renovation and other projects. The additional Capital Reserve funds are needed in addition to fund this other capital project as included in the district's long range facility plan.

Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal – Required Maintenance Projects

RESOLVED, included in the general fund Budget is \$53,500 to be withdrawn from the Board of Education's approved Maintenance Reserve to fund the cost of the grounds improvement projects at both Seaview and Belhaven schools, and for district tile and tread repairs. The additional Maintenance

Reserve funds are needed in addition to fund required maintenance projects.

Discussion: Mrs. Ziereis stated that she has concerns with this zero tax rate impact budget and use of fund balance, however, there has been significant amount of time spent on the budget and it important to advance the budget to the Board of School Estimates.

Mrs. Scannell stated that last year and this have been tumultuous and there has been a lot of anger expressed. She recommended that the public take their concerns to the state.

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

Motion approved.

COMMUNICATIONS – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - E. Ryan inquired if the budget was held to a zero by the Board or by the City.

A. Cocchi stated why should they go to the state when there is a paid City Council who can do something about this for the taxpayers.

S. Coyle thanked Dr. Cappelluti and for her words on the budget. It has been difficult budget since impacts not only the brand new staff as well as those who have been here ten years.

T. Timbrooke inquired about the purchase of land next to Belhaven School.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD – None

ADJOURNMENT - Motion made by Mrs. Ziereis, seconded by Mrs. DeMorat to adjourn (7:50 PM).

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

Respectfully submitted,

Teri J. Weeks, Business Administrator,
Board Secretary