

LINWOOD, NEW JERSEY  
May 1, 2018

In compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" of the State of New Jersey adequate notice of this Special meeting has been provided. On **April 26, 2018** 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 Education was called to order by **Mrs. Ziereis**, Board President, in the Library, Belhaven Middle School, Linwood, New Jersey, **Tuesday, May 1, 2018 6:10 PM**.

Mrs. Ziereis led all present in a flag salute.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mrs. Scannell, Mrs. Barrera, Judge Todd, Mrs. Lowry, Mrs. DeMorat, Mr. Goldstein, Mrs. Ziereis, Mr. Kahn, Mr. McLaughlin

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** B. Pruitt, Superintendent, T. Weeks, School Business Administrator, S. Tahsin, Supvsr. SPED, E. Smith, H. Dileo, M. Dias

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Negotiations** – None

**Curriculum** – None

**Personnel** – None

**Operations** – None

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – None

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **FOR INFORMATION**

**2018-2019 Budget Presentation** - Mr. Pruitt and Mrs. Weeks reviewed the 2018-2019 budget as revised. The revised budget represents a 1.83% increase in the tax levy however, the tax rate increase is \$0.032 due to the decline in the ratable base. Revisions included Out of District Tuition and Transportation, a Special Education Aide, full time, a Library Media Specialist for Seaview with Supplies, and expanded safety projects.

Discussion: Comments on the Media Specialist position and the new requirements in the QSAC DPR's which advocate for technology in the classrooms were made supporting the Chief School Administrator's position on this matter. Also stated was the District has been fiscally responsible.

Tax rate increase concerns discussed. Also discussed was Library Media Specialist position in the related arts cycle. Further discussion on QSAC, the Library Media Specialist and this added requirement by the Department of Education, concerns over the loss of points in the QSAC rating system. Discussion on the impact to the budget with the added Library Media Specialist continued. Discussion included the number of tax appeals since 2011. Board comments on the schedule and concerns over Belhaven's schedule and the amount of pupil contact time and duties. Discussion to get the rate back to 2.2 cents.

Comments on the push from the public for a Library Media Specialist were reviewed. The Superintendent's first recommendation of a Literary Resource teacher be placed in the Library Media Center were commented. Comments that a Library Media Specialist would be duplicating services were made. Further statements around the increase in taxes were made.

Comments that families move here for the schools were made and included the Library space as underutilized and future possible coding programs could be supported.

Comments on Belhaven's School's to Watch were made. They included other school district's math and writing components in comparison to Linwood.

Statements that student achievement is what we are here for were made in favor of the Library Media Specialist. The Board has been budgeting responsibly over the past several years and now are in need to add an item to support student achievement. Comments on the Board past fiscal responsibility and change in Board type were made. Discussion on potential loss of state aid after the budget is set was had. Statements included that the Boards responsibility is the students, and City Hall's responsibility is the ratables. Special education needs were also discussed.

The budget discussion was held over many meetings by the board and many more by the Administration were made. Discussion on the elements of the budget that include safety projects, a Library Media Specialist, and Special Education costs. The budget is an investment in the school district. Compromise was discussed on the elements of the budget.

Further discussion on the upcoming special education concerns was had. Savings had when maintaining students in district was highlighted. Further discussion ensued on the appropriate tax rate impact, ultimately determined to be 2.8 cents as a compromise and the Administration will work out how that is accomplished.

**Communication** – Included in the packet

**OLD BUSINESS** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – Ms. Dileo discussed a six day rotation and extra prep time. Ms. Dias stated while she has no children in district, she is here to support the Library Media Specialist

position.

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD** – None

**ADJOURNMENT** - Motion made by Mr. Goldstein, seconded by Mrs. Barrera, to adjourn.  
(8:52 PM).

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

Respectfully submitted,

Teri J. Weeks, Business Administrator,  
Board Secretary