FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL QUAKERTOWN, NEW JERSEY 08868 Board of Education

Public Hearing on the Budget Minutes

March 29, 2010 - 7:30 p.m.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

Open Public Meeting Announcement 7:37 PM

"In accordance with requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., adequate notices have been given of tonight's meeting in area newspapers, which include the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Express-Times and posted on the bulletin board by the main office of the Franklin Township School, sent to the Township Clerk, and to all Board of Education members on March 22, 2010.

II. Roll Call - John A. Gomez, SBA/BS

K. Weiss, V. Pres.	Υ	 A. Burdick 	Υ	P. DiGiambattista	Υ
J. Foran	Absent	N. Reed	Absent	T. Schultz	Υ
L. Vail	Υ	T. Wolak	Absent	C. Piparo, <i>Pres.</i>	Υ

III. Flag Salute

IV. Presentation of the

2010-2011 School Budget - Dr. Chrys Harttraft and Mr. John Gomez

Mr. Piparo opened the hearing by welcoming the public to the budget hearing for the budget year 2010-2011. Mr. Piparo reviewed how the process of formulating the budget had been a challenge due to the shortened preparation time. Mr. Piparo then proceeded with the presentation of the 2010-2011 budget. After the presentation Mr. Piparo informed the public that the presentation would be posted on the schools website.

V. Public Comments

The next portion of the meeting was dedicated to questions from the public.

Christopher Crisologo stated that he understood the difficulties the school faced with the budget. Mr. Crisologo asked if anyone knew how many households in town had children attending the school. Mr. Crisologo said that efforts need to be made to educate the public on how this budget impacts education.

There were several questions regarding transportation costs and why there were no cuts in these costs. The public was informed that due to Franklin Township only having hazardous routes there was no way to get rid of any routes.

Mr. John Drwal inquired why there were no cuts to administrative costs and why there were so many positions. He stated that someone needs to look at administrative costs and that the voters would also look at administrative costs negatively. Discussion took place regarding a separation of duties and Dr. Harttraft gave an outline of the school supervisor's duties.

Chris Creely inquired if anyone has looked at cutting paper costs by using backpacks more instead of mailings. The response detailed efforts to be paperless.

Dolores Wright inquired about the average assessed value of a home in Franklin Township.

After the public comment session the board moved on to comments regarding the budget. Mrs. Burdick asked if the QEA had been approached in regards to some kind of salary concession. Dr. Harttraft said that she had asked the QEA if the membership could have discussions and possibly bring something back to the board.

Board members expressed concerns over a couple of items in the budget. One concern was that it was felt that administrative costs were too high. There was a question on whether or not the budget is final and is there some room for changes even after the budget is approved.

There were great concerns over the position of the QEA and the NJEA regarding a salary freeze or cut. There were concerns about the loss of staff due to budget cuts and several members of the board emphasized that the tax levy increase was to make sure positions were not cut. Other members of the board stressed that the QEA share some of the burden and that deeper cuts could be a possibility if no dialogue occurred.

The next discussion concerned a letter from Mr. Piparo reminding board members that they are expected to follow the board code of ethics. The alleged acts concerned board members actions at the construction site. The letter attached was read to the board members with no objection from any of the board members. Dr. Harttraft reminded the board that it must all work together and stay on task in order to have a successful project. Dr. Harttraft said that these types of actions by board members, if true, can set the project back.

VI. Budget Resolution

Motion to approve the following resolution:

Be it resolved to adopt the 2010-2011 school budget in the amount of \$5,566,661 and to raise \$5,205,628 through a local tax levy for the general fund (which will be voted on April 20, 2010).

	General Fund	Sp. Rev.	Total
Balance Appropriated	146,659		146,659
Local Tax Levy	5,205,628		5,205,628
Miscellaneous Rev.	30,000		30,000
State Aid	89,716		89,716
Spec. Rev.		94,658	94,658
	\$ 5,472,003	94,658	\$ 5,566,661

Moved Mr. DiGiambattista Second Ms. Vail

K. Weiss, V. Pres.	Υ	A. Burdick	Υ	P. DiGiambattista	Υ
J. Foran	Absent	N. Reed	Absent	T. Schultz	N
I Vail	Υ	T Wolak	Absent	C Pinaro <i>Pres</i>	Υ

Motion to approve the Debt Service amount of \$657,060 for the 2010-2011 school budget from the local tax levy.

K. Weiss, V. Pres.	Υ	A. Burdick	Υ	P. DiGiambattista	Υ
J. Foran	Absent	N. Reed	Absent	T. Schultz	Ν
L. Vail	Υ	T. Wolak	Absent	C. Piparo. <i>Pres.</i>	Υ

VII. Motion to Adjourn from the Public Meeting at 9:33 PM.

Moved Ms. Vail Second Mr. Weiss Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Gomez SBA/Board Secretary