

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL
NEW JERSEY 08868
Board of Education

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 2010- 7:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order 7:36 PM

Open Public Meeting Announcement

“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 on April 27, 2010.

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

P. DiGiambattista	P	C. Ewing	P	J. Foran	Absent
K. Lundgren	P	R. Masino	P	C. Piparo	P
T. Schultz	P	L. Vail	P	K. Weiss	P

III. Flag Salute

Meeting opened by Mr. Piparo discussed status of budget explained meeting was supposed to be a joint meeting with Township Committee. Explained that committee decided to cancel their portion of the meeting. There was a short budget presentation that gave an overview of the budget process, and what each level of budget cuts meant to programs at the school. The public was informed that an informal meeting had taken place and that the feeling of those present from the township committee was that they wanted a budget that reflected no increase in the general fund tax levy. The point was made that there is an obligation to submit a budget that maintains stability in the district. There was an update on the status of negotiations regarding a wage freeze by Quakertown Education Association.

IV. Public Comments - Privilege of the Floor (3 minutes)

All comments should be directed to the board president. The Board will not entertain personal complaints from school personnel unless the chain of command has been followed, without satisfaction. Furthermore, the Board cannot respond to any complaints from the public directed at any district employee or student, as the Board must protect each employee and each student's right to privacy.

Those wishing to share comments during this portion of the meeting are asked to state their name and address. Each speaker will be given three minutes.

Public Comment:

Melissa Menerick:

Stated that the board needs to convey to the township committee that teachers affect the lives of our children. She was also disappointed with the town committee canceling.

Kathleen Mahoney:

Stated that she found the township committees cancellation insulting. Also stated that she came to Hunterdon County for a better quality of life and that these school budget cuts would jeopardize the stability at the school.

Silvia Bors

Stated that she would probably not send her child to kindergarten next year at the school. Also asked when the board had to have the budget finalized.

Mr. Wilde

Asked if the vote only concerned the general fund.

Debra Kesselhart:

Asked if the increase to the average household tax was \$233.

Jeff Gaidos:

Asked if we were looking at future actions such as consolidating with another district.

John Drwal:

Stated that the vote was not about the school but rather a statement about stopping government from running amok. The voters are tired of the township overspending and government in general being out of control.

Jackie Bowers:

Asked if there would be an increase in class size.

Susan Campbell:

Wanted to know who defines adequacy.

Diane Kleverly:

Can we look at temporary measures such as a bridge loan?

Joanne Coe:

Stated that the parents need to be informed of what specific cuts are to be made.

Paul Dahan:

Wanted to know what recourse the board has in regards to ensuring that thorough and efficient is met.

Stated that efforts to get the parents out to vote have to be increased.

Bruce Fowler:

Did not appreciate comments made about township committee, board was elected the board needs to do some politicking. Also asked for number of FTE's affected by cuts.

Christine Farino:

Inquired about kindergarten program and will it be affected by the cuts?

Maggie Borland:

Googled our statistical data and stated that our salaries were 10 out of 60 and that we need to do something about that.

Cathy Piparo:

People need to come to the budget presentations to be better informed and spread the word throughout the community.

Kurt Fisher:

Commented on board and administration working hard. Wanted to know what is the square foot per child required by law. Asked if board could put referendum on ballot to reverse the original construction referendum to return the construction money.

Debra Lambert:

Wanted to know what the impact of budget cuts will be.

Scott Baumann:

Informed group he is member of township committee and decided to attend the meeting to gather information to pass on to rest of township committee. He stated that he requested an audit of school budget and that the township has held flat for 7 years, and that the municipal budget is only 10% of tax levy.

Agnes Monteith:

Wanted to know if the board was exploring how to increase attendance at the budget presentation?

Kathleen Vesior:

Wanted to know if there was an action plan.

Debbie Kesselhart:

Wanted to know why the board does not live stream the board meetings.

John Drwal:

Wanted to know is there a choice between continuing construction versus saving people's jobs.

V. Executive Session (Not Needed)

Adopt the Following Resolution

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED *by the Franklin Township Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4 -13 and 10:4 -12 that said public body hold a closed session on Monday, May 4, 2010 for the purpose of discussing the school budget. It is expected that the results of the discussion undertaken in closed session will be made public at the time official action is taken.*

Moved

Second

Motion Carried

VI. Motion to return to Open Public Session at _____.

Moved

Second

Motion Carried

VII. Motion to Adjourn from the Public Meeting at 9:30 PM.

Moved Mr. DiGiambattista

Second Mr. Masino

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Gomez
SBA/Board Secretary