

**CARLSTADT – EAST RUTHERFORD REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY 07073**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED DISTRICT BUDGET
FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR**

May 2, 2018

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m. – By President Robert Anderson in the Media Center, Henry P. Becton Regional High School.

The purpose of this special meeting is to conduct a public hearing on the proposed District Budget for the 2018-2019 school year and any other business that may come before the Board.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT:

Lawrence Bongiovanni	Dennis Monks
Rebecca Cruz	Raymond Muszynski
Kathryn Fukushima	Bruce Young
Zakaria Kandiel	Robert Anderson

ABSENT: Kevin Felten – Arrived at 7:18 p.m.

Louise Clarke, Nicholas Annitti, Kathleen Nestor, Esq. and Renee Engelhardt were also present.

FLAG SALUTE AND OPENING STATEMENT:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Meetings Act the Carlstadt-East Rutherford Regional Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting by posting the date, time and location of said meeting by mailing notification to **The Record**, the Board’s official newspaper.

Copies of agendas are available 48 hours prior to said meetings in the Board of Education office and are posted in the main office of the H.P. Becton Regional H.S. and on the Becton Regional High School website – www.bectonhs.org.

REPORT OF THE BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Nicholas Annitti presented a Power Point presentation on the 2018-2019 Budget.

REVENUES		
State Aid Funds - Net		\$ 428,678.00
Misc. Income from Local Sources		\$ 360,968.00
Special Revenue Fund		\$ 159,000.00
Tax Levy		\$ 13,064,254.00
Appropriated Surplus		\$ 529,439.00

Capital Reserve		\$ 201,000.00
Maintenance Reserve Interest		\$ 101,000.00
Capital Outlay		\$ 0.00
TOTAL REVENUE ALL SOURCES		\$ 14,844,339.00
APPROPRIATIONS		
General Current Expense Fund		\$ 14,388,430.00
Special Revenue Fund		\$ 159,000.00
Capital Reserve		\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay		\$ 201,000.00
Transfer to Charter Schools		\$ 95,909.00
TOTAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS		\$ 14,844,339.00

HEARING OF CITIZENS ON THE PROPOSED 2018-2019 DISTRICT BUDGET AND AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

President Opens the Hearing of Citizens:

Moved: Mr. Monks Second: Mr. Felten Approved: Unanimous Time: 7:22 p.m.

In accordance with the Bylaws 0167-Public Participation in Board Meeting, any citizen present who wishes to be heard on agenda items only, should raise his/her hand to be recognized, state name and address.

The Board wishes to remind all attendees at its meetings that while it subscribes without reservation to the principle of keeping the community completely informed, by policy it cannot respond to public discussion of personnel matters. If a matter concerning a district staff member is of interest or concern to a resident, it is recommended that the matter should be referred to the Principal, Superintendent, or the Board of Education by letter.

Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to five (5) minutes. Any citizen wishing to be heard on non-agenda items may do so after new business. The hearing of citizens shall be limited to sixty minutes.

Richard Vartan
15 Atkins Terr.
East Rutherford
East Rutherford BOE Member

- Commended Mr. Annitti on this budget.
- Commented on the 2% cap insinuating that it is not a true 2% cap.

- Commended on the Supervisor of Building and Grounds and how much money he has saved the district.
- Mentioned the East Rutherford's District's failed referendum and making Becton a true regional by incorporating East Rutherford and Carlstadt's 7th and 8th grades.

Phil Caputo
Supervisor
Building, Grounds, Transportation

- Gave a history of his background and what he was hired to do when he was employed.
- Gave an overview of the building, his staff, all their accomplishments in maintaining the building and the money their expertise has saved the district.
- Concluded with requesting that the Board save the jobs that are scheduled for be eliminated or reduced.

Comment:

- President Anderson commented that Board fully understands he and his staffs contribution to the district, however, stuff decisions had to be made.

Dominic Giacapro
Chief Financial Officer
Borough of Carlstadt

- Inquired if the changes in personnel assignment, reduction of a position to part-time and reduction of part-time positions was the recommendation of the Superintendent or the Board of Education.
- Discussion was held on the Athletic Director going from a full-time position to teaching 5 periods.
- President Anderson explained the process and that everyone was involved. When the Board first sat down, the budget was over by \$500,000.
- Mr. Giacapro inquired about the discipline and how that was going to be handled. Mrs. Clarke commented that that is going to be worked out.

Robert Anfan
Physical Education Teacher

- Commented on the relationships of students with their teachers especially when they have issues.
- Express his concerns about the Athletic Director teaching full time and how it will affect the position.
- Gave an overview of gym classes and how important it is to have the proper supervision in the gym. Concerned that these changes may endanger students.
- He concluded his remarks by suggesting the Board release him from his part-time position but keep Ms. Sammarone in her part-time position.

Irena Romanello
46 River St.
East Rutherford

- Questioned if this budget was at the recommendation of the Superintendent?
- Expressed her dismay that the Preliminary Budget meeting was held on a day that school was closed for a snow day.
- President Anderson addressed this by outlining what the Preliminary Budget entails. It is just the Board approving the budget to go to the county for review. Tonight is the actual hearing.

- She complained that the Board is not looking to the future concerning discipline.

Annette Giacapro
Teacher on Assignment
TOA

- Gave an overview of the past five years and the reduction in discipline incidents.
- Discussed the Athletic Director's position teaching five periods.
- Discussed the importance of the Teacher On Assignment and how well she worked with Dr. Sforza.
- Concluded her remarks by suggesting that the TOA position be filled because of the importance to the school and discipline.

Anthony Thomas
Student/Athlete

- Gave an overview of the Athletic Trainer's value to the athletes and how valuable she is to caring for the athletes and their injuries.

Melissa Dunn
Parent

- Complimented the Athletic Trainer and all the assistance she gave during the summer getting the proper physical forms completed by the school doctor so athletes could participate in fall sports.
- Commented that she does not understand how the process is going to continue functioning without a full time trainer.
- Inquired when the new nurse will begin her duties.

Joe Emerson
28 Carlyle Ct.
Carlstadt

- Expressed what a great school Becton is.
- Complimented the Athletic Department and what a key component the Athletic Director is to keeping things running smoothly.

Richard Vartan

- Gave an overview of his 57 years of experience in the field of education services every position except Superintendent.
- Commented that you cannot blame the BEA for this budget problem, it is the Board of Education's fault.
- Stated that the Athletic Director should not be teaching five classes.
- Concerned that the Principal has too many jobs and it will affect the students, staff and especially the discipline of the building.

Arlene Melchionne
6 McKenzie Ave.
East Rutherford

- Complimented the Teacher on Assignment and what a great job she is doing.
- Reflected on the former Principal who did not have a TOA and the discipline was horrendous.

- Reviewed her job dealing with attendance and how much better attendance is with the backing of the TOA.

MOTION TO EXTEND THE HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Moved: Mr. Muszynski Second Mr. Young Approved: Unanimous Time: 8:23 p.m.

Kyle Mendelsohn
Teacher

- Expressed his concerns about disrupting the running of the building by eliminating the Teacher on Assignment position.
- Questioned the Capital Reserve money. President Anderson address that by stating that the Capital Reserve can only be used for the upkeep and maintenance to the building.
- Read a statement from Mr. Carr who could not attend this evening requesting that the Board consider restoring the custodial position.

Irene Romanello

- Questioned how the Board decided what stipends to eliminate.
- President Anderson replied that the Board want the stipends to be included in the BEA contract.
- She commented that every time this district takes one foot forward they take two steps back.
- Suggested that the Board reconsider their cuts that are going to cause major problems and listen to the Superintendent.

Lisa Squeo
595 Central Ave.
Carlstadt

- Gave an overview of the Athletic Trainer.
- Inquired as to what the Board is going to tell parents when students are injured and the trainer because of being part-time cannot take provide the necessary services that she is now providing.
- Commented that it is not a disposable position.

Justina Cabezas
Student/Athlete

- Highly complimented the Athletic Trainer. Commented that she does not know what they would do without her.

COMMENTS:

- President Anderson thanked the committee and the administration for their hard work on this budget. Commented that he fully understands everyone's concerns. Acknowledged that we never know what will come up in the future. Commented that it is important for everyone to understand the process and the rationale when it comes to preparing a budget. Assured the public that if things change and more money becomes available that the Board will look to see what can be changed.
- Mr. Young encouraged everyone to petition the Governor, Senator Sarlo and the Legislators to give more money to education. He commented that the 2% cap has been in place too long, it is unrealistic and is hindering the education process and school districts.

- Mr. Muszynski questioned all the stipends be looked at. He suggested that the Board go to the BEA to see if they would be willing to cut stipends in half to save jobs.

President Closes the Hearing of Citizens:

Moved: Mr. Young Second: Mr. Bongiovanni Approved: Unanimous Time: 8:38 p.m.

FINANCE: (Mr. Bongiovanni)

F1. Resolution No. 263-18-19 Final District Budget for the 2018-2019 School Year as follows:

Moved: Mr. Bongiovanni Second: Mr. Young Approved: As per roll call vote.

RESOLUTION No. 263-18-19

Be it Resolved, that the Carlstadt-East Rutherford Regional Board of Education, County of Bergen, approve the final 2018-2019 school year budget as follows:

REVENUES		
State Aid Funds - Net		\$ 428,678.00
Misc. Income from Local Sources		\$ 360,968.00
Special Revenue Fund		\$ 159,000.00
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As per NJAC 6A:23B-1.2(b), the proposed budget provides for a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for travel and expense reimbursement.

The 2018-2019 tentative budget includes a maximum travel appropriation of 17,500.00.

Be It Further Resolved, that the **GENERAL FUND** tax levy **\$13,064,254.00** is approved to support Current General Expense and \$0.00 to support Debt Service, for the 2018-2019 school year budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	REMARKS
Mr. Bongiovanni	X				
Ms. Cruz	X				
Mr. Felten	X				
Mrs. Fukushima	X				
Mr. Kandiel	X				
Mr. Monks	X				
Mr. Muszynski		X			
Mr. Young	X				
Mr. Anderson	X				

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mrs. Louise Clarke

2017-2018 District Goals:

1. The Carlstadt-East Rutherford Regional Board of Education will explore the curricular options, including college partnerships, for the creation of multimedia studio.
2. The Carlstadt-East Rutherford Regional Board of Education will create a formal special education and guidance outreach program with the sending school districts in order to retain students within the regional high school district.
3. The district will create a strategic plan which will outline an effective and efficient organization and usage of resources and personnel.
4. The district will organize and implement a career day to help students explore educational and career paths.

- Mrs. Clarke informed the Board and the public that she, Mr. Annitti and Dr. Sforza will be hosting a preliminary meeting with the Superintendent and Business Administrator from the Maywood School District to discuss the possibility of their sending their students to Becton.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Mr. Muszynski, Chair of Community Affairs/Public Relations, discussed the capital purchase of a digital sign and the possibility of getting sponsors to donate to the project.
- President Anderson requested that Mr. Muszynski committee and the Building and Grounds committee get all the information and work on it together.

NEW BUSINESS:

- None

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

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To Open: Moved: Mr. Monks Second: Mr. Young Approved: Unanimous

No one wished to be heard.

To Close: Moved: Mr. Monks Second: Mr. Young Approved: Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Mr. Monks Second: Mr. Felten Approved: Unanimous Time: 8:51 p.m.

Respectively submitted,


Nicholas Annitti
Board Secretary/Business Administrator

DATE: 6/8/18